

MR MICHAEL TUNWELL

It is with the greatest sadness that I pass on the news that Mr Michael Tunwell, ex-Councillor and valued member of our school governing body, died suddenly on Wednesday morning. Michael had been a governor for the past 24 years and always worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for our students as well as being a constant support and adviser for his fellow governors and staff generally. His death is a great loss to Ratton School and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

ICELANDIC VOLCANO CRISIS

I am sure that we are all very grateful for the latest news that UK flights have now resumed following the chaos caused by the volcanic ash cloud and will be returning to their normal schedules as soon as possible. We have had members of our teaching staff stranded in countries ranging from Mexico to Thailand to Spain but they are now arriving back or will be shortly and we hope to return to our full teaching complement very soon. My thanks must go to the staff who have helped to ensure the smooth running of lessons in the absence of their colleagues.

We hope that all students and their families who have also been affected by this crisis will shortly be arriving home safe and sound and look forward to welcoming them back to Ratton.

Anne Wardle, Acting Headteacher

eastbourne **SHOUT!**

Tonight's the night! If you haven't had a chance to learn the songs in advance don't worry as song sheets will be available and our lovely Shout Leaders will be there to help you out. **Just come along and sing along at our mass sing along.**

Friday 23rd April, Western Lawns (opposite Grand Hotel)
6.15pm for a 6.30pm sing!

Be Part of Something Big!

ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/performing_arts/community_arts/eastbourne_shout/

THIS SATURDAY - PLAY DAY AT THE REDOUBT FORTRESS - PART OF THE 'MY PLAYGROUND PROJECT' BY RATTON AND CAVENDISH COMMUNITY ARTS

Bring along a picnic to the Redoubt Fortress this Saturday and join our day to celebrate the art of play: - Hide in your den, make a kite, challenge your family to a game of Giant Jenga or Giant Dominoes, join in a Wii Tournament, or just enter the hide-and-seek Lego Man trail!

There are performances and have-a-go sessions from our Irish Dancers, Ratton Stomp, Circus Monkeys and Compass Community Arts Play-a-Days.

Entry to the parade ground is free, and the museum will be ½ price for this fun event. Activities are both inside and out!

DEBATING CLUB

Mrs Stoyanova and Mr Halder are running a **new debating club** (for students in yrs 7-9) every Gold Tuesday lunchtime, in room 209.

It is being led by Rebecca Penfold (yr 8 student), so please come along and support her...

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 26th March

Sophie Francis, Misha Archer, Michael Shefford, Sophie Sands, Lucy Wood, Megan Dennis, Samuel Hackney-Ring, Daisy Westwood and Paige Jordan-Evans

10-week period ended 26th March

Amelia Inman, Chelsea Willgrass, Tom Cassidy, Sophie Sands, Garratt Weblin, Patrick Gates, Megan Dennis, Anastasia Groom, Yuandi Wei and Brendan Pittman

SPRING DANCE AND RATTON

GCSE dancers are now preparing to present their dances and written analyses to the Moderator from AQA on 11 May and we wish them all the best.

Parents of our Year 10 dancers are invited to our first Lecture demonstration where they will see a typical practical dance lesson in action, culminating in the performance of a dance inspired by Shobana Jeyasingh's 'Faultline'. There will also be the opportunity to see some 2010 GCSE exam pieces. Invitations to parents and Governors will be sent shortly.

Sadlers Wells, the home of Contemporary dance will be visited by KS4 dancers and accompanied by our Dance teachers Mrs Duncan, Miss Papagna and Miss Perry on 26 May when Rambert Dance Company perform a triple bill.

Ratton's first opera gives us a great opportunity to study the beautiful flowing steps and patterns of Baroque Dance technique with rehearsals starting this week. Come to see 'Dido and Aeneas' at school on 6 July - more information soon.

Good luck to the dancers who will compete in Ratton's got Talent - they represent just some of the wide diversity of Dance talent at Ratton and will definitely inspire and delight the audience!

Mrs Duncan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 27th April

Governors Meeting
Budget Committee 5pm

Thursday 29th April

Year 7 Subject Evening 4.15 - 7.45pm

Friday 30th April

Year 10 Enterprise Day

Monday 3rd May

BANK HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 7th May

Year 10 field trip to Cuckmere

ADVANCE NOTICE OF EARLY CLOSURE

PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT 1.20PM ON WEDNESDAY 19TH MAY FOR ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 7,8,9, AND 10 IN ORDER TO ALLOW YEAR 11 STUDENTS TO ATTEND THEIR GRADUATION CEREMONY. THERE WILL BE A FULL MEALS SERVICE AT BREAKTIME.

SKI TRIP DIARY

Please see the school website at www.rattonschool.co.uk for a full report and pictures of the recent, hugely successful, ski trip.

Highlights of the trip included the magnificent scenery, wonderful weather and visits to the village swimming complex at Axams, the metropolitan Gothic town of Innsbruck, the 'Hollywood Bowl' ten-pin bowling complex, and the local village as well as, of course, some marvellous ski-ing opportunities. Evening entertainment ranged from quizzes, team song contests, Jeux Sans Frontieres (including 'Balloon Popping' and 'Ice Cold Silver Spoon Up Yer Trousers') and poetry events.

Students claimed they had '*the best (time) of their lives so far*' so a huge thank you to everybody involved in organising and helping with the trip, and also to the students who ensured a fabulous time was enjoyed by all by their fun-loving but sensible behaviour.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We have received a letter from the Head of Fundraising at Book Aid International thanking us for our recent donation and enclosing an email from one of their partners in Zimbabwe summing up what a huge impact a book can have on a child's life:

"This donation has made an incredible difference to our organisations and the children in the communities in which we work... Every time we arrive with the books, the children run to meet us and greet us with hugs. Thank you very much for enabling us to bring such joy to children whose needs are neglected and who are also often despised by society."

This is just one story about how Book Aid International are changing lives. Thank you for helping to make this possible.