

13th November 2009

Issue 4/2009-10

CONFIDENT, CREATIVE AND CARING STUDENTS

It has been a busy start to Term 2 for both students and staff: Year 11 students are busy ensuring they meet the 1st December deadline for English coursework, as well as meeting coursework deadlines for other subjects. Many of our Year 9 students have attended a Diploma Roadshow at Sussex Downs as they start to consider their Pathways for years 10 and 11. Rehearsals for 'The Wiz' production are going well and we are looking forward to seeing this from 7th December. Last Friday's Song & Dance Evening was a huge success and all performers are to be congratulated for their outstanding contributions. Last Sunday the choir performed at the 'Tree of Light' celebration at the Congress and more musicians were performing on Tuesday evening at the Schools' Proms.

All this, as well as the sporting fixtures, Students-in-Residence workshops and lunchtime and after-school clubs make Ratton the vibrant community that it is as we work together to enable our students to become confident, creative and caring.

Mrs Fitzpatrick
Acting Deputy Headteacher

TRUST STATUS

RATTON is the first school in Eastbourne to be exploring the possibility of Trust status. Seven primary and secondary schools in Sussex, including Ratton, have been named in a list of 114 nationally considering the scheme.

Trust schools are maintained by the local authority but supported by a charitable foundation which appoints some of the governing body. The schools can also employ their own staff, set their own admission arrangements and manage their own land and buildings. Trust schools join with four to six external organisations to draw on their expertise to help raise standards, and this will enable schools to work with both large and small businesses.

Headteacher David Linsell says, 'The Governing Body at Ratton School has decided to investigate the possibility of Trust status and has secured funding to support the process. Becoming a Trust will enable Ratton to attract major partners who will make a long term commitment to the school. Those partners bring added leadership and creativity to the governing body, and they strengthen the capacity for exciting and new projects for our students. I must stress that this is at a very early stage. Full consultation will take place if, or when, the governing body votes to further pursue Trust status.'

The governing body has set up a working group to explore the various options.

Five schools in Hailsham are also looking into the possibility of becoming a Trust, but a shared one which is different.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED & MUFTI DAY

Just a reminder the BBC Children in Need Appeal, whose mission is to make a positive change to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, takes place next week. Their vision is a society where each and every child and young person is supported to realise their potential which is done in the form of grants to organisations working with children who may have experienced mental, physical or sensory disabilities; behavioural or psychological disorders; are living in poverty or situations of deprivation; or suffering through distress, abuse or neglect.

The size and scale of the BBC Children in Need Appeal means that they're able to give grants to hundreds of different organisations, some of which are very small and don't have the resources to fundraise for themselves

We will be having a MUFTI day on Thursday 19th November and suggested donations will be **£1 per student** with monies being collected by their tutor during the week.

We are very grateful for your support.

GOVERNOR MATTERS

Governors' Monitoring Committee - Performing Arts, SEN Dept and Science - 3rd November

The Monitoring Committee of the governing body met to discuss four areas and presentations were made by teaching staff as shown -

- Science (Mr Welsh)
- Performing Arts (Mr Adams)
- Special Educational Needs Department (Mr Brown)
- Community Cohesion (Mrs Pittman)

Peter Lindsey

Governors' Monitoring Committee - Focus on Students - 10th November

Felix Smith and Jamilla Hekmoun (Head Boy and Girl) and Harvey Padget (Chair of Student Council) attended last Tuesday's meeting and contributed to discussions about a whole-school survey on uniform which governors agreed would be a good idea, as well as discussions about introducing a stop-smoking service within school and considering ways in which Ratton could support Fairtrade.

Governors reviewed and approved the Holiday in Term Time policy, which parents/carers can access on the website at www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/about_our_school/policies/ and governors also received details regarding the proposed closure of Eastbourne Technology College to make way for an Academy (see back page for further information)

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Auditions Today

As you may know Ratton School has been approached by a writer and film maker, Corin Campbell Hill, who wishes to cast a role in her new film. Corin is an ex-BBC film maker who is now a freelance film artist and is self-financing this new project. The short film, which is a story about overcoming trauma, will be entered into a number of film festivals next year. Corrin is auditioning a large number of students today for the best friend to the lead role. Good luck girls!!

Dance your body better!

Local contemporary dancer, Cat Casbon, is offering some free yoga/dance fit sessions during her residency at Ratton School. Open to all ages and abilities the sessions will include stretch and limber, toning, and low impact dance/yoga to music and take place at 4.30-5.30pm on 17th, 20th and 24th November - just turn up or contact Miz Wells, Arts Development Officer, on 01323 514322/07718 996853 for more info. Cat also runs a body dance class at Cavendish School from 6 - 7pm on Mondays, £6 per session - phone Cat on 07896 878210 for more info.

Students in Residence

This week a number of Ratton students assisted and led printing workshops at Tollgate Junior School as part of our Students in Residence programme. They worked with groups of 4-7 Year 4 students running four afternoons of collage, digital art, and painting which will lead to an exhibition of the students' work on Thursday 19th November and Friday 20th November at 3.30-4pm so please do come along and see the excellent work that's been produced. All the students involved have thoroughly enjoyed the project and staff at both schools are full of glowing praise for all the work and effort they each contributed.

Many thanks to: Ellie Carter, Veronika Gibbins, Emily Larkin, Ben Hall, Nina Liebenburg, Yasmin Goodwin, Jessica Windham, Heledd Evans, Rosie Hide, Keziah Bussell, Kamil Ondrej, Michaela Message, Charlotte Henderson, Eric Barell and Megan Dennis.

Circus Monkeys!

Our Circus Skills drop-ins run every Wednesday with two sessions; 5.30-7.30pm for ground based skills such as poi & diablo or 6.30-8.30pm for globe, unicycling, acrobatics and tumbling. The group 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 8's must be accompanied by an adult). The session fee is only £2. So, come along and learn juggling, poi, devil sticks, diablo, 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 small gym. See you there...

WE ARE ABOUT TO DONATE THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS TO LAST YEAR'S (08/09) COMMUNITY CHARITIES (MONEY RAISED BY XMAS FAYRE, ODD SOX DAY, CAKE SALES, SPONSORED SANTA DRESS & RATTON'S GOT TALENT)

ADELPHI	£400.00	HELP THE HEROES
LYCEUM	£474.00	NSPCC
LYRIC	£400.00	CANCER RESEARCH
APOLLO	£404.00	THE TUESDAY O'HARA FUND
GLOBE	£400.00	CHILDLINE

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED - WHAT FABULOUS RESULTS!

YOUTH WEBSITE LAUNCHED

An exciting new website for young people, Connexions 360, is now up and running. The website for 11-19 year-olds across East Sussex was launched on 28th October and contains everything from tips on travel to advice about school and education, as well as information on health, money and careers.

It is packed with real life stories from young people as well as a 'What's on your doorstep' search, where they can find out what's going on locally, plus quizzes, polls and lots more.

To celebrate the launch of Connexions 360, young people have the chance to win a Wii or an iPod, as well as submit their own real life stories, comments and suggestions.

The Connexions 360 website should prove to be a valuable tool for young people, helping them access to information they need, in a way which works for them.

To take a look at Connexions 360 visit
www.connexions360.org.uk

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 23rd October

Ross Myers, Avalon Howard, Bruce Partridge, Gemma Courtney Davies, Demi-Jade Goodison, Honor Roberts, Rebecca Greene, Jordan Curling, Jasmina Rennie, Lydia Bennett-Li, Haris Duratovic, Hannah King, Owen Davies and Molly Brabner

Week ended 5th November

Owen Davies, Anastasia Groom, Isabella Barreto De Santana, Marina Sampaio Dos Santos, Avalon Howard, Demi Erlam, Ellie Carter, Joanne Ottley, St John Hancock and Adam Preston

Since start of term

Georgina Cruttenden, Anastasia Groom, Veronika Gibbins, Owen Davies, Mia Longman, Isabella Simpson, Amelia Inman, Megan Dennis, Hannah King, Alex Reed, Brendan Pittman and Molly Brabner

OOPS!

There was an error made in the last Gold Friday where students with most rewards to Friday 9th October were listed incorrectly.

Our apologies - and huge congratulations - go to Chloe Blake, Owen Davies, Amelia Inman, Blessing Osadolor, Amy Durbidge, Shayan Yaghoobi, Megan David and Rachel Ledner



FUND RAISING FOR UGANDA

Thirteen students gave up their Saturday morning to fund raise for Uganda. They spent four hours packing customers' bags at Hampden Park Sainsbury's. Lots of members of the public stopped to chat about the project and several commented on how lovely our pupils are! An amazing £426 was collected. Well done and thanks to: Sarah Paine, Rachel Ledner, Laela Hekmoun, Sarah Ginn, Harvey Padget, Aidan Pittman, Will Chaplin, Ben Whiteside, Alex Reed, Jordan Sheldon, Brendan Pittman, Sinead Bacon and Amy Bardon

Mrs J Pittman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 17th November

Governors' Meeting
(Budget Committee) 5-5.30pm
(Staffing Committee) 5.30-6.30

Thursday 19th November

MUFTI Day ALL DAY
Year 11 Certificate Evening 7pm

Friday 20th November

Consultation Day ALL DAY

Monday 23rd November

INSET DAY NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF EASTBOURNE TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

You may be aware that Sussex Downs College and East Sussex County Council are proposing to establish an Academy in September 2010 to replace Eastbourne Technology College (ETC).

As the Local Children's Services Authority, ESCC are required to consult on the closure of ETC to make way for the Academy, and we would like to draw your attention to the proposal and consultation process details which are available at -

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/schoolchanges

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Refresh Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 10th December and will cost £2.00 each. There will be two sittings at 1pm and 1.40pm with students that have free school meals being issued with a ticket automatically.

Tickets available from Finance Office or Refresh from Monday 16th November



Refresh - Birthday Parties at lunchtime.

Let your child celebrate their birthday in Refresh with a group of friends. The table is specially laid up, with balloons, banners and tablecloths. The birthday child receives a free lunch and Refresh staff will make a lovely birthday cake for the group. The cost is based on group sizes - £7.50 for up to 5, £10.00 for between 6-12, £12.50 for groups of 12 and more.

Please contact Mrs Comfort on 514310 if you would like to book a party



TURNAROUND CENTRE NEWS

The Turnaround Centre at Ratton School will be changing its operating hours from 12.30-5pm to 9.45-2.45pm for onsite excluded students. The change of hours is part of an exciting continued commitment towards the development of proactive work to support students. All parents of onsite excluded students will receive a booklet explaining the work being done in Turnaround. This change is more in line with the academic school day, although students will continue to be separate from their peers, and will arrive and leave at different times. Additionally, we operate the 'Making Good Progress' initiative in the Turnaround Centre, which has progressed from a DCSF pilot project to a school initiative. Due to the major academic gain this one-to-one project offers, this now involves more students than were involved before. In future months we will be developing our Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) resources and working positively with identified students to support their learning.

David Brown
Assistant Headteacher
Induction, Inclusion and Intervention