

Connections

Issue 4



Cake Sales for Children in Need

Brandon and Chanel Crowhurst pictured left raised £15 from the sale of the lovely chocolate cake they made. Year 7 students below raised over £35 with their cake sale.



THE BLOODY MARY FILM - *Review by Caroline Roberts*

I think that the Bloody Mary film was educational and great because it was based on true facts; for instance, when Bloody Mary returned England to a Catholic religion after Edward started burning the Catholics, Bloody Mary burnt the Protestants.

The film was in black and white with added subtitles to explain what was going on and why, so it looked very old like the Tudors.

For a bonus, the boys dressed up as women and also acted like women which most boys today would never dream of doing but in Tudor times, there were no female actors so male actors had to take female parts.

Although the film was very short, it gave me a picture of what Bloody Mary did and how England reacted. When we started learning about Bloody Mary, I never got the picture of what we were learning but after seeing the film, it all seemed much clearer.

The film was good because it was filmed in modern time when it was meant to be a very, very long time ago. I know that everyone wanted to see it because the classroom was full and there were still some students outside that could not fit in.

It was an excellent film and I really enjoyed it and I am sure that everyone else who sees it will enjoy it as much.

Anti- Bullying

Ratton took part in anti-bullying week in the week beginning 17th November. In that week Assemblies and tutor time teaching focused on anti bullying issues such as cyber bullying and avoiding stereotypes. Students also did some associated work in other curriculum areas.

Students now have until the end of term to complete an anti-bullying poster to take part in our poster competition. Posters may be drawn or designed on computer and should give a clear message about bullying.

The best poster in each community group will be displayed around the school and winners from each community will be judged in order to find the best in the school

An information leaflet published by the National Children's Bureau on behalf of the Anti-Bullying Alliance can be found on the School's website.

http://www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/about_our_school/info_for_parents/

Carbon Challenge Day for Year 10

Ratton Year 10 students enjoyed a special day investigating and thinking about how to reduce the effects of producing carbon and increasing green house gases. Students worked in teams and made presentations to the whole year group under the guidance of the BP Carbon Challenge team. This activity day was partly funded by the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative. This is the first of many exciting events that are being planned to make these subjects more lively for students and to give them a better insight into the issues and opportunities that these subjects offer students in their lives.



Cookery Club

Students have made their own Christmas cakes and, after a demonstration of icing techniques presented by Mrs Burgess, the children decorated their own cakes. Mr Linsell and Mrs Wardle judged the competition. They said that all the children had done really well and were very impressed with the level of skill. The winner was Thomas Thwaites with second place going to Laela Hekmoun. Well done to the others, Nick Reynolds, Oliver Zecchin, Matthew Lindfield, Jason Kelly and Jonathan Chapman.



SPORTING STARS UPDATE!

Thank you to everyone who responded to the last Connections where we asked sporting students or parents to let me know the update on their achievements, either in or out of school.

I have received 10 replies to this. However, I know there must be more students in year 7 who have still not let me know of their sporting achievements. Last year's list is detailed below and any changes / additions will be added after Christmas, so please let me know before the end of term if I have left your name off the list.

See me for a form to complete and don't forget a photo if you have one!!!

Mrs Upton - P.E. Department - j.upton@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk

Ratton Sporting Superstars!! 2008

First Name	Surname	Year	Summary of major sporting successes
Danny	Allistone	9	Tennis & Cricket County player
Connor	Clark	9	Football - Fulham Football team.
Jess	Horwood	9	Trampolining - Top girls club competitor.
Katy	Lambert	9	Athletics - Ranked 2nd in UK for High Jump, Gymnastics - South East Regional finalist at National Finals 2008 Tampolinist - Medalist at club and area Schools competition.
Joe	Summerbell	9	Football - Signed for Brighton 2 years, Trials for Fulham FC,
Sian	Heather	9	Football - Tried for Brighton
David	Martin	9	Hockey - East Sussex County player
Emily	Bignell	10	Athletics - Sussex Schools cross country runner, 2nd in SE Region Triathlon. Swimming - Selected for County & Regional championships. EB swimming club.
Courtney	Birmingham	10	Football - U.14 Chelsea Captain. Best player in SE. (Sponsored by Puma).
Aisha	Boudehaine	10	Karate Black belt - watch out!!
Edward	Dodd	10	Athletics - County runner
Jake	Giles	10	Athletics - District & County runner Rugby - County player
Jo	Morgan	10	Athletics - Sussex Indoor Long Jump Champion
Chris	Horwood	11	Trampolining - Top boys club competitor.
Ellie	Lambert	11	Athletics - 3rd South of England High Jumping & multi events Pentathlon Gymnastics - Sussex Championships - Team & individual Gold Medalist Trampolining - Silver medalist at club competition.
Harvey	Storer	11	Football - Sussex Schools team & Hove Albion trialist.
Alex	Barr	left 08	Football - East Sussex rep team. Won Sussex League for EB Borough
Ricky	Curran	left08	Football - District
Charles	Essam	left08	Athletics- SE Sussex Cross Country champion
Anna Marie	Forwood	left08	National Baton Twirling Team - Competed at World Level.
Diana	Hartley	left08	Gymnastics - South East Regional finalist at National Finals
Charlie	Parks	left08	Rugby - County player
Astrid	Platt	left08	Royal Ballet
Alex	Pollard	left08	Cricket - Captain of Sussex County Team for 2 years. County player for 5 years.
Luke	Ticehurst	left08	Football - Sussex County trials, Captain U.15's Eastbourne Town.
Emily	Walters	left08	Hockey - Sussex County player & National trialist

Dance Evening - 3rd December

The recent dance evening was a showcase of pieces being worked on by GCSE Dance students in years 10 and 11. The show was a sell out and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



Above - Year 11s sporting their new Dance t-shirts.
Right - Year 10s rehearsing for the Dance Evening.



Refresh Gets a new Conservatory Extension

As most of you know, Ratton was built over 50 years ago when the student roll was no more than 700 students. Today we have well over a thousand students in school and many extensions of classrooms have been added over the years to accommodate this increase. However, the canteen has always been the same size and very much in need of further space.

The new conservatory is now open and will create a social and recreational space which will alleviate the need for students to eat in other areas of the school. The new space is to be used initially for Year 11 students and this will in turn leave more room in the main body of the canteen to encourage younger students.

Any parents who would like to visit at lunchtime to see the new area, will be more than welcome.



Important Dates for Year 9 Students and Parents

Thursday 15 January - Pathways Evening

We hope that every student in year 9 will attend this evening with their parents or carers. Very important information will be given out with regards to the options/pathways process for year 9 students. We would like you to confirm your attendance by returning the reply slip on the invitation which students have been given, or by writing a note to the tutor in the student diary. It is also important that you inform the tutor if you are unable to attend.

Thursday 22 January - Subject Evening

This is another important evening which we hope all students and parents/carers will attend. At this evening, you will be able to discuss your son/daughter's progress in the subjects they are currently studying this year, as well as asking about suitable courses for next year.

We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Mrs Fitzpatrick

Ratton Behaviour Policy Update

Term 2 saw the launch of an additional dimension to our School Behaviour Policy which has so far proved to be very effective. We want to ensure that the learning taking place in lessons is not being disrupted by a small minority of students.

From now on, if a student has received 10 negative behaviour points, which means that 10 incidents have been recorded on a student's behaviour log by their classroom teachers over a period of ten calendar weeks, the student's tutor will be asked to arrange a meeting with their parents. At this meeting, the parents and tutor will discuss how to support an improvement in their behaviour. In most cases this will mean the student going on an Attitude to Learning Report card. This involves the student running the card, giving it to the classroom teacher at the beginning of every lesson and then the teacher recording an Attitude to Learning grade at the end of the lesson. This will normally run for a period of two weeks. As well as this, students will be required to carry out one hour's Community Service, since we feel that if students are disrupting the learning of others, they should carry out a sanction which will make them reflect on their actions and enable them to 'give something back' to their school community. Community Service will be in the form of helping out in the canteen, helping the site team or the ICT team and will be carried out at break, lunchtime or after school. We will ensure that students' uniform is protected and kept clean and we hope that students will feel that the job they are given to do is worthwhile and constructive.

If a student's behaviour does not improve, then the sanctions will become increasingly serious and the periods of Community Service will be increased. Parents will be kept fully informed at every stage.

We hope that by introducing this system we will improve the learning environment for everyone at Ratton so that all our students are given every opportunity to succeed.

Mrs Fitzpatrick

Ratton Peer supporters receive Princess Diana anti-bullying Award

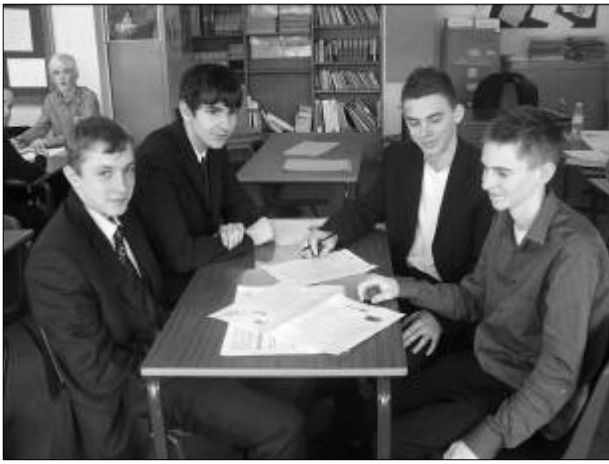
Councillor Lacey presented members of the Ratton Peer Support Group with the Princess Diana Anti-Bullying Award. The award was given to the group in recognition of their proactive approach to bullying in the school.

The group has received training in which they have been taught to recognise signs of unhappiness in other students, engage them in conversation, offer support, and help them to solve relationship problems.



The group do their most valuable work at lunch or break times when some students may otherwise feel vulnerable and isolated. It is this willingness to give of their own time that has led to the award.

The Peer Supporters meet regularly to discuss their work and have made presentations to a group of teachers at an East Sussex teachers' event. In January they are due to present their work at a Specialist Schools Trust event in Gravesend.



Year 11 Work Based Learning Day

As a way of preparing students for the world of work, Ratton held an Enterprise Day with year 11 students on Friday 5th December.

Facilitated by outside speakers with a range of experience from psychologists to entrepreneurs, our students were set the challenge of organising, marketing and budgeting an eco-friendly music concert.

Professionally dressed in business attire, students worked in teams to create the concert's theme.



Following this, costings were worked out, local authority guidelines considered, various problems solved and the day culminated in a series of presentations where students 'sold' the music event to their peers.

Feedback for the day has been overwhelmingly positive. The facilitators complemented the creativity and co-operation of our students and many teams gave strong, dynamic presentations.

Finally, the day had an extra dimension in that the work produced and skills developed, provide evidence for students' Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (COPE).

What clubs and activities do you want?

Our Arts Development Officer is on the hunt for inspiring ideas for extra curricular activities and projects. Perhaps you, or some one you know, would like to run a club or a community project. Perhaps you have a great idea for a family learning project. Perhaps you are already doing something interesting that you would like to develop or extend. Get in touch with Miz Wells, 01323 514322 / m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk / pop into the drama office in 216.

Samba band

Cavendish School invite Ratton Students to join their Samba Band. Learn basic rhythms and become a founder member of 'The Big Samba Band'. All ages and abilities welcome (under 10's to be accompanied by an adult). £2 per session, Tuesdays 6 - 8pm. For more information please contact Claire Walker, 01323 746514 / 07525 667662 / Claire@communityarts.uk.com.

Year 7 to help choose New Towner's' first exhibition and so can you!

As part of the opening programme of 4 exhibitions, Towner is putting on People's Choice show in the collection gallery.

In Yr 7 Art classes next week Mrs Sula, Mr Miles and Ms Harris will be showing a DVD of the Towner Collection and students will have the opportunity to say which ones they think should be exhibited and why.

The collection is being put to the public vote and is available to view and vote online at www.townereastbourne.org.uk, which ever artworks get the most votes will be in the exhibition. Voting closes on 2nd January.

Community Achievers' Assemblies

Students have been awarded certificates and prizes in special assemblies to celebrate their achievement over the last two terms.

Rewards have been collected since September and, after taking into account attendance, certificates were given as follows:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
First Place with 91 Certificates - Adelphi	34	29	28
Second Place with 82 Certificates - Globe	28	27	27
Third Place with 69 Certificates - Lyceum	18	29	22
Fourth Place with 68 Certificates - Lyric	22	20	26
Fifth Place with 58 Certificates - Apollo	18	21	19

Gold winners received a certificate and £10 Smiths Voucher, Silver winners received a certificate and £2 voucher to spend in Refresh and Bronze winners received a certificate.

Many other certificates and achievements were celebrated in the assemblies, such as tutor awards, Dance leaders, literacy support and those achieving 100% attendance. Congratulations should go to all those students who have achieved so well this year.

PFA News

The Christmas draw for the 100 Club was drawn on 15th December and the winners were as follows:

1 st Prize	£65	Mrs Kate Hide
2 nd Prize	£40	Mr B Roberts
3 rd Prize	£30	Mrs L Ede

Susan Foster - Committee Member of the PFA - is taking a plunge in the sea on New Year's Day in aid of multiple sclerosis. If you would like to sponsor her for this cause, please follow the link as follows. www.justgiving.com/susanfoster1

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The fair was held on Friday 12th December and very well attended. The children loved the occasion and there was a really good Christmassy atmosphere. We will report back how much money was raised for the five charities. Thanks should go to all who helped organize the event, those who ran the many stalls and in particular to Steve Comfort and his team for the hours spent putting up Christmas lights in and outside the school.

There were cake stalls, face painting, guess the number of sweets in a jar, tombollas and many, many more.





Christmas Card Competition

Mr Avard's tutor group have been designing Christmas Cards on their computers during tutor time.

They have used special software to download shapes and images - they were not been allowed to just copy a design from Clip Art!

The winning card received a £5 prize from Mr Avard and the design will be used as next year's school card.

READY TO LEARN 2009!

From January, tutors will be checking every morning to ensure that all students have come to school ready to learn. Students will need to show their tutor that they have a pen, pencil, ruler and their diary - PPRD. These should be on the desk in tutor time and in every lesson so that teachers do not have to waste valuable lesson time lending out equipment. Please make sure you come to school properly equipped for each day.

UNIFORM 2009

Thank you to all those students who come to school every day dressed smartly. There are just a handful of students who do not bring a sweatshirt to school. It is not permitted to wear outdoor clothing, such as coats, jackets or scarves around school, therefore all students need a sweatshirt, especially in this cold weather. All sizes are available to buy from reception. Please make sure that you are dressed correctly in full school uniform when you return to school in January.

Dates for Term 3

5 th January	Start of Term 3
7 th January	Start of Year 11 Mock Exams
16 th January	Enterprise Day for Year 9
19 th January	External Science Exam for years 10 and 11
21 st January	External Science Exam for years 10 and 11
22 nd January	Year 8 Girls Cervical Cancer Inoculation - 1 st injection
22 nd January	Year 9 Subject Evening
23 rd January	External Science Exam for year 11
27 th January	Media trip to London for years 10 and 11 media students
29 th January	Year 11 Subject Evening
2 nd February	Poetry Live - Year 11 trip to Brighton Dome
12 th February	Year 9 Revision Evening
12 th February	New York Trip departs
13 th February	End of Term 3

AND FINALLY

MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR