

Community Arts Extra

Community Arts.... What's that?

Our Community Arts provision is headed up by Arts Development Officer, Miz Wells and Community Arts Apprentice, Gracie Barrow. Over the last year we have been really busy and we thought students and parents would be interested to know what we've been up to. This Extra aims to give you a roundup of the Community Arts highlights of the last year and give you an idea as to our future plans. As a Performing Arts Specialist School we have an obligation to partner schools and the wider community to promote the benefits of participation in arts activities. The Community Arts Department supports the School in delivering this community element to our specialism.

In addition Community Arts helps the school identify and plan cross-curricular work and co-ordinates Creative Partnerships work within the school. They also organise a range of extra-curricular activities and trips, in-school workshops, and community projects which help develop personal effective thinking and learning skills and promote community cohesion.

We hope you enjoy this little window into the world of community arts at Ratton School.

Miz Wells and Gracie Barrow

Students in Residence

The Students in Residence Programme, or SIR, is an opportunity for our students to help primary school children or community groups to engage in arts activities. We have mounted projects in partnership with Pashley Down Infant School, Ocklynge Junior School, Compass Community Arts, Tollgate Junior School and the Sollomon Andal Trust. Each project is different and has to be designed accordingly. Our first SIR project for example involved art students simply spending the day at an infant school during their art week and creating their own artworks alongside the children. Other projects have involved up to 16 students at a time assisting teachers or practitioners in leading workshops, or in other cases the workshops/projects may be entirely led by our students.

Most recently 16 Lower School students made a fantastic impression at Tollgate Junior School assisting class teachers and leading printing workshops which led to an exhibition. Zoe Bolton, Art Coordinator at Tollgate, said that our students "exceeded expectations in talking at Yr3 level, encouraging their efforts and reminding them of the task's requirements. They were also good at discussing the good/difficult bits of tasks and helping them reason, allowing them time to try and improve their techniques." The help was very beneficial to [Tollgate] pupils, because they had a more experienced pupil nearby to talk to, assist and encourage their efforts. Many may have felt more comfortable asking questions to pupils nearer their own age.

SIR is a most successful programme equally enjoyed and valued by our students and the hosting organisations. If you have any ideas for our next SIR Project do get in touch with us on 01323 514322 / m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk.



Dance

Our dance department has developed a team of very able dance leaders and Mrs Duncan and the leaders regularly provide 'Day of Dance' workshops to local primary schools. Over the last year they have visited Stafford Infant School, Parklands, Tollgate and St John's and will be offering these workshops again in the summer term. Not wanting to get into the 'boys vs. girls' argument, but feedback suggests that it is our boy dancers who lead these workshops most successfully.



This December, our whole school musical of 'The Wiz' shows on Wednesday 9th - Saturday 13th December, 7.30pm

Tickets on sale now from Ratton School's Finance Office -

Adult £5 Child £3

Creative Partnerships and EXPO

Last year's EXPO which coincided with Shine Week was largely coordinated by our Community Arts Department as a result with their work with Creative Partnerships. EXPO was a weeklong culmination of cross-curricular projects and new cross-curricular activities which included the Spanish Plays SIR at Ocklynge, International Food being prepared and served by our Students in the canteen, Slave Dance Workshops for all Year 7s, Islamic Art in Maths Workshops provided by our students to Year 6s, a KS3 Drama Festival, visits from illustrators and authors, and of course CSI Ratton. EXPO was such a success that cross-curricular planning is now becoming the norm and expo style events are increasingly incorporated within the curriculum.

This year we are planning two longer term cross-curricular projects supported by Creative Partnerships. We have appointed Will Nash, a local public artist and sculptor, to help plan and deliver a light sound sculpture with Yr 8 Art and Science Departments. The other developing idea is Cultiv8(!), a fair trade and economic well being project which involves creating a student farm on site - watch this space for developments!

Remember to check the extra-curricular section of our Performing Arts pages on the Ratton School website. New clubs arriving next term!

Music

On October 31st, a group of our students performed at Eastbourne's first ever Black History Month event, organised by the ECCN at the Pier Hotel. They sang two African songs which were accompanied by traditional African dancing.



Ratton STOMPS is now well-known locally having built up a good reputation not only for their performances but also for their interactive workshops. They have been very much in demand over the last year delivering a series of primary workshops and high profile performances. Most famously our STOMP troupe undertook an artistic intervention of the new Towner Art Gallery which was used as part of its launch and they officially opened the 'Access All Areas' East Sussex Youth Arts Festival in October this year. Most recently, our STOMP troupe assisted Miss Mockler and Miss Kirwan delivering STOMP workshops for over 100 visiting Year 8 German students.

'CSI' by Morgana Vickers, Year 9

On Monday last year I walked into the school to find a buzz of excitement and confusion why in the middle of the playground was a burnt down shed. We finally found out what it was when our year group was called to an assembly. A murder happened in our school, an ex-pupil was killed. In two subjects, English and Science, we had many active lessons and experiments. In science we did a number of investigations, one included a piece of hair which we found out was a dogs. As weeks went by the story grew more confusing. In English we had to make our own murder mystery and, to help, the writer of 'Primevil' came to talk. The whole investigation was fun and exciting; we had many active lessons which were better than normal. In the end it wasn't the ex-pupil who had died, in fact she was the one who planned the whole thing and made it look like a murder.