

NATIONAL REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE

Nigel Waterson MP and Cllr Colin Belsey recently visited Ratton School. As part of their visit they presented certificates to some of our students who achieved outstanding results in years 7, 8 and 9. Ratton is part of the national pilot for Making Good Progress, and the achievement of these students is part of our success in this pilot. Each school in the pilot has been rewarded for the number of students who make good progress. We are very proud to tell you that Ratton received more money than any other school in the pilot (over £8,000). This is a really good example of achieving together in action, and my heartiest congratulations to all the staff, students, and parents involved.

David Linsell, Headteacher

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Year 9 Devised Drama Starts

A new Drama Group exclusively for yr 9 will be starting soon. This group will have the opportunity to develop their own drama ideas and devise their own pieces working towards a performance in the summer term. If you are year 9 and interested please come along to room 220 on Tuesday (27th January) at 3.15 for a brief (1/2 hour) preliminary meeting.

Circus Monkeys Expansion

We are pleased to announce that our Wednesday Circus Monkeys drop in circus sessions have been expanded due to popular demand. We have created a new session for those of you who are interested in unicycling and hope to have enough members to create Eastbourne's first unicycle hockey team!

The new session times are 5.30 - 7.30 for ground based skills, with more room for tumbling and Acro-balance, or 6.30 - 8.30 for ground based and Unicycling.

Remember! Circus skills is suitable for **all abilities and all ages** and is a great way to build confidence, improve concentration and develop spatial awareness. We are particularly keen to see more parents joining the fun (under 8s must be accompanied by an adult). The session fee is still only £2. So come along and learn juggling, poi, devil sticks, diabolo, plate spinning, pedal-go, stilt walking, kangaroo stilts, globe walking, acro-balance, Rola bola and Unicycling. No need to book just turn up in the Drama Studio.

Youth Opportunities Fund

Do you take part in any extra curricular activities? Does your group need equipment or staff? Would you like a new activity to be offered? East Sussex County Council are inviting groups of young people to apply for Equipment and Activity Grants of between £500-£2,000. To apply you need to be between the ages of 13 - 19 years, but some of the group can be younger.

The money can be spent on equipment purchases and activities that take place before end of March 2009. This can include one-off activities, residential holidays, and activities within your local community and equipment grants. For example you could set up a photography group, apply for a portable skate ramp, commission a parcour workshop etc etc. If you think you might have an idea worth developing please come and see Miz our Arts Development Officer next week, or drop her a line at m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk. Closing date for applications is 5th February.

Pause for Reflection

The following extract is from a collection of thoughts linked to our assembly themes throughout the year-

"One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation."

Arthur Ashe

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 27th January

Media trip to London all day

Governors' Meeting (Development) 5pm

Thursday 29th January

Year 11 Subject Evening 4.15-7.45pm

Friday 30th January

'Ratton's Got Talent' Final 6.30-9pm
ALL WELCOME- tickets available from Finance Office £2 adults, £1 children

Monday 2nd February

School Council training 10am-3pm

Tuesday 3rd February

Governors' Meeting (Provision) 5pm

Thursday 5th February

Parent Voice 6.30-7.30pm

GOVERNORS' CORNER

At the last Parent Voice meeting I was made aware that parents are not always sure of the role played in school by the Governors, so felt this would be an ideal opportunity to clarify what we do. Governors are a voluntary group of people drawn from four categories - Parent, Community, Local Education Authority, and Staff - and play a critical role in raising standards. We are assigned to Departments and visit and talk to staff to determine that the objectives they have been set are being met, and though many of us are not educationalists we are able to offer other skills and advice. The government call us 'critical friends' and we want the very best for all our students. Mostly we support and encourage, and also attend as many school events as possible.

Governors are available to meet you and can be contacted through the school. I look forward to seeing many of you in 2009.

Mrs Joan Williams, Vice Chair

WELCOME TO A NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

We would like to welcome Harriet Somerville, mother of Billy Westwood 7JFr, who has recently been appointed as Parent Governor to the governing body.

BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

The Times and The Sunday Times have launched a great new Books for Schools promotion and throughout 2009 they'll be giving away hundreds of thousands of books to help to encourage children to read for enjoyment, to broaden their knowledge, and to develop their imaginations. Simply collect tokens from the newspapers on our behalf and we can exchange them for books to benefit all our students. Anyone can collect tokens and there's no limit to the number of books we can order. With some titles on offer for only ten tokens and at least one token in the paper every day, it won't take long to boost the library's resources!

Please take your tokens to main reception - thank you.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Ratton's girls' football teams have had their most successful season for years. The year 7 team is representing the South East at the David Beckham Academy in February and as you can see their results in the local leagues have been very impressive too, particularly scoring 23 - 0 against Peacehaven which is a new school record!

Jane Upton and Naomi Poletylo

vs Bishop Bell	7	N/A	8 v 2	Ratton
vs ETC	7	N/A	7 v 2	Ratton
vs Lewes	7	N/A	3 v 3	Draw
vs Peacehaven	7	N/A	23 v 0	Ratton
vs Seaford	7	N/A	3 v 0	Ratton
vs Willingdon	7	N/A	default	Ratton
vs Bishop Bell	U14	E	0 v 7	Bishop Bell
vs Cavendish	U14	E	5 v 4	Ratton
vs Willingdon	U14	E	default	Ratton
vs ETC	U14	E	default	Ratton
vs Peacehaven	U16	N/A	1 v 1	Draw
vs Bishop Bell	U16	N/A	default	Bishop Bell
vs Tideway	U16	N/A	default	Ratton
vs Seaford	U16	N/A	default	Ratton
vs ETC	U16	N/A	0 v 11	ETC

CONGRATULATIONS!

Many congratulations to our highest achieving students whose hard work and commitment we are proud to recognise -

Week ended 9th January

Jack Boulton, Samuel Deadman, Sam Smith, Natalie Hearn, Olivia McCreery, Joseph Williamson, Amar Duratovic, Phoebe Cunningham, Rachael Dudson, Zachary Fuller, Alexander Cheeseman, Sophie Reynolds, and Rachel Ledner

Week ended 16th January

Gemma Courtney Davis, Kamil Ondrej, Eleanor Farrington, Summer Donnachie, Jessica Davis, Jacob Bradbrook, Kara McNeice, Heledd Evans, Toby Gazeley, and Jack Taylor

Week ended 23rd January

Hannah Wickens, Elin Pugh, Jamie Russell-White, Sandhana Munisamy, Megan Dennis, Shereen Shafiee, James Prime, Gemma Courtney Davis, Jack Devile, Leah Holden, Rebecca Norman, Daisy Strong-White, Ruby Tyrell, Emma Milton-Shields and Robyn Potter

DANCE MATTERS

Dance leaders have begun to meet Year 7 dancers and to start some new projects so students should watch out for an inter-community dance off!

Dance outreach to Primary Schools is now well underway with the first visit - to St John's, Meads - taking place at the end of this month. Four Ratton dancers will work with Mrs Duncan to teach creative dance lessons based on the children's class topics for the term.