

PLEASED TO BE BACK!

I would like to wish a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 students, and welcome back to all our students. It has been such a pleasure seeing everyone looking so perfect in their uniforms.

It is only when you have been away that you realise what you miss: I have most missed watching and helping people grow. I have missed being part of Ratton students' growth as they move from childhood to young adulthood, and I have missed guiding and supporting staff as they grow and develop.

My time away has been a period of growth, reflection and re-energisation for me. I am grateful to the governors for releasing me, and to Ratton's leadership team and staff because I return to a better school than I left.

Looking to the future as we strive to further improve the life chances of our students we have three priorities:

1. To make teaching even better;
2. To provide even more support for students who fall behind in their learning;
3. To help students to become better independent learners.

As always, none of this can happen without 'achieving together' and we are very grateful for the continued support of parents and our community.

Mr Linsell
Headteacher

YEAR 7 PARENTS 'MEET THE TUTOR' EVENING

Last year's 'Meet the Tutor' was the first time we introduced a social opportunity for parents to meet with their child's tutor and talk about how their son or daughter had settled in early in the term. The event was so well attended (with over 50% of the year group present) that we have decided to repeat the occasion, with a few changes. The cheese and wine was thoroughly enjoyed and parents really appreciated meeting other parents in Year 7, but feedback indicated that Refresh was a little small for the numbers involved and the timing of the evening too short. We will therefore be extending both the size and the duration of the event, which will run from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday 23rd September in the Assembly Hall, neighbouring 'Blue Room' and 'Refresh'. We look forward to seeing Year 7 parents on the evening.

Mr Brown
Assistant Headteacher

GOLD FRIDAY

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter for parents and our community which allows us to keep you informed about what is happening in our school.

We welcome any suggestions you may have concerning content or layout so please let us know your thoughts and ideas to ensure that you receive the information and format that you would like.

Lastly, please note that Gold Friday is sent home with all students every gold Friday and is also posted on the school website - if you would like to receive a copy by email please send your details to -

admin@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk

(putting 'newsletter' in the subject title) and we will be delighted to add your name to our distribution list.

COMPETITION WINNER

Our congratulations go to **Sebastian Cox** for designing the winning Logo for our 'Circus Monkeys' drop-in. Well done!

PLAYGROUND UNSIGNED BAND COMPETITION

deadline: 4 October 2010

To enter the **Playground** unsigned band competition, UK-based bands have to create a profile on Playground's website community, add their music and invite friends to join and vote for them. The most popular track wins 1st prize - a recording deal worth £10,000 with an internationally respected producer - and the next most popular wins 2nd prize - a single recording deal and PR and marketing package worth £5,000.

For more information go to
www.theplayground.co.uk/competition.

Activenture Volunteering Opportunities

This project is available to students aged 13+ (and adults) to accompany special needs young people on activity weeks.

They would be very pleased to hear from any individuals or groups of volunteers who would be interested to consider joining Activenture for a residential activity week as companion helpers to disabled/special needs young people. They offer volunteers free training, and also cover the cost of seven days residential accommodation, meals and activities, at a choice of two outdoor centres in the South East. Many volunteers utilise their stay to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Award residential project, however most of the regular volunteers simply return because they enjoy this unique experience.

Please visit the website for further information:
www.activenture.org.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14th September

Full Governors' Meeting
(including election of Chairs) 5pm

Tuesday 21st September

Governors' Meeting (Premises,
Health & Safety Committee) 5pm

Y9 PE Day - Brighton University

Thursday 23rd September

Year 7 Wine & Cheese Evening

Friday 24th September

European Day of Languages

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th September 2010

1st October 2010

22nd October

25th November 2010

13th January 2011

20th January 2011

3rd February 2011

10th March 2011

31st March 2011

23rd June 2011

1st July 2011

14th July 2011

Open Evening

Inset Day

Consultation Day

Y8 Subject Evening

Y9 Subject Evening

Y9 Pathways Evening

Y11 Subject Evening

Y7 Subject Evening

Y10 Subject Evening

New Intake Evening

Y11 Prom Evening

Awards Evening

Please see fortnightly copies of 'Gold Friday' for additional dates for further events which arise throughout the year

'REFRESH' - CANTEEN

At Ratton we understand the importance of breakfast as a crucial meal for our bodies, providing the opportunity to replenish glucose levels lost overnight which are needed for us to think and learn. **To encourage students to start their day with food, we offer a free Breakfast Club of Fairtrade tea and Fairtrade coffee with toast, every day from 8am** (further items are available to purchase).

Birthday parties can be held at lunchtime and the birthday student has a nicely decorated table with balloons and banners and can invite friends to join them. The prices are as follows and include a birthday cake and free lunch for the birthday student:

5 Students £7.50
6-12 students £10.00 &
over 12 students £12.50



HOUSEKEEPING

CONNEXIONS SERVICE

The Connexions Service is provided through the local authority and offers information, advice and guidance on a variety of issues that affect 13-19 year olds. We currently have two Connexions Personal Advisers working within Ratton to support our students:

Jacqui Thompson works with students in years 9, 10 and 11 in relation to helping and guiding them with careers and post-16 opportunities. She will be interviewing some students individually and in groups, and will offer a 'drop-in' facility. If any parent would like to meet Jacqui, she is in school on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please telephone to make an appointment. Alternatively she can be contacted at Eastbourne Connexions Centre, 22-24 Gildredge Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4SA. Tel: 01323 745500 or by email jacqueline.thompson@babcock.co.uk

Toby Surtie has been relocated within the Connexions organisation and has been replaced by **Theresa Dade** who will be based in school. She will work with students who need one-to-one support in a whole range of social areas.

DATA PROTECTION

Connexions keeps a database with basic information about students from year 9 until they reach the age of 20 (25 for special needs students). This information includes name, address, date of birth and any relevant details. To comply with Data Protection legislation, it is necessary to confirm that the student gives their permission to hold this information and occasionally share it with other agencies. The information is kept private as far as the law allows but there is a requirement to share information if the young person is at risk, or if serious criminal offences are involved.

Parents wishing to object to this information sharing should have a legal reason to do so. Please make your reasons known to the school in writing - to the Form Tutor in the first instance - and a comment to this effect can be put on your child's records.

For more information on Connexions please visit www.connexions-direct.org.uk.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE

It may be necessary to close the school during the school day on occasion for reasons such as adverse weather, power failure or any other emergency. In this event, we will dismiss children to make their own way home or allow a telephone call to parents to make arrangements to be collected.

Please note that in the event of an early emergency closure, the school bus will not run.

Please notify us in writing (addressed to the form tutor) if you wish your child to remain in school until the usual time of dismissal - 3.15 p.m. - when they will be dismissed in the usual way. This option will only be possible if the School is deemed safe for occupancy.

PHOTO IMAGING

Photography is an ever increasing aid in school life. Photographs of students - in groups or individuals - will be used around the school, in coursework, on display boards and website. We also use images to enhance Connections and occasionally send reports for inclusion in the local newspaper.

Please notify us in writing (address to Mrs Court) if you do not wish your child's image to be used. In this event, you should make your child responsible for letting any photographer know their wishes.

Also enclosed with this issue of Gold Friday are the following letters/documents for your attention:

1. School Fund Letter
2. PFA "100 Club" letter
3. Medical Information and Consent form - this must be completed each academic year for every student and returned **urgently** to the finance office. These forms are then filed and used in the event of your child going out of school for trips etc. NB Year 7 students will already have completed a form. For families where there are more than one child attending in years 8 - 11, please collect additional medical forms from the finance office for completion.
4. "Refresh" information letter

DIARY DATES

The diary for the forthcoming academic year has been completed in school and will be posted at intervals onto the website. Dates two weeks at a time will also be published in Gold Friday. We will always endeavour to work towards the published calendar and key dates such as inset days, parents' evenings and term dates are unlikely to change. However, you will appreciate that some dates will need to change and we would ask that you check in Gold Friday and if in any doubt, please contact us.

Shape it, tone it, dance it!

Our community contemporary dance classes start again on Monday 13th September in the Dance Studio. Working on core strength, fitness and toning the classes are suitable for 10 - 100 year olds, and we would be keen to see families participating together.

6.30 - 7.30pm adult (13+) improvers class
7.30 - 8.30pm beginners all ages

£6 per session, £3 for Ratton students, discounts available! Phone 01323 514322 and speak to **Miz Wells** for more info or just turn up.

Super Circus!

Circus Monkeys drop-in recommences on Wednesday 15th September. All ages welcome (under 8's must have an adult with them) family groups more than welcome - come along and learn to juggle, play poi, globe walk, stilt walk, diablo, hula hoop and much more. 5.30 - 8.30 in the small gym, £2 for 2 hour session. Phone 01323 514322 and speak to **Gracie Barrow** for more info, or just turn up!

THE PHILOSOPHY FILM CLUB

Ms Bryden, Curriculum Leader RE, would like to invite all year 10 and 11 students to join the Philosophy Film Club. A range of films will be shown, all that have a connection to Ethics. **Films are screened in room 211 on Thursday lunchtime.** If you wish to attend you will need to see Ms Bryden for your membership sticker and remember to bring a packed lunch to eat.

Films planned for this year include: *The Men who Stare at Goats*, *MicMacs* and *Where the Wild Things Are*.

We will be starting the season with a screening of *'The Fall'*.

Roger Ebert's Review of The Fall

"[The Fall](#)" is one of the most extraordinary films I've ever seen. Set in Los Angeles in 1915, it involves a paralyzed stunt man (Lee Pace) and a four-year old Romanian girl named Alexandria (Catinca Untaru) who occupies separate wings in a hospital where most of the beds are empty -- waiting, probably, to be filled by victims of the Great War.

The stunt man begins to tell the girl a story. We hear the story in his words, but we see it through her eyes, and she imagines it as a magical vision. After filming all the scenes involving the two characters, [Tarsem](#) shot her visions in 28 countries over a period of four years. There are sights in the film you cannot imagine are possible, but [Tarsem](#) says he used no computers to create them.

They exist.



Sponsored Walk

We had a great time at the end of term with our sponsored walk. The weather was kind to us and the children were in good spirits as we walked from the treatment works to Holywell and back again. So far we have raised £1,400 but money is still coming in. If you still have pledged monies owing, please drop it in to the finance office. We will let you know the final figure in due course.

Thank you to everyone who took part and to those who sponsored out students.

