



# Connections

Issue 6

## Special Edition - Featuring Performing Arts

### Focus on Students In Residence

Students in Residence (SIR) is an innovative new programme coordinated by our Arts Development Officer. It began last year when a selection of year 10 Art students each spent a day at Pashley Down Infants School as “Artists in Residence” during Pashley’s 3D Art week. The programme has really grown and we are sending more and more students out to community groups and partnership schools to learn new techniques and share their skills. Participating students have the opportunity to use this experience to contribute to their GCSE course work, gain CoPE accreditation and pursue an Arts Award. Our latest projects have been a fantastic success with some students even considering a career in teaching as a result.

### Students in Residence at Tollgate

Year 9 Dance students Lauren Wilder, Annalise Harris and Jessica Horwood worked with groups of 8 yr 4 Tollgate children. The girls were exceptional, choreographing age appropriate Bollywood style dance pieces in the most encouraging and supportive way. Yr 9 & 10 Art students Phoebe Cunningham, Max Guy, Vicky Burton, Sam Stean, Alicia Pareja, Natilie Hearn, Caragh Hutchinson and Monica Nobrega worked within the classrooms assisting Local Community Artist Karen Taylor. They helped the children create umbrellas, skirts, Large Motifs and sari scarfs. All the hard work culminated on the Friday with a



Bollywood style fashion show for parents to raise funds for The Sollomon Andal Trust.





Sollomon, a year 4 pupil at Tollgate was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma (Bone Cancer) just over a year ago and has been receiving treatment ever since. The Trust is a not for profit organisation set up to raise money to send Sollomon to America for treatment in the event of a relapse. Should Sollomon not require further treatment by 2014. Any monies raised thus far will be used to purchase mobile homes and pine lodges, providing other families with a child suffering from cancer with a much needed free holiday.

£125 was raised and feedback from teachers and parents about our students was immensely positive. Many congratulations to Lauren, Annalise, Jessica, Pheobe and Max who have each received community points and an outstanding achievement award for their exceptional work on the project.

To find out about The Sollomon Andal Trust please see their website [www.sollomonandaltrust.co.uk](http://www.sollomonandaltrust.co.uk).

### Students in Residence at Ocklynge

Years 9, 10 and 11 students Katie Wickham, Suzie Seccombe, Sam Stean, Monica Nobrega, Lian Baker, Adrienne Martindale, Nicole Allen, Nook Kaewmala, Mariela Lacheva, Emily Quanstrom, Chris Wilson, Anna Judson and Natalie Hearn worked with Years 5 and 6 at Ocklynge. They spent their time between two workshops (screen printing and batique) assisting Local Community Artists Claire Gregory and Jo Linney, as well as helping the children with their art work.



In screen printing the children were experimenting with different styles of printing using a variety of materials, whilst in batique the children were creating images using a flour and water paste with colourful painting. Our students helped the children experiment and explore different art forms, method and techniques. They also created their own pieces demonstrating their own skills in Art. All of the art work will be exhibited at Ocklynge School on April 30th and May 1<sup>st</sup> with 2 viewings 3.30pm & 6.30pm all Ratton students, friends and family are most welcome to attend.

Feedback from the staff and artists about our students was enthusiastic and positive, and many commented on how impressed they were with their hard work. Many congratulations to Katie, Suzie, Sam, Emily, Natalie and Anna who will each receive community points and an achievement award for their enthusiasm and facilitation skills on this project.

Our many thanks go out to Ruby Murphy (PGCE Placement) and Gracie Barrow (Volunteer Community Arts Assistant), without whom this project would not have been possible.



## Get Involved

The next SIR opportunity is during the Easter holidays. Local charity Compass Community Arts will be setting up a Living Art Installation at the Redoubt Fortress and Military Museum in preparation for the Eastbourne Festival. From 10.30 onwards you can help create a contemporary Art work using a living medium in the form of flora grown by a variety of local schools and community groups as part of the flower bonanza project. Ideally we are looking for six students who would like to arrange, fix (with gaffer tape!) and decorate the pots to form this living exhibition. Any student wishing to participate is urged to contact our Arts Development Officer Miz Wells on 01323 514322 / [m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk) as soon as possible.

Compass Community Arts is a registered charity based in Eastbourne working predominantly with marginalized, disadvantaged and at risk groups, individuals and artists who need a voice in society. Through creative projects Compass Community Arts supports participants both artistically and personally. To find out more visit [www.compasscommunityarts.org](http://www.compasscommunityarts.org).

## Future Opportunities

We are in the process of organising another SIR project at Ocklynge as part of our transition work due to take part in term 6. This time we will be involving Year 7 and 8 students who will help Year 6 at Ocklynge design and build mechanical vehicles, watch this space for more details.

For more information about Students in Residence, or if you know of a group or project who could benefit from the programme, please contact Miz (Maria) Wells, Arts Development Officer at Ratton School on 01323 514322 / [m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk)

*Mr. Miles (G&T Leader and Teacher of Art)*

## New York Trip 2009

### New York, New York - the City that never sleeps!

As you may know, this February, students from years 10 and 11 had the chance of a lifetime to visit New York City on a Performing Arts trip.

The adventure started at 6 a.m. outside Ratton and after a short coach journey and a long wait at Heathrow, we were on the plane and on our way to the USA.

When we arrived, we dropped our luggage at the Pennsylvania Hotel and were quickly off to a night-skyline view of New York from the Empire State Building! The sights were simply stunning, as the Ratton crowd stood with their jaws dropped on the top of one of the most recognized buildings on earth.

After a well needed sleep, we were up and off to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island on a windy ferry! Soon after, we were on our way to China Town, where we put our bartering skills to the test! With full shopping bags, we made our way back to the hotel via the Subway for a quick stop before going to Broadway to see the world famous "Mamma Mia".

After a slightly longer night's sleep, we woke up looking forward to our day of shopping! We walked along the streets of Manhattan, stopped briefly outside the Rockefeller Centre and then made our way to Abercrombie and Fitch. Along with a variety of other shops, a main highlight was Swartz, the toy shop, most known for having the "Big Piano" (featured in the film "Big") and a fantastic Harry Potter section.

We then enjoyed a beautiful horse and carriage ride around Central Park, which was a great experience in itself. Then we were off to Macy's a massive convenience shopping centre.

Later that evening, we walked through the beautifully bright streets of Time Square to see the musical "Mary Poppins", where Mary flew across the audience!

The next day, we got up very sad to be leaving the wonderful city, and made our way to the Lincoln Centre for an interesting tour of the theatres and before we knew it, we were back to the Newark Airport and flying back to England. However, we all knew we would remember this amazing experience for the rest of our lives!

*Report by Josh Spriggs and Charlotte Durbidge - Year 11*





My name is **Mr. Miles** and I am the Leading Teacher for Gifted & Talented education. It is my job to ensure that children with exceptional ability in different areas receive a challenging and stimulating education during their time here. I also monitor progress and provide support and advice to students, parents and teachers so that we can achieve together.



## What have we achieved so far?

### **Ratton's Got Talent:**

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of January we hosted the final of our school talent show. We had over 80 acts taking part in the audition process and 10 amazing acts in the final. The event was won by the rock band: **Straight Faced Jokes**, representing the Adelphi Community. All profits from the event went to their chosen charity. In second place came **Sebastian Cox 'The Glow Stick Man'** (also winning the judges award), with **Gina Brown** in third place.

This event included leadership, planning and problem solving skills. In some areas, students excelled at taking photographs, recording and editing music/video, liaising with local businesses or learning to use lighting, sound, backstage equipment.



These three acts represented Ratton at the **Youth's Got Talent** Final which was held at the Winter Gardens on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March. I am incredibly proud of their dedication and the fact all 3 acts came in the top 10 (**Sebastian Cox, 4<sup>th</sup>**, **Straight Faced Jokes, 5<sup>th</sup>**, **Gina Brown 7<sup>th</sup>**).

This helps maintain Ratton's status as a specialist school in the performing arts.

### **Feeder school enrichment:**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 15 pupils that show great ability in History/Archaeology attended a full day workshop hosted by Miss Gray. The day was broken up into clear learning activities that tested all learning styles such as: reading, listening, visual & kinaesthetic. Miss Gray called upon archaeology specialists to help deliver specific learning opportunities such as: artefact handling. The day was a great success and all pupils presented their learning to others at their schools.



### Ongoing enrichment opportunities include:

Chess tournament & Trivia Challenge (general knowledge)

### Ongoing extension activities include:

Mandarin Lessons (Moir House School), Maths Challenge, Latin (at Eastbourne College), Early entry GCSE's, Art Challenge (exhibition), STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) clubs

**Next steps:** I will monitor current progress of all G&T pupils and organise a Student Voice task.

*Mr. Miles (G&T Leader and Teacher of Art)*

## Dance Out Reach at St. Johns

Some of our new Dance leaders took part in Dance Outreach sessions at St. John's Primary School in Meads teaching a class from Years 3, 4 and 6. Each class took part in a lively warm up and the primary children explained their topics, (Invaders and Mexico). They then improvised movements inspired by their topic and choreographed group dances with one of our Dance students. We hope that St. Johns are able to share a dance lesson in our studio very soon. Your new Dance Leaders are **Samantha Joubert** MRO and **Lazar Leibenberg** NAv for Adelphi, **Natasha Hayes** TDr and **Korbinian Cox** RCl for Apollo, **Chloe Hannaford** SBu and **Jack Buggins** LGo for Globe, **Isabella Barreto de Santana** SPa and **Tariq Boudehane** LWe for Lyceum, **Jake Dalton** JSu and **Ellie Stiles** DDe for Lyric!

## Arts Everywhere

The Eastbourne Festival 2009 kicks off over the Easter break providing arts events and activities for all.

Ratton and Cavendish Community Arts in partnership with Compass Community Arts and the Redoubt Fortress and Military Museum will be offering a range of free activities over the three weekends as part of the Redoubt Riot. Free Workshops are available in pin hole photography, performance and craft. There will be storytelling, music, performances and visual art installations over the two week period beginning Saturday 11th April.

Saturday 27th April is Family Fun day so bring your cushions / blankets and a picnic for a day of family based art activities, workshops and performances including, come and have a go Arts & Craft, Body Percussion, Storytelling, Circus Skills. Samba, Circus & Stomp Style performance and Drama, photography and craft based workshops (bookable in advance via 01323 410300). Look out for the festival brochures available in school soon. This is a perfect opportunity for any student who wishes to go for their Arts Award to complete their enjoying the arts units. For more information contact Miz Wells, [m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk).

## GO BANANAS!!!

Fairtrade is an organisation that helps farmers in developing countries earn a fair price for their crops so that they can live a decent life. We are currently in the process of making Ratton a Fairtrade school, so Friday (March 6<sup>th</sup>) we took part in a Fairtrade event called *Go Bananas*. In an attempt to break a world record, thousands of people all over the UK ate a Fairtrade banana. With the help of lots of students and staff, we ate a total of 171 Fairtrade bananas! So a big thank you to everyone who took part, with special thanks to Dec Filsell (deputy head boy).

If you are interested in helping to make Ratton Fairtrade, please let me know. Watch this space for more Fairtrade events coming your way.

*Miss Penna*



Lovely year 10s helping to eat some Fairtrade bananas!!

PS The PFA have just agreed to help Ratton by using Fairtrade tea and coffee as part of their refreshments.

## Lyric Community - Sponsored Abseil for the Sollomon Andal Trust

Arts Development Officer, **Miz Wells**, and Lyric student, **Curtis Tatner** will be going head to head in a **Staff Vs Student Competition** to raise funds for a local boy recovering from Bone Cancer. They will both abseil down the Congress Theatre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Whoever raises the most sponsorship gets to publicly splat the other with a custard pie!

....Who wins? You decide!

Under the banner of cancer charities the Lyric Community are currently raising funds for the Sollomon Andal Trust and we hope the whole school will support us in this fundraiser.

**If every student sponsored us £1 that would raise over £1,200 for this local family's plight to save their son and relieve the suffering of other families. A very little help from each of you will go along way in helping.**

So get your sponsorship slips in today, if you need a new slip or a multiple sponsorship form they are available from the Drama Office. Forms must be back by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**.

## Trip to Meet Author

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we were given the opportunity to meet the acclaimed author, Marcus Sedgwick, at the Underground Theatre, Eastbourne.

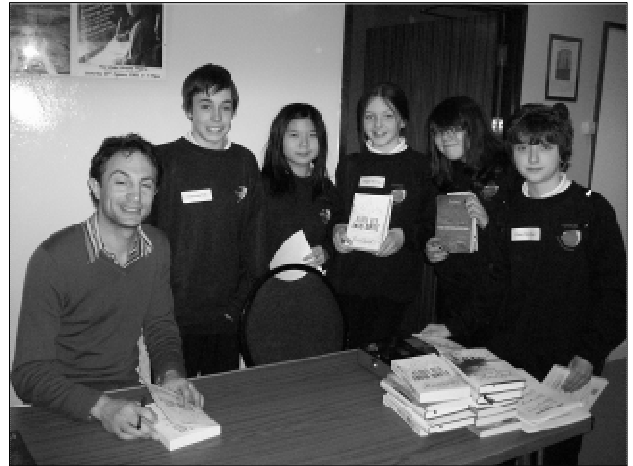
We took part in a quiz about English Literature where we tied in second place with Moira House School.

The quiz preceded the short break in which were served snacks (Korbinian was especially excited about this and Peter demonstrated his extreme drinking skills as he consumed three cups of tea and a cup of coffee!)

We then returned to the main hall, where we received an enlightening, inspiring and humorous talk from Marcus Sedgwick, author of books such as "My Swordhand is Singing" and "The Kiss of Death."

We then moved on to the book signing where we also got the chance to have a photograph taken with Marcus.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope that in the future we will be able to write books, and give talks which are as enjoyable as Marcus Sedgwick's.



*Report by Meggie Dennis, Amy Chiu, Peter Brabner, Korbinian Cox and Amy Barnett*

## Breakfast Club Donations

We would like to thank the following companies for their kind donations for the breakfast club

Martello Plant Hire  
Ratton School PFA  
Thomas Doors and Window controls

Securevision  
KD Catering

Stagecoach Theatre Arts  
Awards for All

## **Ratton Trampolinists bounce to victory - second year running !**

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March eight budding trampolinists took part in the **East Sussex Schools Trampoline Competition** at Claverham School. Other schools from the local area included: Hailsham, Claverham, Helenswood, Battle Abbey and Hillcrest.

The competition was split into two sections:

**Section A** for the less experienced School trampolinist and **section B** for the more able club competitor. Both sections required each competitor to perform a compulsory and a voluntary routine which was judged according to the tariff (difficulty of moves) and quality of their performance.

**Ratton entered 6 students for section A and 2 students for section B.**

### **Section A:**

Year 7	Emily Wilmer, Hannah King, Jack Lindsay, Katy Holter
Year 8	Samuel Hammond
Year 11	Alice Piper

### **Section B:**

Year 9	Katy Lambert
Year 11	Ellie Lambert

All students had spent hours of practice preparing for the competition which is very nerve-racking on the day. They only have one opportunity to show each routine and tiny mistakes can make the difference between a medal position or not. It was particularly difficult for Katy Lambert who is in year 9 and was drawn to compete in the section which included year 9, 10, 11 & 12, so some students were more than 3 years older than her. Both Katy and Ellie should be congratulated for reaching such a high level of performance. Even though they were not medal winners this year, Ellie came 5<sup>th</sup> closely missing out and Katy was 10<sup>th</sup> in a very hard section which included National Champions!

The other students should also be congratulated for their efforts. Emily, Jack and Hannah who are all in year 7 competed for the first time and performed very well under the pressures of the competition.

**However, a special mention should go to the top 3 medal winners who came home having had a landslide victory in the Section A :Yrs 7 & 8 section .**

**Sam Hammond was awarded the gold medal in FIRST position and only challenged by fellow team- mate Jack Lindsay in year7 who was awarded silver SECOND position.**

**Katy Holter was not to be beaten by the boys and kept the girls morale high by receiving silver medal SECOND position**


Well done to the whole team !!!!



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-  **Date: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April**
-  **Time: 2pm – 4pm**
-  **Meet: The Wish Tower slopes**
-  **Bring: a picnic, a helmet and fluorescent jacket if you have them and, of course, your bike**

**All ages, sizes and abilities welcome, and that's just the bikes on this leisurely ramble around.**

We are a non-political group aiming to promote safe cycling in Eastbourne and the pleasure, Health and Environmental benefits that follow.

One hundred children and adults plus one small dog were present for the last ride in November and we look forward to many more this time. Families are most welcome.

# The Rattonians Youth Group

# JUST SO

A MUSICAL BY GEORGE STILES & ANTHONY DREWE

**15th to 18th April 2009**

7.30pm Wednesday, Friday & Saturday : 5pm Thursday  
Matinees 2.30 pm Wednesday & Saturday

**Devonshire Park Theatre : Eastbourne**

**Box Office 01323 412000**

# Weight, Health & Exercise – Enhanced Learning



**We are pleased to offer our 14-18 year old students free access to a great benefit:-**

Weight, Health & Exercise – Enhanced Learning (WHEEL)  
A unique web based tool that can help you:-

**Improve health**

**Get fitter**

**Maintain healthy weight**

**Eat a healthy, balanced diet**

**Deal with pressure & stress**



**To take advantage of this offer:**

- Simply visit [www.wheelsystem.co.uk](http://www.wheelsystem.co.uk)
- Username = '4 digit student number' (i.e. 4321)
- Password = ratton

Both username and password are case sensitive and need to be entered as shown above.

You will be able to personalise your password as part of the registration process.



Login



# Online Personal Health Management System

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## We are pleased to offer our parents free access to a great benefit:-

Online Personal Health Management System (OPHMS)  
A unique web based tool that can help you:-

**Improve health**

**Get fitter**

**Lose weight**

**Eat healthily**

**Reduce stress**



### To take advantage of this offer:

- Simply email [enquiries@revitalised.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@revitalised.co.uk)
- In your email, quote the activation code – **PARENT/RATTON/001** along with your full name.
- The Revitalised team will activate your membership and confirm login details with you directly.
- Then just visit [www.ophms.com/ratton.aspx](http://www.ophms.com/ratton.aspx) and login!

Any problems – email [enquiries@revitalised.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@revitalised.co.uk) – you can also nominate a friend or family member for free membership.

