

EXCELLENT EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations to students and staff for this year's excellent exam results. It was a real pleasure to share in the students' happiness and success on results day.

The percentage of students who achieved at least five good GCSE's, including English and Mathematics, rose from 54% to 60%, with more students than ever achieving the very highest grades. If Ratton's results are compared with those from similar schools these results place us amongst the top 10% of similar schools.

I am particularly proud of these results because they are based on students following a broad and balanced curriculum; a curriculum that is designed to meet the needs of our students, rather than to improve the school's position in the league tables.

As always we know that we can still do better. In order to improve our results even more we are providing support for students who fall behind, making sure teaching is excellent and helping students to become better independent learners.

*Mr D Linsell
Headteacher*

Student Leadership Training Day

Towards the end of last term the Student Leadership Teams of all Communities participated in a Leadership Training day held at the University of Brighton Chelsea School. The day really helped us bond together as a team and built up our teamwork and communication skills. We all had an enjoyable experience and did a number of activities like: building bridges, walking blindfold through an imaginary minefield etc. The whole of the day was about trusting one another and fostering bonds between the teams.

Everyone really enjoyed the day and it has improved our leadership and team building skills. We would like to thank the Football for Peace Team for an awesome day and we love our T-Shirts.

Patrick Gates, Jack Baker, and Donya Mozaffari



Key Stage 3 Maths

If your child is in a stage 2 or 3 group this year, they will be having lots of additional times table practise this year during lessons. They will be coming home this week with a foldable times table helper.

The mathematics department would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to spend a maximum of five minutes each day learning them and saying them out loud. Thank you!

*Ms S Blyth
KS3 Curriculum Leader -
Mathematics*

BUS STOP

We would like to thank ESCC for providing a new hardstanding by our school bus parking area over the summer holidays.

Please ensure that you do not block this area when parking, or collecting/dropping off children.

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 9th September

Emily Hird, Keenan Poolton, Zoe Heather, Stacy Moulding, Allys Stewart, Isaac Goff, Hannah Wickens, and Levi Denney



Did you know you can follow us on
Twitter?

@RattonSchool

What future does the Cuckmere Haven have?

On 14th July the Humanities Highest Attainers' Group spent a morning at the Cuckmere Haven and the following report is a combination of their reflections on the trip:

"The River Cuckmere meanders like a stroke of paint across the cattle fields of a man-made haven. The man-made 'cut' that takes the river away from the meanders and allows farmland to be created and used is one of this county's best tourist sites. Surrounded by the South Downs, that were once covered in forest, the Haven with its meanders, is best seen from the top of the hills. We learnt about the village of Exceat and how it was moved from the top of the hills to another location because of the plague. We discovered that Hitler thought that it was a good place from which to invade Britain. That's why there are many World War Two defences there. But soon Exceat is history as we journey down to the beach. What caused the rolling hills, the battered cliffs, the mineral cascades? Millennia of raging storms, melting ice carving its way across the land. On the beach we learnt about coastal erosion, how caves form, and why the beach moves because of long shore drift."

"Mr Taylor discussed with us the future of the Haven and the different plans to either maintain it as it is now or to let it return to its original state as a salt marsh and mud flats. We managed to avoid most of the sheep poo but Suzannah almost fell in the water because the wasps were very persuasive!"

"The future of the Haven is in doubt, what should we do? Continue a battle against the sea? A battle we cannot win, or allow the sea to reclaim the valley and encourage a wider array of wildlife to inhabit the area? If we do, what impact will it have on tourism, the environment, and the local economy?"

Mr Taylor
Learning Director, Globe

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 20th September

Full Governors' Meeting 5pm

Monday 26th September

European Day of Languages

Tuesday 27th September

Prospective Parents' Evening
(early closure 1.30pm to prepare for PPE)

CIRCUS MONKEYS

Circus skills drop-in in the gym!

Juggling, fun, unicycle, make friends, Diablo,
learn, kangaroo stilts, teach, poi

All ages and abilities welcome: bring your mum, your brother, or your neighbour (under 8's must be under parental supervision unless specified by workshop leader).

£2 for up to two hours! Just turn up 5.30-7.30pm on Wednesdays or call 01323 514322 or email m.wells@ratton.e-sussex/sch/uk for more info.

Want to tone up?

What to be more flexible?

Enjoy dancing?

Fancy trying something new?

Come along to our youth & adult (14+) contemporary dance class. 6.30 - 7.30pm, Monday nights in the dance studio (park in the playground at the rear of the school). £6 per week, £3 for students (discounts for a 10 class card).

Phone Cat Ben Abbes on 07896 878210, or see Arts Development Officer, Miz Wells (Drama Office) for more information.

NAME THE ISLANDS

The two islands in Decoy Pond (in nearby Hampden Park), plus the third island created by the recent works, have never had names so the Friends of the Hampden Park have launched a competition which will be judged at the end of September by The Mayor, Herald reporter Anne-Marie Field, a member of EBC, and a member of The Friends of the Hampden Park.

The competition is comprised of three categories: Small Island (up to 8 years old), Middle Size Island (up to 16 years old), and the Large Central Island (everyone) - so get your thinking caps on!

Good luck!

AQUABOXES

This year there have been many disasters across the world, taking many lives and causing endless destruction. However, often for those of us that are safe, as soon as the news stops reporting these disasters we forget about them. When was the last time you thought of the floods in New Zealand, the Tsunami in Japan, or the drought in Ethiopia?

As previous Head of Charities & Fundraising at Ratton, I have made sure that we have had charity work as one of our main aims - not only disaster relief, but also the local charity Children with Cancer Fund. However, a big part of our mission was to fill our Aquabox...

The Aquabox is a disaster aid box sent to emergency areas to give humanitarian aid to those most in need. It included water purification tablets and daily essentials - like soap and candles. The box was put together with the help of the Rotary Interact group at Ratton (headed by Milena Thorburn Y11 last year, now headed by Emily Larkin).

We thought carefully about what kind of things people would need when faced with a disaster and we raised funds to get these vital items. Not only have we completed the box we also had a great time fundraising by doing things like a Fairtrade Café and a school raffle.

Unfortunately, this life saving box cannot help everyone in need but it was a huge achievement for our small group of 8. This year the group hopes to create another Aquabox so if anyone is interested please contact me in school.

Emily Larkin 11NSt



(Left to right)

*Milena Thorburn,
Rotarian
Marianne Williams,
Emily Larkin*

School Nurse Service

There is now a drop-in service on Thursdays from 12-2pm. Contact can be made via tutors, welfare officers, or reception staff.

The school nurse will be available to see students, parents, or staff in confidence for any type of problem that may affect them eg personal, bullying, family, behaviour, parenting, sexual health, smoking, alcohol, drug misuse - this list is not exhaustive.

Contact details - julie.allistone@esht.nhs.uk
or 07500 064765



FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?!

If you have ever left any item in the dance cupboard for safe keeping and failed to come back and collect it, please come to Care and Guidance...



YOUNG ENTERPRISE DAY OUT - IN BUSINESS WITH THE GAMES

At the end of last term 34 students from Years 9 and 10 travelled to Brighton University to engage in enterprises challenges to reveal the businesses behind the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics games - hosted by Young Enterprise, Amex, and Albion in the Community.

Working in ten teams students had to design and produce a games-inspired product or service with each team being allocated a business sector that their product/service related to, and then they had to pitch and present their product to business personnel who graded the teams on their ideas and presentation skills.

Georgina from Young Enterprise who organised the day said of our students: "they have done the school proud", "the most innovative ideas from the four workshops I have run", "these students achieved more in the timeframe than other schools and they were the first to get onto the afternoon activities".



Body Builders and Transport Runnerz were runners up, with Pleasure Leisure the winners for the day.



Lords Cricket Trip - July 2011

The England Women's 1st XI Cricket team took on their Australian rivals at Lords in a one day international. Rotton gave 40 pupils the chance to travel and visit the home of cricket. A long coach journey ended and the beautiful sunshine beamed down on the capital as England batted first. Mrs Buckland, our resident Australian, managed to convert 90% of the travelling Rotton spectators into following and supporting the women in green and yellow. After several applications of face-paint, the chant 'Aussie, Aussie, Aussie... Oi! Oi! Oi!' could be heard from the Rotton area of the crowd. This did, however, reflect on the performance by the visiting team. England were all out for a measly 168 after 48 overs.

England's bowling looked sharp to start, but then it was inevitable that their total was too low to cause a threat. England managed to get only 2 wickets, before the tourists finished off the game with 169 after 35 overs, winning by 7 wickets.

The highlight of the day followed the match, where the pupils were invited to step onto the hallowed turf and meet the players after their presentations. The rain just managed to hold off, as pupils managed to get photos with the players and plenty of autographs! Another long journey followed through the rush hour traffic, but we managed to see some of London's landmarks - during this time, it was difficult for Mrs Buckland to keep the smile off her face!

Mrs Buckland and Mr Brooke - PE Dept



EAST SUSSEX JUNIOR BADMINTON ASSOCIATION TRIALS - SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

*Trials are open to children born or attending school in East Sussex -
U11's born on or after 1st January 2001 U13's born on or after 1st January 1999
U15's born on or after 1st January 1997 U17's born on or after 1st January 1995*

HEATHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE, CADE ST, OLD HEATHFIELD, TN21 8RJ
U11/U13/U15's 9:00-10:30 am
U17's 10:30-12:00am

PLEASE CHECK TIMES ONLINE AT www.esjba.co.uk

Parents are requested to ensure that players arrive on time, have the correct dress for badminton and have sufficient refreshments. After 'warm-ups', unless there is a good reason, no tracksuits will be worn during play.

£3 play-in fee, just turn up on the day. Cheques payable to ESJBA.