

23rd October 2009

Issue 3/2009-10

MEET THE TUTOR AND PARENT VOICE

On Thursday 15th October parents and carers of students in year 7 had the opportunity to meet their child's tutor, as well as governors and senior staff, in Refresh. They had the opportunity to ask any questions and gain valuable feedback about how their child had settled in to Ratton. The evening was very well attended and, despite being crowded at peak times, the overwhelming response was positive with questionnaire feedback indicating particular happiness with the informal nature of the evening and the availability of wine and cheese. Questionnaire comments also indicated real value in gaining feedback during the first term in order to allay concerns over this initial period of transition from Year 6 to 7. All feedback was welcome and we will endeavor to ensure that all have the opportunity to see their child's tutor as quickly as possible in future.

This meeting was followed by the first Parent Voice meeting of this academic year, and my thanks go to those parents who attended, as well as Ms Pajak and Mr Chaundy who shared how we Assess Pupil Progress (APP) at Ratton with them. We look forward to many parents attending our APP workshops during December, about which more information will be available at our Consultation Day on Friday 20th November.

Anne Wardle, Acting Headteacher

HAVE YOUR SAY...

Help shape the future of services and childcare provided through your child's school

With this copy of Gold Friday you will also receive a questionnaire from East Sussex County Council requesting your feedback to help them provide an extended school service to help you balance work and family commitments, support your children with their studies and give them a broader range of experience and interests.

The questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes and should be completed for each child you have, in order that different age ranges are suitably catered for.

Please ignore the date on the front of the questionnaire but instead return to school by Friday 13th November 2009.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd November

Governors' Meeting
(Monitoring Committee) 5-6.30pm

Friday 6th November

Song & Dance Evening 7pm

Tuesday 10th October

Governors' Meeting
(Monitoring Committee) 5-6.30pm

School Prom Concert *more details to follow later*



CYCLE SHED

Recently there have been two cycles not locked properly in the cycle shed and outside. Please can we remind you that the **cycles are left at the students own liability** and this is mentioned in the cycle agreement that comes home with Connections every year and is also available on the website.

GOVERNOR MATTERS

We would like to thank Heather Kyprian, Karen Lawes and Judith Hawxwell who have served on Ratton's Governing Body but are now leaving us due to other commitments - thank you for all your hard work and dedication to Ratton.

We offer our congratulations and warmly welcome Mrs Lisa Dibbens who has won the recent parent governor election. Below is Lisa's summary of herself submitted for the election -

"As an ex-Head Girl, volunteer classroom helper, receptionist, trainee teacher and now parent at Ratton School, I am passionate about the school environment, the staff who work there, and the students it serves.

In my current job with the FLESS Service I support sick and anxious children across the Eastbourne area that are unable to access school. Within this role I have the opportunity to work closely with parents and staff in all schools, including Ratton, to try to ensure the best educational outcomes for sick children. It would be a privilege to represent the Parent Voice within Ratton School."

Governors' Monitoring Committee - Analysis of Achievements - 6th October

On the agenda was an analysis of the achievements of the school in its teaching and its results. These results are most obviously evidenced by the GCSE's passed by our pupils but other sources are reviewed.

The Curriculum Leaders and Learning Directors for English and Mathematics showed what plans are in place for their respective departments to improve on what are already good results.

Reports were given by the respective Governors whose responsibility it is to "Link" with specific Departments. Mine is Mathematics and I had recently met all the staff and received their briefing on their plans, not just for Year 11 pupils, but for all the year groups.

At the Monitoring Committee we were also told of the School's ways of targeting specific pupils or groups of pupils.

To round off the meeting the Governors then agreed the Ratton target for GCSE A-C passes from the 2010 exams!

Angus Scott

Governors' Monitoring Committee - Effectiveness of Provision - 13th October

This monitoring committee looks firstly at the teaching and learning within the school including the standards of teaching and secondly at the curriculum being provided by the school.

The removal of the KS3 tests for students has given schools the opportunity to broaden the curriculum, particularly in year 9. The governors heard of the fundamental review of year 9 curriculum taking place and how the school is endeavouring to change the emphasis from the teacher to the learner. All subjects are looking carefully at how the students learn and how best to provide for this. Governors questioned and discussed the present suggestions and look forward to hearing of further developments.

All teachers are observed teaching during the year as a means of monitoring standards and spreading good practice. A new scheme is being introduced which it is planned will enhance both aspects of the exercise. The results will be reported later in the year.

Equal Opportunities for all students and staff is a fundamental commitment of the school. The Equal Opportunities policy has been updated and the Governors discussed and, with minor amendments, approved the policy.

John Voice

Governors' Training for All - 20th October

GOVERNORS have undertaken a two-hour training session led by Carol Dadswell, Associate Trainer from the County Council.

The Governing Body Health Check looked at how the governors operate, and how more effective they can be in certain areas.

The session looked at areas such as: preparing for OFSTED; whether we fulfil all statutory requirements; involvement with the School Improvement Plan; community cohesion and what practice/s should we change.

The session was a very useful and informative one, providing food for thought for the 12 governors present.

Peter Lindsey, Chair of Governors

ANNUAL MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

You have recently received this form for completion. Please can I stress that even if your child is currently not going on a trip imminently that you still need to complete the form and return to the Finance office as soon as possible, as the form covers your child for the complete academic year and will be held in readiness for any trips or local visits that may occur. Thank you.

ACCESS ALL AREAS *East Sussex Youth Arts Festival* *De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill* *23rd-25th October*



This festival is aimed at 13-19 year olds and offers the opportunity to sample the best of youth arts in East Sussex and is designed to be affordable. On Friday night there will be **DJ Party Night** from 7-10pm with **Headliner** (tbc) supported by S30 Beatbox from Eastbourne and on Saturday evening some of the best young bands in Sussex will be showcased from 7-10pm. A one night ticket costs £4 and entitles you to entry on Friday or Saturday night (Sunday night showcase is free), and a ticket for both evenings costs £7 and can be obtained by contacting 01424 229111. All workshops are free but please ensure you arrive in good time to sign up as numbers are limited by capacity.

The Ratton Stompers are opening the festival with a Stomp-style workshop from 10-11.30am on Friday 23rd October so why not come along and make some noise! Our Diploma students are also taking part in a flip-and-spin animation with three sessions running on Friday at 10am, 1pm and 4pm.

WE'D LOVE YOUR HELP!

We would love your ideas and suggestions for information you would like to see in Gold Friday, so please let us know. Also, please complete and return your email details below and we will be pleased to send Gold Friday to you each week -

Name _____

Email _____

Signed _____

Student name/tutor group _____

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! Competition is strong and the names of students for the period since the start of term are shown at the bottom of this item-

Week ended 9th October

Georgina Cruttenden, Veronika Gibbins, Chelsea Willgrass, Frankie Carroll, Jessica Stubbs, Sarah Benaissa, Katie-Mae Kelleher, Kay Hilton, Jamilla Hekmoun and Amelia Inman

Week ended 16th October

Georgina West, Georgina Cruttenden, Hannah Wickens, Adam Preston, Ami Streeter and Veronika Gibbins

Since start of term

Georgina Cruttenden, Veronika Gibbins, Chelsea Willgrass, Mia Longman, Jessica Stubbs, Frankie Carroll, Katie-Mae Kelleher, John Macdonald, Isabella Simpson and Jessica Windham



MOBILES/HEADPHONES/iPODS

May we take this opportunity to remind you that the school diary clearly states:

"Students are not allowed to have these visible or switched on in any lesson. If students break this rule they can expect to have the item confiscated. It will be given to Welfare, who will send a letter home. The item will be returned to the student at the end of the day."

Following the recent assemblies mentioning cyber-bullying we would also like to reinforce that we actively discourage the use of mobiles at break, lunchtimes or in the corridors.

RATTON SCHOOL CLUBS

TERMS 1 & 2 2009-10 (updated list)

DAY	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL (TWILIGHT)
MONDAY	ICT Club Sport on Courts Year 7 choir (217)KWo Art Club rm 222 (just turn up)	ESCC Music Service Library HW Club Latin for G&T (Wla) 'Sky Watch' (Watch this space TDU) Modern Jazz 3.30-4.30 (See Mrs Duncan) Rattonians 7.30-9.30 (see Mr Adams)
TUESDAY	ICT Club Sport on Courts Ratton Reading Group (LRC Mrs Beck (Blue weeks only) Yr 10 GCSE French 3.15- 4.45 (MWO) Art Club rm 222 (just turn up)	Library HW Club Kumon Maths 3.45 Line Dancing 7.00 - 10.30 Tae Kwondo 7.00 - 10 .30 Maths catch-up 3.20 (Maths area) German catch-up Yr 10 GCSE Dance (see Mrs Duncan) Jazz Ensemble 3.15-4.30 (see Mr Cane-Hardy) Chinese Theatre Club (just turn up) Rattonians Youth Group 7-9.30 (see Mr Adams)
WEDNESDAY	ICT Club Sport on Courts Y11 GCSE French 3.15(MWO) Christian Union (Wired) Rm126 (Eco/KWe) Yr 7 Dance Club (just turn up) Art Club rm 222 (just turn up)	ICT Catch up Library HW Club Out of Ink (G&T club for Y8,9,10 Rm 208) Science catch up Rm137 Dance fusion 7.00pm Adult Ed classes... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover your voice • ICT for beginners class • Tai Chi GCSE Dance 2010 (for students in yrs 10/11 taking the exam in 2010 - see Mrs Duncan) 6-8pm German catch-up Classical Ballet 3.30-4.30 (just turn up) The Wiz 3.30-5.30 Cast ensemble rehearsal Ratton Players 5.30-7.15 (see Mr Cane-Hardy) Circus Monkeys drop-in 5.30-8.30 with £2 charge (see Miss Barrow or Mrs Wells)
THURSDAY	ICT Club Sport on Courts Creative Story writing Club. Room 205. Mrs Curtis (starts Nov 5 th) Yr 10 GCSE French Coursework 3.15- 4.45 (MWO) Philosophy Film Club (yrs 10/11 only) Rm 211 Art Club rm 222 (just turn up)	ICT Catch up Library HW Club Media Catch up club Rm 204 (MHa) GCSE Sociology (Rvi/CPe) Textiles Club Rm132 CWi/RCl English 'Keep up classes' (Ple) Dance fusion 7.00pm Dance Rehearsals for 'The Wiz' (until term 2)
FRIDAY	ICT Club Sport on Courts Art Club rm 222 (just turn up)	Kumon Maths 3.45 Tae Kwondo 5.30 - 8.30 Stage Coach Jazz/Blues improvisation (all instrumentalists just turn up) 'The Wiz' acting rehearsal *GOLD* Boys' Dance workshop (see Mrs Duncan)
SATURDAY am	ESCC Music Service Trap door Theatre	

For more details please visit the school website which is updated regularly.

For Sport/PE updates go www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/extra_curricular/sport

For Music/Dance/Drama visit www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/extra_curricular/performing_arts

Please note that list has been updated since last issue - all additions are marked in bold print

