

26th March 2010

Issue 12/2009-10

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we near the end of term 4 I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my huge thanks to all parents and carers for the support given to Ratton School, and to me this year. It has certainly been a time of many changes and unexpected occurrences, particularly the terrible disruption of the school closures due to the snowy weather!

Our students, and especially year 11 students, are now under great pressures as the GCSE exam period looms ever closer and so your continued supportive efforts are more crucial than ever.

Next week sees staff and students leaving for the ski trip, a dance exam, language oral exams, and the PFA Easter Egg raffle so we're definitely finishing in a flurry of activities.

Next Wednesday is the last day of term but, please note, that there will not be an early finish on the day.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again refreshed and revived on 19th April.

Mrs A Wardle, Acting Headteacher

GERMAN EXCHANGE

On Sunday 14th March sixteen pupils from Cavendish and Ratton Schools left England to go on a German exchange trip, accompanied by teaching and support staff from both schools. On arrival in Germany they travelled to Elmshorn (the town they were staying in) with their host families, and spent a very exciting and interesting week including visiting their German exchange students' school, as well as visits to Berlin and Hamburg.

The trip was a huge success greatly enjoyed by all - please see Connections next week for a full student report by Peter Brabner (year 9 student) and photos...

Invitation to view INTERNET SAFETY TRAINING EVENT FOR PARENTS

i-PAT (Internet Parental Awareness Training) invite you to join them on Monday 29th March 2010 at 9:15 am at Grays School, Western Road, Newhaven, East Sussex, BN9 9ED.

i-PAT provides internet safety training on cyber bullying, viewing of inappropriate images, grooming and identity theft. They not only teach parents about the dangers, but also provide them with the solutions to keep their children safe.

I am sure you will agree that given the events of this week, it is essential parents, carers, teachers and children work together as a team to ensure the children's safety and the training i-Pat give enables everyone to form their part of the triangle. Keeping children safe on the internet is essential, unfortunately, as identified by Dr. Tanya Byron in the Byron Review, many parents do not have the necessary skills, or understanding of the issue.

The event for Parents will run from 9:15 to 11:15 am and hopefully i-Pat will have the opportunity to answer any of your questions at the end. You are welcome to attend for part or all of the training, so you can see the session they deliver.

Please feel free to visit our web site www.i-pat.org.uk which holds further information and/or to book places.

WORLD BOOK DAY

The magnificent sum of £150 was raised at the **Cake and Book** sale held in the Learning Resources Centre to celebrate World Book Day. The money will go to the charity Book Aid who helps provide books for underfunded schools in Kenya and other African countries.

Many thanks to all who contributed by either 'bringing' or 'buying'!

Mrs S Beck
Learning Resources Manager

FIGHT CLUB...

Can you handle yourself in a stage fight?

A professional standard Stage Combat Workshop is taking place in school over the holidays and Ratton students will be offered priority places. The workshop cost is £30 and takes place on Sunday 11th April, from 10am-5pm in the hall (packed lunch and plenty of water/drink advised!). Please see Mr Bird in the Drama office for more information or to book. Places are limited to 20 so it is a first-come first-served basis.

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 12th March

Amelia Inman, Yuandi Wei, Chelsea Willgrass, Emily Nash, Adelle Hutchison, Jessica Davis and Rachael Berrisford

Week ended 19th March

Sophie Sands, Jack Buggins, Jacob Perrin, Jamilla Hekmoun, Orion Roszak, Patrick Gates, Samantha Joubert, Zacari Edwards, Stephanie Dale, Emily Brooks and Grace Harley

10-week period ended 19th March

Chelsea Willgrass, Tom Cassidy, Amelia Inman, Garratt Weblin, Anastasia Groom, Patrick Gates, Barnaby Nash, Yuandi wei, Sophie Sands, Brendan Pittman, Maddy Bell and Niloufar Safari

GOVERNORS' NEWS

The Governors wish to congratulate the students who performed at the Ratton Gala Concert for a most entertaining evening of the highest quality. Thanks also go to our Performing Arts Department for their expert coaching and production skills, and to all those involved in backstage and supporting roles.

Another display at school on St. Patrick's Day, when Alison Duncan presented her GCSE dance examination performances to a packed house, gave students the chance to demonstrate their artistic skills. Parents and friends attending, including a visiting delegation from Kuwait, showed their appreciation with enthusiastic applause.

The governors' Staffing Committee met on Tuesday 16th March and received a report from the Acting Headteacher on staffing changes - making sure that vacancies caused by those leaving or away on maternity leave or sickness are suitably filled to ensure the continuous delivery of the curriculum.

At a meeting of the full governing body last night (Tuesday 23rd March), it was agreed to go to formal consultation regarding Trust status, starting on Monday 7th June, the start of term 6, and lasting for around six weeks.

This will involve meetings with staff, open meetings for parents, consulting our MP and local councillors, and talking to various stakeholders. It will be an extensive consultation period. At the end of that period, the full governing body will meet again and, based on the comments received, will vote whether or not to enter into the compulsory second consultation period. At the end of that second period, governors would then make a final decision on whether to become a Trust.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 29th March

Drop-in and practice singing for Eastbourne Shout 3.30-4pm

Wednesday 31st March

PFA Easter Egg Raffle break time

LAST DAY OF TERM

NORMAL FINISHING TIME

EASTER BREAK 1ST - 16TH APRIL

Monday 19th April

First day of term 5 8.40am

Tuesday 20th April

Neighbourhood Panel Meeting 4pm

Friday 23rd April

'Ratton's Got Talent' 6.30pm

SILENCE IS GOLDEN....

Archery Youth Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne will be holding a Silent Disco 8-10.30pm on Friday 9th April to help celebrate Eastbourne Festival 2010 and will take place in The Archery's Youth Art 'Get a Head' Open House Exhibition!

1. Each party-goer (Aged 13-17yrs) receives a special pair of wireless headphones.
2. A DJ plays offering completely different soundtracks to broadcast.
3. Party-goers can flip between the soundtracks.
4. Attendees can either throw on a headset and get dancing or stand back and watch at a load of people dancing and singing along to a DJ that only they can hear!

A non-alcoholic cocktail bar will be running throughout the evening alongside interactive stalls run by Youth Workers and a Primary Care Trust health promotion team.

For more Info call Debbie or Sam on 01323 646591

PHILLIP REEVES BOOK TALK

On the 12th March nine schools, including Ratton, went to the underground theatre in the Eastbourne Library where they met author Phillip Reeves. Firstly, we did a quiz which went smoothly - with laughter from our team after all our answers - though sadly we did not win. We then went on to talk with the author and he answered questions. He was asked "What tips do you have for new or young authors"? He simply replied that you should read and keep writing. The book talk was then followed by a book signing. Ratton got one of their posters signed which is in the library for all to see. All in all this was a great day which we would all like to do again another time.

Lewis Cole, Charlotte Edwards, Emily Clifford, Rebecca Penfold, Amy Barden and Amy Durbidge

'GET SMART' WEEK **WISE UP TO ATTENDANCE**

ADVANCE NOTICE

Ratton School will be undertaking a planned week of 'ATTENDANCE' activities for pupils with support from the Education Welfare Service commencing on **Monday 10th May 2010**. The aim is for all pupils to achieve 100% attendance during the week.

Supporting your child's education at Ratton School is always valued. The 'GET SMART' week will provide an opportunity for all pupils to understand the importance that regular and punctual attendance has for their future.

A REFLECTION ON FAIRTRADE **FORTNIGHT**

Helping others less fortunate than us is important to Ratton students and teachers. That's why Fairtrade Fortnight (22nd February to 7th March) was a big event at Ratton. Students started their day with a taste of Fairtrade (quite literally for some) when Miss Penna and her Fairtrade Student Leader group led assemblies on the benefits of switching to ethical products with a focus on how Fairtrade has benefited Ghanaian farmers.

The theme of the fortnight was swapping - changing normal products for Fairtrade ones to see how easily they could be used in everyday life. Practically everything can be swapped; jam, shower gel, jewellery - Miss Penna seemed particularly proud of her Fairtrade socks. Ratton did their share swapping coffee and snacks and promoted students to do the same. Fairtrade met their aim of over 1,000,001 registered swaps which was a staggering success.

Fairtrade cake sale for Book Aid.

A chance for students to start swapping was the Fairtrade cake sale on World Book Day when delicious Fairtrade cakes were sold in aid of books for Africa. The cakes were a huge success raising over £100 for Book Aid. Students and staff were also able to purchase second hand books which raised another £25.

Ratton is now one step closer to becoming a Fairtrade school.

Thank you for all your support.
Lucy Cheetham (Year 11)

PS Miss Penna will be announcing the winners of the year 7 Coffee Quiz soon

DANCE NEWS

GCSE Dancers Perform With Style!

Well done to our GCSE Dancers! They gave a wonderful performance last Wednesday and impressed the audience with their inventive and dramatic choreography. There were also some great performances by GCSE dancers of the future from Years 8 and 9 - Mrs Duncan and Miss Perry were proud of all who took part. Special thanks to Ellen Couch-Smith and Robyn Nash of Year 11 who organised sound and light for the show.

Year 10 Dancers and Classical Indian dance

Bharatanatyam and Kathak, as related to Shobana Jeyasingh's work 'FAULTLINE' are being studied at the moment by our Year 10 dancers who will perform their work for their parents on 19 May in the Dance studio. The following week they are going to London to see Rambert Dance Company perform at Sadler's Wells theatre. More information after Easter from Mrs Duncan.

Ratton's first Opera 'Dido and Aeneas' by Henry Purcell

Mrs Wood will train singers for the main parts and chorus in our first opera and Mrs Duncan will soon start work with dancers keen to learn the intricacies of Baroque technique. More information soon.

EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL

It's festival time again!

3rd - 25th April - three weeks of Art and Culture including music, visual arts, comedy, theatre, dance, talks workshops. There are artists' open houses, youth events and many free events and activities. Pick up a brochure in reception or visit the official website for full details.

Here are the highlights:

- Sat 3rd April - Redesign Eastbourne in the Arndale Centre! Compass Community Arts invites you to redesign the town using a magnetic map designed by local artist Stuart Wickison
- Sat 3rd April 7.30 - 9pm, Lifeboat station - Bandstand, marshmallow night art trail
- Thurs 8th April, 2 - 5pm - Free Children's Printing Workshop at Community Wise with Compass Community Arts and Catalyst Arts 419666 / 504210 to book
- Tues 13th April, 2 - 5pm free 3d art for performing arts workshop for young people at St Elizabeth's Church, 419666 / 504210 to book.
- 23rd April - 6.30pm Western lawns Eastbourne Shout - come along and sing along at our sing along - see Ratton School website > Quick links > Eastbourne Shout for more events led by our wonderful Yr 7 Shout Leaders!
- 24th April - 'A Day to Celebrate Play' at the Redoubt Fortress, bring along a picnic and your favourite plaything for a range of activities and performances, including hide and seek lego people!! Event organised by Ratton Community Arts, Cavendish Community Arts, and Compass Community Arts.
- 16, 23 April 4.30 - 6.30pm, Urban Art Workshops and Demos with experienced aerosol artists, for ages 11 - 17 at the Archery Youth Centre. Phone 646491 for more!

HED:STRONG

Following a period of 'time-out' during 2008-09, East Sussex Youth Dance Company are reforming and have an exciting opportunity for gifted and talented young dancers, aged 13 - 20. Working within a professional environment with choreographers Jess Lloyd and Cat Casbon, Hed:Strong will develop contemporary dance techniques and work towards a performance at a youth dance platform in Kent on 30th May. To Join Hed:Strong you must be available to attend rehearsals at Ratton School on -

Sunday 28 th March:	10am - 12 noon
Thursday 15 th April:	10am - 2pm
Sunday 25 th April:	10am - 12noon
Sunday 9 th May:	10am - 12noon
Sunday 23 rd May:	10am - 12noon
Saturday 29 th May:	10am - 1pm
Sunday 30 th May:	PERFORMANCE (time tbc)

If you are interested in joining HED:Strong please contact Jess Lloyd on 07968295862 or at jess_may4@hotmail.com.

eastbourne SHOUT!

Western Lawns

(opposite The Grand Hotel)

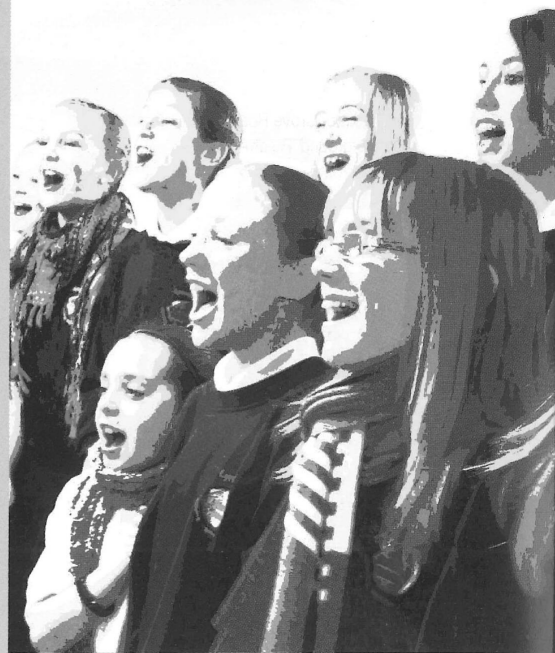
Friday 23rd April 6.15pm for 6.30pm

**Come to Eastbournes biggest sing along!
Three songs, in the shower style, and
everyone is invited!**

To get in on the Act click Eastbourne Shout
in the quick links section at -
www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk

phone Miz Wells / Claire Walker 514322 / 746514 or search "Eastbourne Shout" on youtube.

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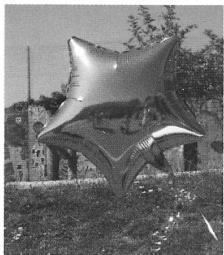


Be Part of Something Big!

A day to celebrate the Art of Play...

**Saturday 24 April 11am - 3pm at
the Redoubt Fortress & Military Museum**

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My Playground

Grab a cushion, a picnic and umbrella to join us as we launch a new community project entitled 'My Playground'.

Hide in your den, make a windmill, challenge your family to a game of giant Jenga, get all muddled up playing twister and discover the hidden lego!

Between 12 - 1pm there will be a variety of fun performances including "Circus Monkeys", "Ratton Stomps!", Irish Dancers and "Play-a-days" who will all be on hand afterwards to teach you a new game.

Entry to the parade ground is free, museum entry is HALF price for this special event (£1 child / £2 adult). In the case of extreme weather, a range of play activities will be available in the museum.

No need to book, just turn up to play and have fun!



My Playground is a partnership project between
Cavendish & Ratton Schools funded by the Big Lottery.