

MORE LEADERS

In November we had a surprise inspection visit from Ofsted to look at “New Models for School Leadership”. The report of the visit has recently been published and can be viewed on the school website using the following link - www.rattonschool.co.uk/about_our_school/ofsted_report/ It is a positive report with all judgements being ‘good’ or ‘very good’. The only point of action was to ensure that new systems are implemented consistently across the school. Only about 20 schools nationally have been visited where innovation in leadership has been recognised, so the visit was sort of a compliment. Our Leadership model is designed to ensure that we have the capacity to meet our students’ needs and work closely with partner schools and other organisations to provide a wide range of quality opportunities for our students.

As parents you might be interested in knowing what all these leaders do. The Core Leadership Team is responsible for strategy, the day to day smooth running of the school and standards including student progress, attitudes to learning and behaviour. The Learning Directors are responsible for the quality of teaching and the ethos of the Learning Communities. The Learning Leaders ensure good student progress and a range of whole school responsibilities. The Advanced Skills Teachers team (AST) lead school improvement and training. More information about who serves on each of these teams can be found at www.rattonschool.co.uk/contact_us/who_to_contact/ This week I have been doing assemblies on leadership and one of the quotations used is “The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers.” I believe our model does enable the creation of “more leaders”, importantly amongst students as well as staff. It is one of the joys of our job - give a student a chance to be a leader and they will never cease to amaze you.

David Linsell, Headteacher

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Exciting Volunteer opportunities for young people and/or parents

Adventure organises residential adventure weeks for young people with disabilities and special needs (ages 8-18 years) throughout the school holidays. This would not be possible without both adult and young volunteers (age 14+) who attend these weeks - many have made life changing decisions as a result! Could you be one of them?

For more information www.actventure.org Tel: 01342 828218, Email: les@hindleap.com.

Please let Miz, our Arts Development Officer know if you are interested, m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk or 01323 425332. She can help you with application forms and arrange a talk from Actventure if there is enough interest.

The Rattonians Youth Group - New Show

In April 2008 “The Rattonian Youth Group” was launched with a highly successful production of “Les Miserables” at the Devonshire Park Theatre. A cast of 80 young people from the age of 7 to 19 had the audience on their feet every night! How do you follow that? Well the talented young company, again under the direction of Peter Gurr, Debbie Hackett and Paula Pout, have chosen “Just So” a theatrical delight.

This musical, based on Rudyard Kipling’s “Just So Stories” for children, takes the most imaginative of these tales and weaves them into an adventure that will enthral children and adults alike.

The show runs from 15th - 18th April with matinee performances on the Wednesday and Saturday. Tickets are available now from Eastbourne Theatres Box Office priced £10 - £14.

Ratton Students to audition for the National Youth Theatre

Supported by the Performing Arts Department, two year 11 students have been accepted to audition for the National Youth Theatre. Josh Spriggs and Sophie Razzel are now working with the Arts Development Officer, Miz (Maria) Wells, and their Drama Teachers to prepare monologues for the auditions on 7th March. We wish them the very best of luck.

Dance

A large group of year 10 and 11 students will take GCSE Dance this year and they are busy preparing for the Practical examination on 1st April. Good luck!

Our Year 9’s will be performing ‘Bollywood’ at the ‘As One’ concert on 24th March at the Congress Theatre. The dance was created by a Bollywood dancer from Birmingham and was premiered at the Planet Steps show last year held at The Causeway School.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

The following extract is from a collection of thoughts linked to our assembly themes throughout the year -

"Leadership has a harder job to do than just choose sides. It must bring sides together."

Jesse Jackson

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Each year our students' families voluntarily donate £10 to the school fund, of which a portion is given to the School Council (comprised of students from all year groups) to decide how it should be spent. This year the Council decided to give a significant proportion of the money towards the purchase of an electronic whiteboard and chose Miss Carter to be the lucky recipient.

"I am delighted with my new whiteboard and extremely grateful to the council for electing me to have it. I was very surprised and excited when I heard I was going to be receiving a new interactive board. I have been using it for several weeks now and both students and I have had great pleasure in using it, and making use of its many capabilities. I feel very lucky and privileged that the students voted for me, so thank you to them!"

Miss Carter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd March
Governors' Meeting (Budget Committee) 5pm

Tuesday 10th March
Governors' Meeting (Leadership Committee) 5pm

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Ratton School Gala Concert - Sunday 31st May at The Congress Theatre 7.30pm

All who are likely to be involved please ensure this date is in your diary as it is at the end of the May mid-term break.

SAFETY MATTERS

Please keep all our students safe by parking sensibly outside school and not blocking walkways, neighbours drives, or parking over the yellow zig-zag lines.

TESCO FOR SCHOOLS AND CLUBS

Tesco for Schools and Clubs 2009 will be running in place of 'Computers for Schools' and 'Sports for Schools and Clubs', and vouchers will be available instore from Monday 2nd March. We would love you to donate your vouchers to us to help collect new sports equipment, the latest mobile technology or something to help our students get creative, and collection boxes will be located in the main reception area.

SAINSBURY'S AK09

Active Kids is all about giving young people the chance to try new, great fun activities, learn life skills and abilities they'll never forget, and get excited about having a healthy lifestyle.

From 11th February to 3rd June, every £10 you spend at Sainsbury's supermarkets, Centrals, petrol stations or online at sainsburys.co.uk/groceries will earn one AK09 voucher and when you shop in Sainsbury's Local stores you'll get one voucher for every £5 spent.

Please drop your vouchers off in reception for us to use towards equipment, experiences and coaching to provide inspiration and stimulation, and exciting live sports events.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to our highest achieving students whose hard work and commitment we are proud to recognise -

Week ended 13th February

Jessica Davis, Beth Davies, Ashley Green, Amelia Pattison, Chloe Hannaford, Marius McCarthy, Lukas Ondrej, Anna Ribeiro, Paula Gonzaga Porto and Summer Donnachie

BREAKFAST CLUB THANKS!

As you know we are delighted to be able to run a daily breakfast club offering free tea and toast to all our students, but this would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors. Huge thanks go to -

Martello Plant Hire, Securevision, Stagecoach Theatre Arts and Thomas Doors and Window Controls

If you would like to contribute towards the running of Breakfast Club please contact Mrs Comfort on 01323 514310 - thank you.

MONEY MATTERS

If a student needs to borrow money for their lunch we will lend £1.30 to years 7, 8 and 9, on the understanding it **MUST** be returned the following day. **If a reminder needs to be sent out postage will be added.** Money may only be borrowed at lunchtime and may not be borrowed more than three times per term. Bus fare will be loaned at the end of the day up until 3.30pm.

Unfortunately there is **no free phone** in the School, so it is advisable for students to have 20p in case they need to use the pay phone or 50p for a call to a mobile.

Replacement timetables and Diary sheets cost 10 pence each.