



March 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the staff and students of Ratton School I would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement. 'Achieving Together' only succeeds because of the strong partnership that exists between school and home.

As we leave for the Easter break we say goodbye to several members of staff - Mr Caley and Ms Forwood (Cover Supervisors), and Mrs Milligan (Data Manager) and wish them all the best and much success in their future chosen paths.

As you know, uniform expectations at Ratton are strictly enforced so this is an opportune point at which to remind everyone about the summer terms standards: shoes should be black and must not be backless; polo shirts must have the school logo on; and skirts must be knee-length. All other uniform expectations do, of course, still stand and I thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining our high levels of uniform appearance.

I would take this opportunity to advise you that school will finish at lunchtime for students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 on **Wednesday 19th May**. This is to allow for students in year 11 to attend their graduation ceremony and accordingly, due to the early finish, there will be a full canteen service for all students at mid-morning break only.

On behalf of all the staff at Ratton School I would like to wish you a restful and relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 19th April**.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Wardle
Acting Headteacher

eastbourne

SHOUT!

Be Part Of Something
Big!.....

In association with **hear our voice kenya (.com)**

Friday 23rd April 2010, Western Lawns, 6.15 for 6.30pm

Dear Parents / Carers and Students

Everyday this week we have drop in and sing sessions in the hall at break times, all students have the opportunity to learn the three 'Eastbourne Shout!' songs and we are very much hoping parents will come and join in too.

Whether you're a "hairbrush in front of the mirror" type or you only sing in the shower, this is the opportunity for you!

Led by our Year 7 Shout leaders (as seen in assemblies this week), the aim is for as many people as possible, from all walks of life, to come together and share in singing three symbolic songs; one international song, "Babethandaza", (better known as Sin je je je), from South Africa, a national song, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot", and "I do like to be beside the seaside" for a local focus.

Singing for the Soul, (the Science bit!) - We all sing sometimes, even those of us who are painfully shy and those of us without any musical ability can catch ourselves 'shouting' along to our favourite songs on the radio. This is because it is good for you! "When people sing together [there is an] increased sense of community, belonging and shared endeavour." (Professor Graham Welch, Chair of Music Education at the Institute of Education, University of London)

Get in on the Act - There are many ways to get involved. Most importantly you need to bring your friends and family, along with an umbrella to the western lawns on the 23rd April. It might be a good idea to learn the songs in advance. You can sing along at home with you tube (search for Eastbourne Shout), the lyrics, scores, audio files and other resources are available via the 'Quick Links' window on the ratton school website www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk. Or best of all come and join us at a 'Drop-in-and-sing' where you can learn the songs with others:-

Wednesday 24th March 6.30 - 7pm Ratton School Drama Studio

Thursday 25th March 3.30 - 4pm Ocklynge School Music Room

Monday 29th March 3.30 - 4pm Ratton School Drama Studio

Wednesday 21st April 6.30 - 7pm Ocklynge School Music Room

Hope to see you there!



Dear Parent/Carer

March 2010

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in following the 'Healthy Living' course as part of their WASP Physical Education programme in Year 10.

This course is designed to take full advantage of the facilities and sporting opportunities in the locality. It also enables students to pursue activities which are not available within the school site.

An outline of the programme is set out below, but other activities may also become available through the year.

Each activity will last for a half term block.

April - May (Year 10 only) Lazer Quest / American Pool (Lloyd Lanes)

HALF TERM

June - July (Year 10 only) Crazy Golf

Students may pursue the whole course throughout the year, or opt out at the end of a block. However, once signed up to an activity, they are committed for the full course and monies will be non refundable

The average total cost for each block, is worked out to be £30. However, because the school is very committed to this new course and we appreciate the necessary financial commitment needed from parents to fully support its launch, the school is prepared to offer a substantial subsidy. Parents are therefore asked to contribute £15 for each course which includes transport by school minibus.

The option after Easter is Lazer Quest or American Pool at Lloyd Lanes. They may opt for either Lazer Quest or American Pool on a weekly basis. No PE kit will be needed for this option. Because the number of places available on this course is limited to sixteen and it will be a very popular option for students, selection will be based on a first come first served basis. The total payment of £15 will be collected in **full** and in **advance**. Cheques should be made payable to Ratton School Fund (students name, community, tutor group and Healthy Living Programme for PE on the reverse of the cheque).

If you are happy for your son/daughter to commit to the Lazer Quest or American Pool option, please complete the attached parental consent form with the £15 and return to the Finance Office by Friday 26 March 2010 in a named envelope.

The course will start the week beginning 19 April (first week back after the Easter holidays) and carry on until week beginning Monday 24 May 2010.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to phone me at school.

Yours sincerely

MRS J. UPTON
PE Teacher

Please note:

Please advise your child they must meet by the minibus promptly at the start of the session or at 1.45pm if they have their lesson period 5.



To: Finance Office, Ratton School

Students Name.....

Community.....

Tutor/Year Group.....

YEAR 10 'HEALTHY LIVING'
PHYSICAL EDUCATION OPTION
(Parent consent form)

ACTIVITY BLOCK: Lloyds Lanes - Lazer Quest or American Pool

* Please tick

- I wish to book a place on:
- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| PE Group 10A: | Blue Week Friday Period 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Gold Week Friday Period 5 | |
| PE Group 10C: | Gold Week Wednesday Period 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | and Thursday Period 4 | |
- (Please circle your correct PE group)

I am happy for my son/daughter to take part in the above activity and enclose £15 (cheques payable too Ratton School Fund, students name, community, tutor group and Healthy Living Programme for PE on the reverse) which is the full cost for the course.

I understand my son/daughter will get the school minibus to the Lloyds Lanes and:

- a) Agree to my son/daughter making their own way home from Lloyds Lanes YES/NO (if it is the last lesson of the day)
- b) Would like transportation for my son/daughter back to Ratton School. YES/NO

- I confirm my child's medical details remain the same as the form I have already completed for this academic year.
- I have not completed a medical form this academic year, please send me one for completion.

Signed..... (Parent) Date.....

Please Print Name.....

(Places are reserved on a first come, first served basis. Forms will only be accepted in a named envelope with the money enclosed)

March 2010

Dear Parent/Carer



**'GET SMART' Week
Wise up to Attendance**

It is vitally important for all pupils in East Sussex to have the best chance to achieve at school. To do this, pupils need to attend regularly and punctually. Ratton School is committed to ensuring pupils understand the impact that absences can have on potential attainment and future life chances.

Many parents and pupils consider 90% attendance to be acceptable. However, by just attending for 90% of the academic year, a pupil is actually missing four weeks of academic and social interaction!

'GET SMART' has been developed by the Education Welfare Service in East Sussex to support secondary schools and colleges in promoting the importance of attendance.

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.

There will be curriculum and tutor activities during the week for pupils to raise their awareness of what is actually 'good' attendance and give a clear message that missing school means missing out.

As well as interactive activities for pupils, the Education Welfare Service together with Sussex Police will be undertaking the delivery of statutory sanctions through late patrols and truancy sweeps throughout the week. Parent/carers of pupils found to be late or absent without authorisation by the school will be contacted and legal action may be taken.

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 handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Lavan'.

Penny Lavan
Principal Education Welfare Officer
Education Welfare Service



March 31st 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hopefully, many of you will already be familiar with our **Ratton Stomp Group** and have possibly seen some of the phenomenal work they produce. We are offering all our Year 7's the opportunity to become involved with our group, in order to introduce the Ratton Stomps to the next generation of Stompers.

On the **20th April 2010**, we have an ex. Stomp performer visiting Ratton to run a day of workshops for **all year 7's**. The workshops will take place in the Hall, the students have already been divided into three bands for the workshops and timings are as follows:

Band A Period 5

Band B Period 4

Band C Period 3

If your child is unsure of which group they are in, they should see their tutor as soon as possible.

Just to make sure nobody misses out, there is also an open **Stomp session for families and adults at 6-7pm** in the Hall, so please do turn up and support our Stomp group and have fun!

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me on: m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk, 01323 514322, 07718996853.

Many thanks and we hope to see many of you at the workshop.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miz Wells". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Miz Wells

Community Arts Officer



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