

TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

Recently Governors discussed whether Ratton should continue to specialise in and promote the Performing Arts because the Government has ended the separate funding for specialist status. Governors believe that our outstanding reputation in the Performing Arts benefits all our students and the community.

For those students who have a talent or interest in Music, Drama, or Dance we are able to provide fantastic opportunities. However, participating in the Performing Arts benefits all our students. One reason that Ratton is such a successful and popular school is because of how good we are at ensuring that our students are happy. Parents tell us that we are very good at building student confidence; opportunities to perform and our creative culture contribute significantly to this success. We know that for our students to be successful in life they have to be confident, creative, and caring - all qualities fostered through the Performing Arts. In a world where so many people have the qualifications, the thing that makes somebody more employable than the next person is their communication skills, flexibility, and ability to work in and lead teams - all of which are at the heart of the Performing Arts.

To be... an excellent school with consistent high standards, not to be... the same as every other school, to be... unique and special where happy, highly successful students develop the confidence, creativity, and caring attitudes necessary to go out and change the world for the better.

Mr D Linsell, Headteacher

Fun in the Sun to end the My Playground project

Approximately 150 people descended on the Redoubt for the Annual Playday on Saturday 14th May. They were treated to a range of activities and performances including: an Irish dance performance by Year 5 pupils from Ocklynge Primary School, taught and choreographed by Yr 8 Students from Ratton; Ratton Stomps; Circus Monkeys; interactive performances inside the museum; have-a-go sessions at stomp; circus; mosaic; flag and badge making; flag communication; and the opportunity to become a living part of a Museum display.

The project 'My Playground' incorporated a number of events and projects including Family Stomp, Contemporary Dance, Breakfast Clubs, Irish Dance, Drama, Music, Eastbourne Shout, Circus Skills, Pinhole cameras, and a general exploration of play. The collaboration between Ratton and Cavendish Community Arts, plus Compass Community Arts and the Redoubt Fortress and Military Museum has provided a range of popular activities and events which sought to bring together people from a range of backgrounds and circumstances.



If you have any comments, feedback, or suggestions for the future please get in touch with Miz Wells -

m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk
or 01323 514322



Participants are requesting more of the same and the organisers are currently seeking funding to continue the community play project.

"Regardless of age, ethnicity, culture or social situation we all play. Whether it is a trip to the park, a bungee jump or a soak in the bath, play is essential to our well being, even animals play! My Playground has explored and celebrated this concept and the Redoubt Playday was a perfect way to conclude the project."

Miz Wells, Arts Development Officer

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 6th May

Aimee Lyon, Bailey Wicking, Hallum Cousins, Abigail Simmons, Aymen Qader, Omar-Ali Bozdog, Barnaby Nash, Sarah Holden, and Veronika Gibbins

Week ended 13th May

Amy Barden, Mia Grose, Hannah Powell, Aidan Pittman, Christie Groom, Sinead Bacon, Dani Allistone, Demi Stiles, Brendan Pittman, Chloe Gregory, Alice Potter, and Rebecca Greene

'OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD'

I went to see this performance on Thursday 12th May in the Drama Studio.

My goodness - last year it was 'The Crucible' and this time 'Our Country's Good'! Another powerful play, and well done to the students and to Mr Stocker (playing the sinister hangman).

The scene was set by several blasts on the didgeridoo which was an eerie sound to depict the aboriginal inhabitants. The prisoners in the Sydney colony were so badly treated by the Governor - lots of lashings and beatings - all believable. A female is hanged for stealing food and the punishment metered out moved me greatly. The Army and Navy were well portrayed, and the students gave their all - they must have been exhausted at the end.

I congratulate all involved on their convincing and excellent performances.

Mrs J Williams, Governor

CYCLING TO SCHOOL

We would draw to your attention that all students who cycle to school must use roadworthy bikes. We require that parents/carers of these students sign and return a copy of our **Cycling to School Agreement** to the Welfare Office to confirm that they have checked their child's cycle is in roadworthy condition, including working brakes and reflectors, and that they undertake to check their child's cycle on a regular basis.

For full details of Ratton's provisos regarding students who wish to cycle to school, and to print off a copy of the agreement for completion and return to school, please visit the procedures section of the school website at - www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/about_our_school/procedures/

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th May

Year 10 work experience week

Tuesday 24th May

Ratton Neighbourhood Panel Meeting 4pm

Wednesday 25th May

Year 8 third HPV vaccinations

Thursday 26th May

Key Stage 3 Sports Event (*morning*)

Year 11 Graduation Ceremony

(*early closure for years 7-10*)

Friday 27th May

Last day of term 5

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June
May break

Monday 6th June

First day of term 6

8.40am

Tuesday 7th June

Governors' Meetings

Policies Sub-committee

4pm

Budget Committee

5pm

Friday 10th June

Year 9 reports home

Live Lounge

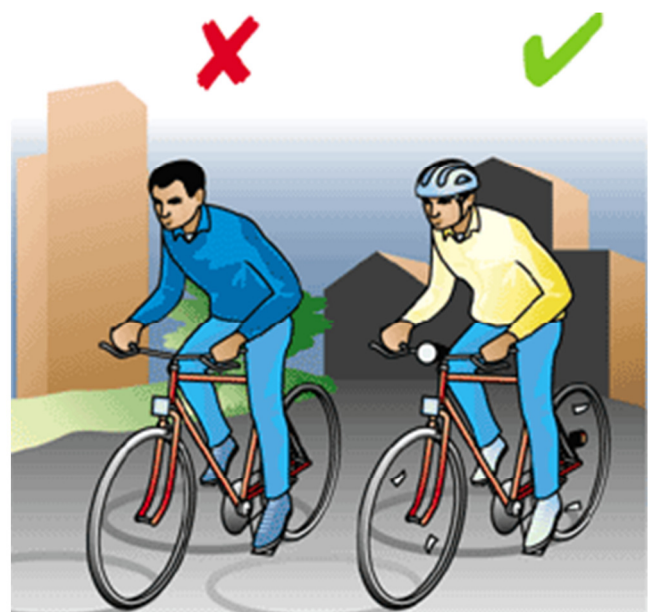
7.30pm

SCHOOL VALUES - INTEGRITY

Our students describe this as -

- Being Honest
- Having Respect
- Having Manners
- Being Loyal

Students show this on a daily basis by being polite to fellow students and teachers, being loyal to those around them, and taking responsibility for their own actions.



TEXTILES BANK AND COMPETITION

Adelphi raised £56 for Help for Heroes during their recent drive to collect old clothes and textiles, and are now arranging for a permanent textile bank to be situated in the school grounds so that collections can be done at any time - money raised will be shared between the five community charities.

We can have our own design on the front so if any students would like to design the bank there will be a prize for the best suggestion - entries to Mrs Peters by 27th May.



HELP for HEROES
Support For Our Wounded

Jason Kelly (10DCh) will be marching 35 miles along the Normandy beaches between 28th May and 4th June to help raise funds in support of **Help for Heroes**.

Jason would really appreciate your support by sponsoring his march, and if you are a UK tax payer Gift Aid can also be claimed on your donation so that an additional 28p on every £1 you give can be claimed.

If you would like to support Jason he will be outside Refresh at break times next week, or alternatively you can contact him via his tutor Mr Cane-Hardy.

Good luck Jason!

Milena Thorburn (11WLa) entered an A* Creative Writing competition and won!

When is it that you knew who you were? Was it that day that, flushed under the steady October skies, you caught sight of your reflection and smiled, content? Was it that day when you felt passion burn inside for what you realised you wanted to do? Or maybe you don't know who you are?

An anxiety squeezed my chest and it twisted in my gut, round and round. A symphony of colour, lights and sounds swirl around me drawing me out of the mess moving in my mind. Round and round.

I heaved myself up and swayed down to my new life. My usually focused mind wavered and flitted from one thought to another like a bee flickers from flower to flower.

My clock tick-tick-ticks and echoes through my mind; each tick makes my heart sink deeper into the suffocating worry - afraid of the momentous changes muddling my life. I wished I had someone to cling to.

Red brick buildings loom over me like hungry foxes crouching, waiting to consume me. Rounds of bottles squat in hidden windows in haphazard rows like matchsticks. Not a momentous change from where I used to live. A broadly built, giant of a man would stagger from his hovel to inhale the very last drops of the stagnant liquids the bottles housed.

I heard whispers behind me. My heart flurried, a frightened rabbit, as I felt the thud, thud, thud of their feet through mine. I took a separate path so as to not cross anyone. I would settle in first before getting to know the neighbours.

It took only the consistent throbbing in my knee to refrain me from hopping through the threshold of my exciting new living space. As a youngster I had had a hunting accident which left me hobbling.

Deep warm earthly feelings ran throughout the alcove and I let my baggage fall where it may. 'I'm home.' My anxiety dripped away smoothly as if it never existed to be replaced with pleasurable relief. I'd arrived.

I had gone out to grab a bite to eat. I had sauntered at a leisurely pace with some neighbours. They too had been anticipating the wonders we had heard of here. Suddenly a flash wobbled in our eye line.

Frozen to the spot like a deer in the headlights I could only watch as the shapes next to me sprinted and the lights filled my head with silent noise. Then, a scream. "Lucy! STOP."

Lucy looked down tearfully to the small shape that lay on the gravelled road. The fur was mottled with mud and blood and Lucy wasn't sure what to do. Poor rabbits get so shocked they just freeze up.

Glancing at her watch she saw that it had stopped tick, tick, ticking.

Congratulations Milena!

Ratton School U13's Cricket Match vs Oathall Community College Ratton School Won 84 - 80 runs

On Wednesday 4th May Ratton girls played their first match against Oathall. This was predicted to be a very close match as Oathall were County champions last year. A tough one to kick off the season with, especially as our team was made up of solely year 7 students playing year 8 from Oathall! However the Ratton girls - as to be expected - gave them a run for their money and won by a very close margin of only 4 runs.

Mrs Upton, PE Curriculum Leader

Unfortunately, Ratton lost the toss so we were in to bat first. Ratton lost six wickets while batting. We managed to get lots of quick easy runs as everyone hit lots of good shots. We all had a good game though. The ball was flying past the fielders. Especially well done to Molly Hill who hit 3 fours from the 3 overs she faced. When Ratton were fielding we took five wickets, one being a very good catch by Beth Tagg who was bowling at the time.

Well done to the Ratton team including Molly Hill, Robyn Arno, Megan Gates (Captain), Beth Tagg, Beth Byard, Molly Tavernor, Neve Larence, Megan Pumfrey, Lydia Readman, Ruby Hilton and Lizzie Fowley.

A good win - well done Ratton girls!

Megan Gates 7LCu

JUNIOR TRIATHLON AND AQUATHON

Hosted by Waveleisure UK

Age groups: 8-14 years

Triathlon: swim, ride, run

Aquathon: swim, run

Beginners and more experienced participants will be catered for

LEWES TRIATHLON: Sunday 19th June

SEAFORD AQUATHON: Sunday 3rd July

RINGMER TRIATHLON: Saturday 20th August

Entry forms and more details from www.waveleisure.co.uk



South Downs

FREE TRIATHALON
Thursday 7th July
Lewes Leisure Centre

Tata Kids of Steel is an exciting FREE participation-based triathlon event for children aged 8 to 13 years.

Triathlon is the fast growing Olympic sport where you get to swim, bike, and run - in that order - without stopping in between. Organised by British Triathlon, Tata Kids of Steel is your chance to see what a triathlon is all about.

Have a go in a safe environment, race over a manageable distance, enjoy yourself, and try your best - don't miss your chance to give it a try.

If you think you have the skills to tackle a 60m swim, followed by a 1200m bike ride, finished off with a 400m run then speak to Mr Brooke in the PE Department for more information.

ANTI-BULLYING STRATEGY

As part of an on-going commitment to prevent and respond to issues of bullying, the school's anti-bullying strategy is now available on the school website. This document, combined with the anti-bullying school policy and procedures, and equality policies and practices represents a whole school dedication to ensuring that students and staff support the core values of:

Respect - Being fair and caring towards yourself, others, and the environment

Integrity - Being honest, trustworthy, and true to yourself

Responsibility - Accepting the consequences of your choices and actions, and those of your community

Participation - Working together to achieve individual and common goals and being proud of your contribution

Excellence - Striving for the highest personal achievement in all aspects of individual, community, and school life

Enjoyment - Having fun, loving and sharing what you do and supporting others to do the same