

6th February 2009

Issue 3

Thank you to the 130 parents who completed our first parent survey of 2008-9. The overall results were positive and encouraging, but give some areas for improvement. We were particularly grateful for the parents who took time to provide comments. In retrospect, we should have given parents the opportunity to include their names so we could respond.

In the Governors' vision section, the question "My child is achieving beyond my expectations" was a deliberately tough question and reflects parents' high expectations of the school. We need to do some more work towards better understanding parents' expectations. It is clear that parents do not know enough about the work of the Governors so expect more regular feedback from the Governors in "Gold Friday" and "Connections". Our new leadership structure is intended to meet the needs of a large school, which serves the needs of our students and community. It is necessarily complex, so we need to be very clear with parents about who does what.

We asked for your views on our improvement priorities, where we would expect to see progress over time. We are particularly interested by your views about "intervention": providing support for underachieving students. We are building on our current good practice of catch up lessons, literacy support and one-to-one tuition. We are focusing on intervention in the classroom and the use of students to support other students.

We will be repeating this survey before Easter and again would be grateful for your responses, this will enable us to review progress over time and respond to your concerns. You will have the opportunity to complete the survey, on paper, on-line, by E-Mail or even by phone!

The results of the first survey are available on our website www.rattonschool.co.uk/news

David Linsell, Headteacher

Pause for Reflection

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

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes.
Art is knowing which ones to keep.

Scott Adams

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Focus on Dance

Dance Leaders from year 8 have recently been appointed to represent Dance at Ratton. They are already very busy introducing themselves to the Year 7s, planning dance performance evenings and leading the way in dance outreach with our primary partners. They are Samantha Joubert MRo and Lazar Liebenberg NAv for Adelphi, Natasha Hayes TDr and Korbinian Cox RCl for Apollo, Chloe Hannaford SBu and Jack Buggins LGo for Globe, Isabella Barreto de Santana SPa and Tariq Boudehane LWe for Lyceum, and Jake Dalton JSu and Ellie Stiles DDe for Lyric

A very big welcome to Miss Brown from the Royal Academy of Dance in London. She has now joined us for her placement and will be at Ratton until the beginning of June. She will be teaching both KS3 and KS4 classes and is busy planning some exciting dance ideas. Miss Dowie left Ratton at Christmas after a very good placement including teaching Urban dance to Year 9 and detailed study of the modern dance pioneer Martha Graham with Year 10 GCSE students.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 10th February

Governors' Meeting 5pm
(Premises, Health & safety)

Thursday/Friday 12/13th February

New York trip

Friday 13th February

Y7 community competition
Judging and Presentation 2pm

Last day of term 3

Monday 23rd February

INSET Day - school closed to students

Tuesday 24th February

Start of term 4 - students return

Y8 girls' second vaccination

Neighbourhood Panel Meeting 3.45-5pm

Thursday 26th February

Y10 Subject Evening 4.15-7.45pm

Saturday 21st February

Ice hockey trip to Guildford 12.30pm...
(see below for details)

PAVEMENT IN PARK LANE...

For the past 15 years there has been growing concern from residents and others about the danger for pedestrians, children attending Ratton School, and other road users as a result of the lack of a footpath in Park Lane. The Ratton Neighbourhood Panel are now petitioning to urge ESCC to provide a footpath from the junction with Willingdon Road to the junction with King's Drive and we are very pleased to support this campaign to keep our students safe but we need your help and support! Please visit the school website at www.rattonschool.co.uk where you can access more information and register your support electronically, or alternatively call in to the main reception area where you can sign the petition - thank you.

RATTON SCHOOL'S DIGITAL SIGNAGE

At the end of 2008 Ratton decided to implement its very own digital signage solution. The school is now equipped with seven 42 inch plasma screens around the school. The screens are used to relay information to students, staff, parents, governors and visitors. Currently we have 10 different states which appear at different times throughout the day. At break students and staff can see what is on the menu for lunch in the school canteen (Refresh), they can watch the national news and sport headlines, see what clubs are taking place after school and at lunchtime, and see the weather forecast for the next few days - not to mention any other important announcements flashing up! After school the screens display the achievements of students over the past week, play videos of students' work from the project based learning week, and display the weather for the next few days. We have managed to persuade students (and staff!) to read and digest information while watching other, more interesting, material. The solution enables any member of staff to logon to a web-based interface and put up notices and announcements at the click of a button. The screens will display web pages, TV, video, text, images and much more. Thanks go to Performing Arts for donating money for the solution and Mr Prodger for designing and implementing the screen designs.

CLUBS

Please note that the following after-school clubs also run but were not on the previous listing

World Music
Thursdays
Room 218

Jazz Ensemble
Thursdays
Room 217

Apologies for the omissions earlier!

CONGRATULATIONS!

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

Week ended 30th January

Gemma Courtney-Davis, Heledd Evans, Kara McNeice, Eleanor Farrington, Jessica Davis, Emily Peebles, Jack Taylor, Anna Ribeiro, Summer Donnachie and Chloe Hannaford

Week ended 6th February

Jessica Davis, Catherine Lawrence, Shayan Yaghoobi, Stephen Haselden, Kahema Mungili, Megan Dennis, Joseph Williamson, Arielle London, Emily Sparey, Sam Smith, Sophie Calverley, Victoria Grafham, Ashley Tarrant-Fisher, Anush Lamsal, Joshua Perry, Robyn Nash and Rayana Betts

ICE HOCKEY TRIP

There is an ice hockey trip to Guildford planned for Saturday 21st February (during the mid-term break) which will include 1½ hours skating, skate hire, and a full hockey match.

The price for this trip is £22 and we will be departing from school at 12.30pm - it is open to all year groups though numbers are limited to 65 students, so if you would like to secure your place please collect an information letter from Mr Reese (Room 118) asap

All forms to be in by 3.15pm on
Tuesday 10th February

The trip won't run if numbers are low!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

Did you know that birthday celebrations are available in Refresh? For only £5 students can celebrate their birthday with their friends by having a specially prepared table with a birthday cake at lunchtime (includes the birthday boy/girl's lunch). Please contact Mrs Comfort, Business Manager, for further information or to book a table for your child.



We have tickets to see the Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company performing a new work at the Brighton Dome in March. The show is suitable for those 14 and over and all KS4 GCSE dancers will be invited. Permission letters are available from Mrs Duncan.