

SEASON'S GREETINGS

We are coming to the end of a very busy term. Students, staff and governors have all been working incredibly hard and this is what makes Ratton the happy and successful school it is - confirmed by the highest number of first requests for any East Sussex school from year 6 parents and students for places here next September! I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment which has resulted in this fantastic accolade.

On behalf of all the staff I pass on our thanks to parents and carers for your continued support of Ratton, and we wish you all a joyful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

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 27th November

Hannah Renton, Jacob Bradbrook, Laura Mattock, Veronika Gibbins, Emily Nash, Anastasia Groom, Ruby Tyrell, Sebastian Cox, Emily Kasparis and Trinity Brackley-Henry

Week ended 4th December

Emily Nash, Edward Discombe, Jody joy, Louie cannings, Lucy Shefford, Luciano Anagnostopoulos, Kamil Ondrej, Owen Davies, Sophie Sands, Phoebe Wilson and Joanne Ottley.

10 weeks ended 4th December 2009

Anastasia Groom, Brendan Pittman, Owen Davies, Kamil Ondrej, Veronika Gibbins, Georgina Cruttenden, Haris Duratovic, Emily Nash, Garratt Weblin and Eric Barrell

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Our uniform expectations are clearly laid out in the Student Planner on pages 7 and 8 and we would like to draw your attention to the first paragraph:

"We operate a strictly enforced policy on uniform. Our uniform consists of black shoes, black or very dark grey trousers (not jeans, combats or skinny trousers) or knee length skirts (skirts shorter than this are not allowed) and a school polo top and sweatshirt."

In addition, please note that other items of clothing, such as cardigans and coloured T-shirts worn under polo shirts, are not part of the uniform and **should not** be worn to school. If students arrive in inappropriate clothing we will offer them an alternative from our stocks for that day, or ask them to go home and return appropriately dressed.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

GOVERNOR MATTERS

FULL GOVERNORS' MEETING - 8th DECEMBER

The Governing Body, at their meeting on Tuesday, considered update reports on Curriculum Reform from Mrs Fitzpatrick; Action to improve Exam results and Mentoring, by Mr Keith Jackson, Governor; and the results of two School Surveys - namely Year 7 Student Survey and The Safer School Survey - by Mr Brown. The information received will prove to be very helpful in guiding future policy.

Acting Headteacher, Mrs Wardle gave her End of Term Report detailing the many actions taken by our staff towards raising attainment at KS4 in summer 2010. Monthly 'intervention indicators' will help regularly track year 11 student progress to enable extra guidance and assistance to be given where needed. Governors were encouraged to learn that the numbers of 'first preferences' for the September 2010 intake are 300 for only 243 places - the greatest number of preferences overall for any school in Eastbourne and East Sussex. Our staff, governors and pupils are to be congratulated on the work they have done to maintain Ratton School's popularity rating.

Mrs Wardle and Miss Rose Godfrey, Governor, took Governors through the School Improvement Plan which embodies our vision for all students to have high aspirations which encourage lifelong independent learning, fostering confident, creative and caring students.

Link Governors have been appointed to work with each Department and they submitted their reports to their fellow Governors. The aim is to develop a closer working relationship between Governors and Teachers and foster greater understanding and support.

The Governors wish all Staff, Pupils and their Families a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Successful New Year.

Michael Tunwell

DANCE NEWS

As ever we have a great deal going on in the Dance department;

Ratton dancers will perform at the Congress Theatre on Saturday 16 January in 'FIX' - Mrs Duncan and 7A/Da2 are choreographing a dance piece with male dancers from Kick-start (U of Brighton).

In February Ratton boy dancers will compete in the Truskool B-Boy heats - training has been going on this term and in the New Year we will choreograph our routine and practise individual battle strategies.

Professional contemporary dancer Cat Casbon performed her solo dance 'DIE' to students in the Dance studio recently - her choreography was based on a sculpture exhibited in the Towner gallery and was very interesting and thought provoking. She brought special lighting which was integral to the meaning of the dance and performed to specially composed music. Cat is a local dancer who trained at the conservatoire, Laban London. We hope to work with Cat again soon and hope she will work with our KS4 dancers.

GCSE Dance students had a special coaching session last month to help them refine and perfect their performance of the solo set study - Kat Dale from AQA came to school and inspired us with her interpretation of the study.

The first Song and Dance show was a great success and Mr Cane-Hardy and Mrs Duncan are already planning the next one which must include Miss Kirwan's Irish dancers.

The Royal Academy of Dance has used our Dance department as a PGCE training placement from the start of its prestigious course and this year we have been very pleased to welcome Miss Buck. Her teaching of KS3 and 4 classes, choreography for The Wiz and a particular highlight, her appearance at the Song and Dance evening dancing in a piece she choreographed specially for the show, have all been excellent. Sadly she leaves at the end of term and we wish her well for the rest of her training. We will miss her!

Dance at Ratton is fun and very popular - come along and join in!

Mrs A Duncan

WIN A Wii

Connexions 360, the new website for young people in East Sussex, is running a competition to win a Wii. To enter you need to be aged between 11 and 19, live in East Sussex and answer a simple question about contraception.

The deadline for the competition is 28th December 2009. For more details and to enter the competition, go to - connexions360.org.uk/winawii

What is the Connexions 360 Service?

Connexions 360 is the new name for the Connexions Service in East Sussex. The Service brings together all the information, advice, guidance and support young people aged 13-19 need through a network of Connexions Personal Advisers (PAs) and other practitioners.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 15th December

Neighbourhood Panel Meeting 4-5pm

Christmas Concert followed by refreshments 7pm

Thursday 17th December

Community Christmas Assemblies all day

Friday 18th December - 1.30 p.m.

End of Term 2

PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL BUS NOT RUNNING AT 1.30PM

Monday 4th January 2010

Back to school 8.40am

POETRY COMPETITION 2009/2010

To celebrate National Poetry Day ESCC are launching their sixth annual poetry competition for East Sussex residents. This year's theme is **Heroes and Heroines**.

There are three categories:

under 11 years

11 to 15 years

16 years and over.



Closing date and prizes

The closing date is 20 February 2010 at 12 noon.

Winners will be announced in March, with a prize-giving ceremony to follow. The best winning entries will be published on the ESCC website.

Prizes include books and book vouchers for all winners and runners up.

How to enter

Please type, or write your poem legibly on one side of a piece of paper. On the other side write the title of your poem, your name, your age (or you can write over 16), your address and your contact telephone number or email address.

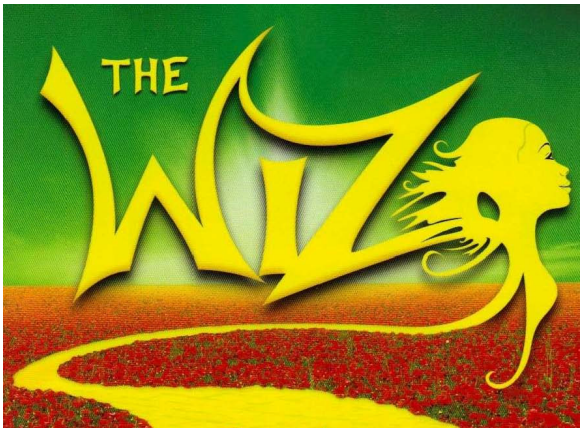
Send written poems with your details to:

Poetry competition
Web Content Editor
East Sussex County Council
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes, BN7 1SU

Or email webstaff@eastsussex.gov.uk with "Poetry Competition 2010" as the subject.

For more information about how to enter go to: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/poetry

A RATTON SCHOOL PRODUCTION



The Wiz, an African American Musical, is a re-imagining of The Wizard of Oz, set against an urban background.

"I went along to watch the first evening performance of 'The Wiz' and was absolutely thrilled by the breathtaking performances by all the members of the cast, the fabulous costumes, and the wonderful song and dance routines especially 'Ease on down the Road' as the characters danced along the yellow brick road - I'm still humming it now!

I know how many months hard work have gone into producing this stunning show and must congratulate all involved - the cast and dancers, the stagehands, the musicians, the directors, the production co-ordinators and their assistants, the choreographers and everybody else behind the scenes who contributed invaluable help in so many different ways.

I hope you get to enjoy this fantastic feel-good production - a real treat and a fabulous lead up to the Christmas celebrations - thank you!"

Mrs Barrow, Headteacher's PA



WE WISH ALL OUR STUDENTS, STAFF,
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY
AND PEACEFUL 2010