

CONSULTING ON CONSULTATION

Thank you to the 167 parents who responded to the recent consultation on the Consultation Day. 88% of parents described the meeting as either useful or very useful. Attendance on the day was above 80% which reinforces just how committed and supportive the parents of Ratton students are. 84% felt that the timing in the year was right, some felt it was too early, but the problem with holding it later is that it will merge with subject evenings. I am pleased that 94% of parents were able to get a reasonable appointment time; we do recognise there can be a problem when you have more than one child at Ratton. 83% of parents felt that the Tutor was able to answer all questions; clearly we have a responsibility to follow up where this was not possible. There were some really helpful comments about what follow up parents wanted, mainly centring on information about progress and contact with subject teachers. There will be subject evenings for each year group and regular progress updates later in the year. I was pleased that many parents felt that they were better able to understand the progress information as a result of attending.

Some parents did ask why the consultations had to be in the school day. For practical and workload reasons we cannot hold both subject evenings and tutor consultation outside the school day. We feel that the benefits of the day outweigh the learning loss especially as students were given additional homework.

Responses to the survey were anonymous; we should have told you that if you wanted a specific response you need to identify your child in your answer to the question. We will make this clear in future surveys. We use your e-Mail address to send the survey - another important reason to ensure that we have your up-to-date e-mail address. E-mail contact updates can be sent to admin@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk. If you want to be on a postal mailing list for surveys please contact the school.

Mr D Linsell, Headteacher

LA FILLE MAL GARDEE

RATTON DANCERS AT THE CONGRESS THEATRE

Once again Ratton dancers will delight and amaze, this time in Southern Youth Ballet's production of the beautiful and funny classical ballet 'La Fille mal Gardee' (*The Unchaperoned Daughter*). The show is on Sunday 28th November, for one performance only, at 4pm (tickets from the Eastbourne theatres in advance or on the door). We wish Annabel Simes and Arielle London (year 11), Diana Patience (year 10), Honor Roberts (year 8) and Rebekah Hadland (year 7) a great show, good luck!

Diana (pictured right) has also performed with the English Youth Ballet (*The Nutcracker* April 2009). At school she is studying our new BTec Dance course alongside the existing GCSE Dance.

Alison Duncan



*"Enchanting cameo productions
of classical ballet with a very
high standard of dance"*

Eastbourne Herald

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 November

Sophie Rutland, Billy Barnard, Beth tag, Iona Halfpenny, Jodie Spring, Chloe McHale, Oliver Newman, Jack Buggins, Amy Barnard, Christie Groom and Aimee Lyon

Week ended 19th November

Aymen Qader, Amro Hammer, Zachary Cullinane, Danielle Neal, Amy Barden, Paul Dyer, Toby Hills, Donya Mozaffari, Sophie Francis, Christie Groom and Thushan Mendis

10 weeks to 19th November

Susannah Hearn, Nathan Hover, Aymen Qader, Lara Davis, James Powell-Cullingford, Matthew Johnson, Rebecca Wyatt, Jodie Spring, Jordan Pearson and Christie Groom

NEW PARENT GOVERNORS

We would like to warmly welcome two new governors on to our school governing body:

David Brabner who has two children at Ratton in years 8 and 10. David works locally for the NHS and has lived in Eastbourne for over 25 years;

Susanna Wallis who has a daughter here in year 8. Susanna is a trained Registered Mental Nurse and currently works with teenagers involved in offending behaviour.

STUDIO PORTRAIT DAY

Peter Prior and Nicky Thomas are running a one-off portrait day at Ratton School on **Saturday 11th December from 10am-2pm**. Bring the family, children or even your pets...

Spaces are limited - book your shoot now only £10, and order your photos the same day to get them in time for Christmas.

For details call Nicky 01323 470600/07712 048459 or Peter 01323 740741.

www.klickphotos.co.uk
www.nxphoto.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th November - 3rd December
Y11 MOCKS ALL WEEK

Thursday 2nd December

Parent Voice 6pm

Friday 3rd December

Christmas Shout *see article on next page*

Monday 6th December

School closed to students

Tuesday 7th December

Full Governors' Meeting 5pm

Wednesday 8th December

Year 8 students' first vaccinations
Year 10 students' third vaccinations

Thursday 9th December

Christmas lunch

Friday 10th December

'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations' 7pm

KEEP KIDS SAFE AT SCHOOL

As you may be aware we are currently trialling new communication software called *Keep Kids Safe at School*.

Letters were given to parents on Consultation Day or posted home, giving details of the features of the software and telephone numbers which will be used to contact parents and carers in the event of a school absence.

Please note the telephone numbers and store these in your mobile phones as *Ratton School*, should you receive or wish to reply to a message sent.

This new system will allow more methods of communication between home and school, including the use of mobile phone text messages and e-mails, as well as letters and telephone land-line communication which are already used.

It is very important that we have up-to-date contact information; therefore if any changes are made please download the information letter from http://www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/files/documents/22nd_October_2010_Keep_Kids_Safe_letter.pdf complete and return it to the school address.

If you have any queries regarding the software, please contact David Brown, Assistant Headteacher.

ALICE POTTER 8CPn

Many congratulations to Alice who had a very successful day at MTV filming for Nickelodeon, co-presenting a children's show alongside her sister Lily last week. The show is 'Jamie and Anna's Big Weekend' to be televised in December, so look out for it!

SONG & DANCE EVENING

Ratton dancers performed at the Song and Dance Evening last Friday (full report in the next issue) and once again raised the profile of DANCE at our school!

Very well done to Ashleigh Bremer 11, Korbinian Cox 10, Hallum Cousins 7, Ben Dobbs 7, Kelly Elliott 11, Kezia Fairbairn 8, Alicia Harrfey 9, Jacob Hopgood 7, Kira Marsh 9, Olivia Sparey 9, Arielle London 11, Charlie Mackay 9, Ritchie Moureau 7, Diana Patience 10, Victoria Potter 11, Honor Roberts 8, Jordan Ticehurst 9 and Lauren Wilder 11

Alison Duncan



Christmas Shout Leaders have been working really hard this week to spread the word about this fun community event, with visits to Bourne School, Leaps and Bounds Nursery and Tom Thumb Nursery. Our Year 9 Shout Leaders have been performing the three songs, **Jingle Bells**, **Silent Night**, and **(So here it is) Merry Christmas**, teaching the young children how to sing in a round and even some Spanish and German words. Well done to Amy Barden, Emily Brooks, Georgia Daltry, Katy Dibbens, Christie Dowle, Amy Durbidge, Danielle Hearne, Mia Longman, Hannah Mundy, Alice Potter, Lois Rayner, Sam Read-Riseley, Jasmine Rennie, Honor Roberts, Sophie Sands, Ami Streeter, Arron Wilder and Lucy Wood who have even taken on some of the tasks of organising and promoting visits and leading workshops. Be sure to come along on 3rd December to support our students and recognise their hard work!

It's not too late to get involved, see - www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/performing_arts/community_arts/christmas_shout for info, or just come along and sing along -

December 3rd at 6pm -

outside the Town Hall... sometimes you just have to be there!!

Congratulations to Ratton's Firsts!

Last week Ratton entered our first 21 students for their Arts Award and they all passed. Some students, current and previous, have achieved Arts Award in the past but this is the first time students have had the opportunity to develop and gather the required evidence with Ratton as an Arts Award Centre. These students not only worked hard to gather a portfolio for the award but helped us in the Performing Arts department through the process for the first time. Well done and thank you to **Abigail Cobby, Alex Mendes, Annabel Simes, Harry Osborne, Jared Godden, Jessica Woodrow, Josh Bentley, Kemi Rodgers, Letitia Mills, Libby Stevens, Megan Dennis, Phoebe Cunningham, Sam Munton, Blue Dyer, Katy Lambert, Lucy Gibbard, Danielle Barnhurst and Catherine Lawrence** your certificates are on their way! We hope that our Silver Students will consider beginning a Gold Award (which attracts UCAS points) and our Bronze students will progress either to Silver or Gold. Arts Award is a qualification accredited by Trinity College which aspires to support any young person to enjoy the arts and develop creative leadership skills. It is a pass or fail qualification available at Level 1 (Bronze), Level 2 (Silver - equivalent to ½ a GCSE Grade A* - C) and Level 3 (Gold) on the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

PARENT VOICE

As part of our on-going commitment to involving parents more in the life of our school, we would remind you that we will be holding our next Parent Voice meeting on **Thursday 2nd December from 6-7pm** in the school hall.

This will be an open meeting led by Mr Linsell, Headteacher, who will be using the opportunity to share further information with you regarding **The Future of Education**. If you have an issue of a specific nature, then this meeting is not an appropriate forum but, as always, we welcome direct contact.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but have an issue or suggestion you would like to be raised please feel free to let us know in advance of the meeting. We shall be grateful if you will kindly phone to confirm your attendance on 01323 514314 to give us an indication of numbers attending.

If you're generally healthy and aged between 17 and 65, do something amazing... Give blood

Donating blood is simple - the blood donation process is much quicker and easier than you might think. Go to 'What Happens' on the National Blood Service website to answer all your questions and take a virtual tour through the blood donation process.

Find local blood donor sessions - Call 0300 123 23 23, or go to the NHS National Blood Service website to search for your nearest blood donor session and book an appointment online.

East Sussex Voluntary Youth Service Awards 2010

The Ratton STOMPS! Group attended the ESCVYS awards last Thursday to receive the 'Arts and Culture Achievement' for the stomp workshops they have been leading in schools across the county.

This was a prestigious event which was well attended by MPs and local businesses as well as several youth organisations. It was a wonderful evening, and a great celebration of the work that has been happening across East Sussex over the past year. The Ratton STOMPS! crew also took home the overall prize in recognition of "Their inspiring achievements in inspiring and motivating communities in East Sussex" and were presented the award by Stephen Lloyd MP. A fantastic achievement!



Fairtrade café run by Globe student leadership team

On Friday 12th November, the Globe Student Leadership team, along with the Fairtrade group, organised a café in the library in order to raise awareness of Fairtrade. Fairtrade is increasingly being implemented into school life in the form of such items as tea, coffee and sugar. Ratton is now a Fairtrade School and we want everybody to know what you can do with Fairtrade produce. At the café, all the items being sold were made with Fairtrade ingredients including an array of cakes and biscuits as well as tea and coffee. The café was highly successful with a constant stream of people throughout the lunch break enjoying the selection of food, made by members of the Fairtrade group as well as some teachers making a contribution. Some people elected to dine in style and were served by some of the year 7s in Miss Penna's tutor group who were brilliant in collecting orders and delivering food to the customer's table. The Fairtrade group will endeavor to organise further events during the year to promote Fairtrade produce. A total of £90.13 was raised and the proceeds from the café were donated to the Globe charity, the Children with Cancer Fund and to help send Love in a Box.

Jacob Bradbrook (Year 11 student)

