



21st January 2011

Issue 8 2010-11

RATTON TRUST

After eighteen months work and a lengthy consultation process, on the 18th January Governors voted unanimously for Ratton to become a Trust School. Governors are convinced that our partners will help make Ratton an even better school.

Drusilla's, Southern Water, Epic, MacConvilles, St Bede's, and Albion in the Community are all committed to supporting the school. Already Laurence Smith from Drusilla's has talked to Year 11 students about jobs and the opportunities open to them, as well as useful hints for applying for jobs generally and interview techniques; Epic has provided access to Maths revision software; St Bede's has been involved in joint staff training; and MacConvilles has been working closely with our Site Team. This is just the start of a long-term fruitful partnership.

It is our intention that the Trust will become operational in April. The next stage is the legal part of the process; arranging for the transfer of the ownership of the school from the Local Authority to the Trust, and the employment of staff from the Local Authority to the Governors.

*Mr D Linsell
Headteacher*

STOMP - Sweeping The Nation

This Sunday our top Stompers are off to Romford to spend a couple of days at a primary school in a very underprivileged area of Essex. They will be running workshops for the whole school and then working with a smaller group to enable them to build a performance. Good Luck Stompers - we look forward to hearing how you got on when you return.

Calling All Cadets

Are you a member of one of the local military Cadet Associations? Would you be interested in taking part in a project in partnership with the Redoubt Fortress Military Museum? We need a few Cadets to come along to play board games and share stories about how we play/spend our free time with a group of war veterans. The project will culminate in a photographic/film exhibition at the Fortress as part of our annual Play Day in May. If you are interested please contact Miz Wells, Arts Development Officer on m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk or pop along and see her in the Drama Office.

Siblings with Additional Needs?

The Jumble Theatre Company are launching musical theatre classes for 5-10 year olds with physical or sensory impairments and learning difficulties on Thursdays at 5-5.45pm. £4 per session. For more information please contact Natalie - 07796 268373 or Helen 07766 721417.

DANCE TRIP TO RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY **THURSDAY 24TH MARCH**

The Dance trip to see the Rambert Dance Company in Brighton will be on Thursday 24th March leaving school at 12.35pm and returning at approximately 5.30pm. Letters are available from Mrs Duncan in school.

Please note that some letters have already been distributed which contain the incorrect date, so please check the details - many apologies

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 14th January 2011

Sarah Holden, Daisy Westwood, Steve Rainsley, Sophie Sands, Imogen Orr, Ryan Gregory, Elena Clayton-Harding, Isaac Goff and Charlie Lloyd-Buckingham

10 weeks to 14th January 2011

Susannah Hearn, Jamie Taylor, Sarah Holden, Samantha Read-Riseley, James Powell-Cullingford, Jessica Davis, Sophie Sands, Danielle Hearn, Amy Barden and Christie Groom

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 26th January

Year 11 Reports Home

Tuesday 1st February

'Poetry Live' trip to Brighton - Year 11

Thursday 3rd February

Year 11 Subject Evening

Friday 4th February

Year 11 Art Trip

SAFE DRIVE STAY ALIVE

On Monday 10th January our year 11 students were shown a powerful presentation on the very real dangers of getting into cars with young and inexperienced drivers. The presentation involved Police, the Fire Service, and NHS staff along with a lady whose brother died in a car crash at a young age.

We hope that although the presentation was hard hitting they found it useful and we hope to hold a follow-up event in the near future.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS AT DRUSILLA'S



Every year Drusilla's Park and Zoo hold a recruitment process to invite young people to work in a variety of areas of the park and zoo on a part-time basis, weekends, and holidays.

Last week Laurence Smith, owner of Drusilla's, and key members of staff came into year 11 assemblies to give them some ideas of the opportunities open to them, as well as useful hints for applying for jobs generally and interview techniques. Many of our students took the flyer offered to them and we would like to take this opportunity to wish them luck in their applications.

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (VLE)

Our Virtual Learning Environment (or VLE) has recently been rebuilt from scratch. It uses a system called "Moodle" and lives on one of our virtual servers.

It's a very simple system that provides educational resources to students via the internet. It is envisaged that our VLE will grow to bolster anytime-anywhere learning by students.

In order to gain access to the VLE, students should follow these steps:

- 1) Go to the Ratton school website (www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk) and click on the VLE link in the top right corner, or go to vle.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk
- 2) Students should enter their VLE username and password in the boxes provided
- 3) The main course area for students is "Students" - where students will find educational resources posted by staff
- 4) Click the course area, and then follow the links to the information required

If students have trouble using the VLE, they are welcome to contact ICT support.

LOST PROPERTY

Please can you remind students to name their belongings - we have a lot of parents coming in and phoning about lost property but if something is named then we do get it back to the owner.

We have just cleared out the lost property box (again!) and there is a lot of clothing (uniform and PE) which is completely un-named.

Thank you for your help.

SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERING VIA THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Parents and carers may be happy to learn that you may now order school uniform using the school website - please visit

http://www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/files/documents/Uniform_Order_Form.pdf

You can complete an order form and return to Reception (with full payment) to collect the item/s the following school day (subject to stock).

GoGetInfo

After two years of research and development ESCC are delighted to announce that **GoGetInfo**, the new mobile information service for teenagers is now "live".

To visit their website, please see www.gogetinfo.com Alternatively, if you would like to skip that part and just get on with seeing what all the fuss is about, text any of the following and you will access information and advice on the topic you have chosen. This is not a text service; it is way, way more. Along with all the general advice and information, you can watch videos, check out frequently asked questions and even apply for a freebie or two!

For Abuse, text **abuse** to **60110**

For Am I normal? Text **normal** to **60110**

For Bullying text **bully** to **60110**

For Condom use text **condom** to **60110**

For Contraception text **contraception** to **60110**

For Emergency Contraception text **EC** to **60110**

For I think I'm pregnant text **Pregnant** to **60110**

For Pressure to have sex text **Pressure** to **60110**

For Self-harm text **self harm** to **60110**

For STIs text **STI** to **60110**

Texts will cost 50p unless you are on O2 in which case, in partnership with O2, they're offering the first 1,000 O2 customers free access to the GoGetInfo mobile information service (100 freebies per topic).

They've got a Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/GoGetInfo/165181880171576> (or you can search for GetGetInfo in the Facebook search box) so if you like what you see, it would be great if you could 'like' them, or feel free to post lovely things on their wall as this will really help raise awareness. Also if you're on Twitter, they would really appreciate if you could follow them - twitter.com/GoGetInfoUK - or, better still, follow them and tweet about them or retweet any of their tweets!

A 'N-ICE' TRIP TO GUIDFORD

On Saturday 15th January a coach-load of students from Years 7 to 11, along with some very keen staff, went on the first ice hockey trip of 2011. A great time was had by all at the brilliant Guildford Spectrum Leisure Centre in Surrey, where we skated (when I say we, I mean NOT me!) and watched a fast-paced ice hockey match. We were fortunate that the game went into extra time after a draw situation arose. This led to a 2-1 win by our team, the Guildford Flames, against Manchester Phoenix - the top team in the league. What a result!

The Year 11 students were an asset to me and to Ratton on the trip, and were responsible and helpful throughout the day. Extra thanks to **Ashley Mignot** in 11TDr who, being an ice hockey trip veteran, guided the students and staff to the ice rink whilst I bought the tickets. Everyone's behaviour was exemplary and we had a happy and relaxing day.

The next trip is on Sunday 20th March.

Mr Reene

Year 11 Geography trip to the Olympics Stadium and London Docklands

Back in November, Ms Bax and Mr Jones took the Year 11 Geography students on a field trip to see the site of the Olympic Stadium and London Docklands. As part of the new Geography GCSE specification, students study changing urban environments and this includes examining some of the problems of inner-cities, as well as strategies to regenerate and improve cities such as London.

On the trip, we saw the 2012 sporting venues as they look now and considered how the area might change over the next decade. From there, we took the Docklands Light Railway to Canary Wharf - an area which was regenerated in the 1980's-1990's - and then on to Canning Town - an area still waiting to be regenerated.



It was interesting to compare the different environments that we saw that day - we took lots of photos and some students even made a video documentary of the trip which we can use back in the classroom.

Creative Partnerships

Thanks to the support of Creative Manor Limited our budding designer's and innovators of tomorrow worked on a real live project before Christmas designing and producing a prototype Christmas book catalogue and display stands that could be used by independent book stores. At the start of the project all 15 students visited Creative Manor Limited in Eastbourne to see how the company produces high quality print work using the latest printing and information technology techniques. Whilst at the company site Ian Shearer, Marketing Director, set the students the brief that they had to work to at the same time as the company was developing their own ideas. At the end of the project Ian and Ryan Gearing, also from marketing and design, were given a presentation by Ratton students on their approaches to the project. Ian and Ryan judged the students work as being of a high quality and stated that they were very impressed by the outcomes and ideas presented. This is the first of many planned partnerships between Ratton students studying Design & Innovation and local companies and organisations. Students are now embarked on a project with the Spitfire Architectural practice based in Commercial Road, Eastbourne, considering how the town centre precinct and public areas could be improved. More news on this as the project progresses...



Jalal Ahmadzai, Imogen Cullen, Rebecca Smith and Grace Harley in Year 10

Mr Fenwick / Mr Bristow

MOIRA HOUSE - OPEN MORNING

Any students considering their Sixth Form and A level options may be interested to know that Moira House Girls School are having an Open Morning on **Saturday 29th January from 10am-12.30pm.**

There will be opportunities to tour the school and to meet current Moira House staff and pupils. If you are interested in attending please contact the school on 01323 644144 or visit www.moirahouse.co.uk for further details.