

PARENT SURVEYS - WE WELCOME YOUR VIEWS

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Consultation Day on Friday 20th November. I am pleased to report that attendance was exceptional at over 80%. If you picked up a Parent Survey form could I ask you to complete it and return it to the box provided in main reception - if you have mislaid it, and would like to complete one, please go to the front page of the website at www.rattonschool.co.uk and click on the link - your comments are much appreciated.

Students are busy with the continuing preparation for GCSE exams, 'The Wiz' production and many other supporting events. We will keep you informed of all the forthcoming opportunities to support the work and endeavours of our students at Ratton.

Anne Wardle, Acting Headteacher

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 13th November

Brendan Pittman, Garratt weblin, Eric Barrell, Amelia Hicks, Amro Hammer, Jake Nash, Frederick Osborne, Ellie Carter, Kiera Howard, Rachel Ledner and William Potter

Week ended 20th November

Beatrice Easdale-Cheelee, Kezia Fairbairn, Garratt Weblin, Patrick Gough, Charlie Gosden, Ryan Gregory, Claudia Fairweather, Charlotte Collins, Ross Winters and Emily Nash

10 weeks ended 20th November

Anastasia Groom, Owen Davies, Brendan Pittman, Garratt Weblin, Georgina Cruttenden, Mia Longman, Veronika Gibbins, Amy Barden, Jessica Stubbs and Amelia Inman

MORGANA VICKERS

Congratulations to Morgana on getting her 1st kyu - she is now a blackbelt in Shotkan karate!

Well done Morgana!

CHILDREN IN NEED

Due to Consultation Day, we held a Mufti Day in aid of Children in Need/Uganda a day early on Thursday 19th November. Students were invited to wear their own clothes for the day and pay £1 for the cause.

However, tutor groups/Communities were encouraged to go the extra mile by wearing fancy dress in a chosen theme and there were some excellent costumes. Themes included cowboys and Indians, film characters, hippies, Harry Potter characters to name a few. Students dressed in fancy dress asked for sponsors to add more money.

As we are still waiting for some of this sponsor money to come in, we cannot give a final total raised at this time but will report the figure when known.

Nigel Waterson MP also dropped by to look at some of the students in outfits.



GOVERNOR MATTERS

Governors' Budget Committee - 25th November

The Governors' Budget Committee met on Tuesday 25th November to consider details of the school's finances both for the current and future years. They welcomed the fact that we have a balanced budget, though acknowledged that we may face financial restrictions in the future. Governors are responsible for overseeing a budget approaching four and a half million pounds. As with everyone, the fuel bills keep rising and we are introducing a modern lighting system with the help of ESCC, which will reduce the cost of both electricity and maintenance. Our accounts are regularly audited and we have a first class Finance Team led by our Business Manager Mrs Tracy Comfort.

Governors' Staffing Committee - 17th November

On Tuesday 17th November, the Governors' Staffing Committee held one of its regular meetings to monitor the staffing arrangements for the school and their performance. Governors are responsible for all personnel issues relating to Teaching and Associate staff throughout the whole school. Reports were received from the Acting Headteacher, Mrs Wardle, and from Mr Kingham on the training given to NQT teachers and the benefits derived by the school from this service. Governors were concerned to receive complaints from staff that they had on occasion suffered verbal abuse in school or over the telephone from some parents or guardians. Governors assured staff that they would make it clear to those guilty of such behaviour that this would not be tolerated at any level. Our staff deserve to be treated with respect.

Michael Tunwell

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 8th December - 5-6.30 p.m.

Full Governors' Meeting

Week Commencing 7th December

Year 11 Speaking & Listening

Assessments during lessons

8th & 9th December - all day both days

Year 11 Art Exam

9th - 12th December - 7 p.m. start

Christmas Production - The Wiz

Thursday 10th December - two sittings

1.00 and 1.40 p.m.

Refresh Christmas Lunch - tickets on sale in the canteen at break and lunchtimes - price £2. Please note only Christmas lunch will be served at this time. Normal food will be on sale at breaktime.

Tuesday 15th December - 7 p.m. start

Christmas Concert followed by refreshments

Thursday 17th December

Community Christmas Assemblies all day
Adelphi Christmas Party - 3.15-4.30 p.m.

Friday 18th December - 1.30 p.m.

End of Term 2

ASSESSING PUPIL PROGRESS

Have you heard of APP? Does it really mean anything to you at the moment? Would you like to become more involved in your child's education and be able to help them to make their two levels of progress?

As a leading school in the area, and indeed the country, we would like to offer parents of students in KS3 the opportunity to attend some workshops, which will aim to shed some light on how assessment has developed and give an insight into how your child is assessed at school.

The first workshop will take place at school from 5.30pm until 7.00pm on 3rd December. If you are interested in becoming a partner in learning and becoming more actively involved in your child's progress, please fill in the reply slip below and return it to Miss Pajak by November 23rd at the latest.

We look forward to working with you so that we can continue to 'achieve together.'

Reply Slip: Return to Miss Pajak at Ratton School

Name _____

Student's name _____

**I would like to attend the evening on 3rd Decembe - there will be _____ of us attending*

**I would be interested in finding out more about the assessment at Ratton but I am unable to make the 8th December*

Signed _____

Next Generation Learning LIVE! Reporter

Are you a budding news hound? Would you like to win a new laptop PC and a year's free internet access? If this is you, enter the Next Generation Learning LIVE! Reporter Competition. Simply by sending your news reports to the National Education Network website you could be invited to attend the 2010 BETT show in London reporting on all that is new and exciting in the world of technology in schools and collect your prizes. The winner and a representative of their school, or parent or guardian, will be invited to the BETT show to be a Next Generation Learning Live Reporter for a day. Simply write a news story or a script between 250 and 400 words or make a video or audio recording (between 90 seconds and two minutes) to tell how you think "technology is changing the way we learn". Let your imagination go! The BETT Show takes place at London Olympia from Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th January 2010. Full details available at <http://www.nen.gov.uk/livereporter/>

Deadline for applying to attend: 12 midnight, Monday 30th November 2009

