



12th March 2010

Issue 11/2009-10

GALA CONCERT EVENING

As you may be aware our Gala Concert takes place this Sunday at 7.30pm at the Congress Theatre. This evening has proved to be one of the highlights of the school year and is a wonderful showcase of the talented students, and committed staff, we have here at Ratton. The performance will include pieces by the Ratton Players, the School Choir, the Jazz Ensemble and the World Music Group as well as inspiring presentations by soloists and dancers and is a hugely enjoyable and entertaining evening. Please come along and support the concert - tickets can be purchased from the box office on 01323 412000 (or 01323 411555 for the Credit Card Hotline) and cost £8.50 for adults and £7 for children/over 60's.

I would like to let you know that the final figure for monies donated for the people of Haiti following the devastation caused by the earthquake on 12th January totalled £595.95 so thank you to everyone who contributed towards making a difference to help in such tragic circumstances.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the parents and students who have responded positively to our weekly punctuality sweeps by ensuring that our students arrive on time. This is a very important initiative, where members of the Welfare Team refer late students to their Community Learning Leaders, and is helping to ensure the prompt arrival of all students - particularly those in Year 11 for whom punctuality is one of the criteria for achieving graduation.

*Anne Wardle
Acting Headteacher*

GOVERNORS' MATTERS

Monitoring Committee Report - Tues 2nd March 2010

School Governors held one of their regular Monitoring Committee meetings on Tuesday 2nd March and devoted the majority of the time examining two very important documents, the SEF (Self Evaluation Form) and the SIP (School Improvement Plan). The school is expecting to have an Ofsted inspection in the not too distant future and the Governors are preparing the ground to make sure that all the necessary documentation is in place, with the evidence for the Inspectors, to uphold our view that Ratton is a 'Good' school and that it is our intended aim to move it to 'Outstanding'. The SEF is used as (a) a preliminary focus of planning and (b) a basis for substantiating judgements during the inspection.

The SIP sets out how the school proposes to deal with those areas that have been marked for action and improvement and it is important that visiting Inspectors can see that our SEF and our SIP mesh together. Governors are held responsible for the overall performance of the school and are determined, together with our excellent Acting Headteacher and Staff, to take Ratton forward into the future offering our students and parents the very best education opportunities.

Budget Committee Report - Tues 9th March 2010

Governors held a Budget Committee meeting on Tuesday 9th March and considered and approved the Financial Statement for 2009/2010. The budget allocation for the current year is £4,439,538 to which is added various grants totalling a further £702,216 giving a final figure of £5,141,754. The year end budget position is good news, in spite of quite a few additional costs and loss of income, we have benefited from savings in our gas bills due to a reduction in gas prices amounting to some £13,000, and will finish the year with a modest under spend to carry forward into the next financial year. Governors considered the initial Draft Budget for 2010/2011, but until we receive the final figures of our Budget Share and Grant allocations, this can only be a preliminary estimate. Our Business Manager, Mrs Tracy Comfort, and her finance team were thanked for all their hard work and for bringing the budget in on target in spite of the many financial pressures.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Many congratulations to our highest achieving students whose hard work and commitment we are proud to recognise. These students are identified due to having received the highest number of rewards allocated by all staff for the relevant week and are awarded for various contributions - such as outstanding work on a longer project or coursework, good effort in class, effort in tutor time and participation in an extra-curricular activity to name but a few!

Week ended 26th February

Georgina Cruttenden, Jake Gar, Alice Potter, Amy Barden, Yasmin McAndrew, Selin Dogan, Anastasia Groom, Jana Miles and Amber Dyer

Week ended 5th March

Omar-Ali Bozdog, Jodie Few, Annabel Simes, Sophie Sands, Charlotte Edwards, Emily Larkin, Jack baker, Jordan Sheldon, George Baker, Dominic Lloyd-Buckingham, Andrew Diack, Maddy Bell and Matthew Johnson

10-week period ended 5th March

Garratt Weblin, Anastasia Groom, Emily Bruzon-Edwards, Amy Barden, Zoe Swan, Brendan Pittman, Jasmina Rennie, Alice Potter, Owen Davies and Milly Jeffries

TESCO FOR SCHOOLS AND CLUBS Monday 1st March to Sunday 30th May

The Tesco for Schools & Clubs scheme enables UK schools and clubs to redeem vouchers from Tesco purchases for a variety of useful items, and we would love your help in collecting vouchers by any of the means listed below -

- One voucher is given for every £10 spent in Tesco stores and petrol filling stations in a single transaction (excluding purchases from Concessions, Tobacco Kiosk, prescription medicines, infant formulae or the sale of National Lottery tickets and scratch cards).
- One voucher is given for every £5 spent in Tesco Express stores (subject to the above exclusions).
- For every working phone we send in, we will be given 20 vouchers, and 5 for a non-working phone.
- For every empty inkjet cartridge we send in that can be recycled, we will be given 10 Tesco for Schools & Clubs vouchers.

Please bring any vouchers you collect to the main school reception where there will be a dedicated collection point - thank you for your ongoing support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 15th March

PFA Committee Meeting 7pm

Tuesday 16th March

Governors' Meeting
(Staffing (Pay) Committee) 5pm

Wednesday 17th March

GCSE Dance Showcase 6.30pm

Thursday 18th March

Parent Voice 7pm

Tuesday 23rd March

Full Governors' Meeting 5pm

Friday 26th March

MUFTI Day

****REMINDER****

FREE COMPUTER WITH FREE BROADBAND 'HOME ACCESS SCHEME'

A new scheme has been launched to provide low-income families, with children in Years 3 to 9, with a free computer and access to the internet. It is called the Home Access scheme.

This is part of a drive to close the digital and educational divide between rich and poor and help keep parents in touch with their child's progress.

The Home Access scheme is open to families in receipt of certain benefits who have not accessed similar schemes in the past, such as Computers for Pupils.

Looked after children up to the age of 18 will also receive laptops, and the scheme will offer bespoke packages to provide more support for children with special educational needs.

For further details please go to:
<http://www.homeaccess.org.uk/Information-for-parents/>

21 GCSE STUDENTS AND THEIR DANCERS REHEARSE FOR CHOREOGRAPHY EXAM!

Choreography accounts for 40% of the GCSE Dance exam and Ratton dancers are working in lessons, at break, at lunchtime and after school to finish their individual pieces. Stimuli include 'War', 'Heartbreak', abstract paintings and features of the natural world. Governors and parents of the candidates are invited to a performance on Wednesday in the Dance studio on 17th March at 6.30pm: audience space is limited (tickets must be obtained in advance from Mrs Duncan) - if you would like to be there to share the excitement, please contact a.duncan@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk