

BEING ON THE RATTON BUS



As part of my work last year I visited over a hundred schools, and one feature of the very best schools I visited was a very strong sense of shared vision and values. In recent assemblies I explained this to students as 'being on the Ratton bus' and students are now exploring what our core school values mean for them. These core values can be summed up in six words - **RESPECT** being fair and caring towards yourself, others and the environment; **INTEGRITY** being consistently honest and trustworthy; **RESPONSIBILITY** being accountable for your individual and community's actions; **PARTICIPATION** working together to achieve individual and common goals, and being proud of your contribution; **EXCELLENCE** striving for the highest personal achievement in all aspects of school, individual and community lifelong learning; and **ENJOYMENT** caring and supporting each other.

The thing about values is that they are just words if we do not live them. An important piece of work which is being led by the community and School Council is to discuss what these values mean in action, which could make for a very interesting discussion at home...

Mr D Linsell
Headteacher

DIDO AND AENEAS - RATTON'S FIRST OPERA

Tickets are now on sale for the opera to be performed at school on the evenings of Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th October, starting at 7pm (tickets obtainable from the Finance office at £3.00/£5.00 adult). Dido and Aeneas is a short opera lasting approximately 35 minutes and will be performed to a live chamber orchestra in the Drama Studio - seating capacity is limited so please arrange for tickets as soon as possible.

DANCE CLASSES

Ratton Dance classes are underway with Street Dance on Mondays after school with Emma, and Ballet after school on Wednesdays with Miss Jilly - both end at 4.30pm. Both classes are free of charge to Ratton dancers and are open to students of all years.

Contemporary dance classes began again on Monday 13th September and start at 5.30pm - full details are on the notice board outside the Dance Studio or from m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk

SONG AND DANCE EVENING

Friday 19th November is the date for our second Song and Dance evening giving you a chance to enjoy an evening of entertainment by some of our most talented students. Tickets will be on sale after half-term.

BOX TOPS FOR BOOKS

Nestle are running an initiative offering a wide range of new books in exchange for tokens from the top of their cereal boxes. The scheme can help children to develop their powers of imagination and critical awareness and to develop their speaking and listening skills. Many of the books on offer also relate to a wide range of other subjects such as history, geography and science, so will contribute to learning across the curriculum.

The scheme runs until 31st March 2011 and it takes as little as 10 tokens to get one book, so the more tokens we collect the more books we can receive for our LRC. If your family eats Nestle cereals please tear off the token on the top of the box and bring it into the school reception collection point.

Top 3 tips

1. Encourage your children to read every day and discuss their books with you
2. Have all sorts of books at home (gifts or borrowed from libraries)
3. Read yourself just for pleasure

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 17th September

Susannah Hearn, Zoe Swan, Natasha Duursma, Zoe Miller, Danielle Hearn, Matthew Johnson, Craig Brown, Jack Baker and Kezia Fairbairn

Since 2nd September

Susannah Hearn, Natasha Duursma, Ryan Gregory, Matthew Johnson, Craig Brown, Danielle Hearn, Jack Baker and Amro Hammer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 30th September

Prospective Parents' Evening 5.30pm
(early closure for students)

Friday 1st October

INSET Day
(school closed to students)

Tuesday 5th October

Governors' Meetings 4.15pm
Sub-committee 5pm
Monitoring Committee

Wednesday 6th October/Thursday 7th October

Dido & Aeneas 7pm

Wednesday 6th October

Prospective Parents' Open Morning 10am
(strictly by appointment only)

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

There are currently three vacancies for parent governors on the Governing Body. Parent governors play an invaluable role serving as a member of the governing body team and support and training will be available to the new governors.

If you would be interested in standing for election or would like to find out more please contact Mrs Murphy, Clerk to the Governors, on 01323 514312 (Tuesday/Thursday/Friday) or by email to a.murphy@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk

'MATHS IN MIND'

If you enjoy Maths and are thinking of studying the subject at 'A' Level you are warmly invited to go along to Moira House Girls' School for their 'Maths in Mind' Open Morning on **Saturday 2nd October from 10.00-12.00.**

The morning will be filled with fun activities, such as Quizzes, Interactive Sessions and Hands-On activities and there will also be the opportunity to meet the Maths staff and current students, as well as finding out more about studying Maths and Further Maths in the Sixth Form at Moira House.

To book a place please contact Moira House directly on 01323 644144 or email schooloffice@moirahouse.co.uk

BOOKED UP

Once again year 7 students nationally are being offered the opportunity to choose a book **absolutely free**, and they will be bringing home a pamphlet detailing the choices available. Please encourage them to return their slips as soon as possible, as an early return of the school order will entitle us to free books for the LRC as well.

Many thanks!

Mrs S Beck
Learning Resources Manager

SCHOOL NURSE DROP-IN

Any students with any concerns or worries over anything health related - from stopping smoking to relationship issues, are very welcome to speak to the school nurse.

Students are very welcome at lunchtimes every Tuesday at her drop-in sessions, located in the old medical room (next to the Finance Office).

SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE

Mrs Peters is currently organising a short talk to our students by a variety of people from the community. This event is scheduled for January 2011 during school hours and should last no longer than one hour.

The participants will be talking to students about their jobs and the route they took to get to their current role. **We are looking for a wide range of careers and jobs and at this stage would like to hear from people who are interested in taking part in this event.**

If you are interested please contact Mrs Peters (Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Careers Advice & Guidance), or Mrs Bégin (Work Related Learning Coordinator) on 01323 504011.