

LOWERING EXPECTATIONS

This will be the last Gold Friday this term. So, if a little early, this is my opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas. Thank you for your continued support for Ratton School which is always appreciated and never taken for granted.

This term we have seen a number of new staff settling in at Ratton. They have made a remarkably good start, partly because of their talents and partly because of the support they receive from staff and students. This is also the term when we carry out a large number of formal observations of teachers; it has been a privilege and a pleasure to watch so many talented and committed staff making a real difference to the lives of our students.

I hope that, amongst other things, the Christmas break brings you rest and fellowship. Like many of you, for me one of the joys of Christmas is the effort my family makes to be together. I am looking forward to watching my grandchildren open their presents, reminding me of the sheer excitement of childhood. It's that same energy and optimism with which our students infect school.

Regarding presents, one important thing we can do this year to help those we love is expect less. In these times of the twin pressures of commercialism and austerity we need to make clear to those that we love that we would appreciate a present but small is beautiful: expect less.

Mr D Linsell, Headteacher

INNOVATION AWARD FOR SCHOOLS' MASTERCLASSES WINNERS!



On Thursday 24th November Mrs Peters was invited to attend The Albion in the Community and American Express Awards Evening.

Ratton School along with Portslade Aldridge Community Academy, Patcham High School, Dorothy Stringer School and Brighton Aldridge Community Academy were nominated for the Innovation Award for Schools' Masterclasses sponsored by American Express Technologies.

We are absolutely delighted that Ratton won the award for showing outstanding creativity, innovation and flair as part of the Schools' Masterclass programme hosted by AIC and Amex in July 2011 - congratulations and very well done to all involved!

School Council Abolished!

The Ratton School Council voted to abolish itself and create a School Parliament. The students believed that a Parliament with a Cabinet will give more drive and focus to their work. The MP's elected were -

Speaker of the House: Ellie Carter 10NST/LYr
Prime Minister: Owen Davies 9LWE/LYC
Chancellor of the Exchequer: Megan Gates 8MWO/LYC
Home Secretary: George Williams 8CPE/ADE£
Foreign Secretary: Chloe Gregory 8DCH/LYR
Secretary of State for Education: Ellie-May Swain 10CDE/LYC
Secretary of State for the Environment: Max Horsman 9CVE/ADE

Ratton School Parliament will be more than just a place for Student Voice. The Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers are going to decide the areas of school life they would like to get involved in. They will, of course, be kept under control by the Speaker!



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 18th November

Luke Emanuel, Ellis Graves, Katie Hollobone, Kayleigh Morgan, Chloe Funnell, Charlotte Parks, Mia Grose, Isaac Goff, David Cheetham

Week ended 25th November

Luke Emanuel, Joshua Jackson, Ellis Graves, Mia Grose, Conor Alexander-Hudson, Jordan Lee, Megan Nicholls

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1st December - Monday 12th December
Year 11 mock exams

Tuesday 6th December
Full Governors' Meeting 5pm

Thursday 8th December
Year 10 Subject Evening 4.15-7.15pm

Friday 9th December
Christmas Fayre 3.30pm
Aachen trip departs 10pm

Tuesday 13th December
Christmas Concert 7pm

Wednesday 14th December
Christmas Lunch in Refresh

Friday 16th December
Last day of Term 2 Early closure 1.30pm

Tuesday 3rd January 2012
First day of Term 3 8.40am

INVESTORS IN CAREERS

This is to inform all parents and guardians that as a school committed to careers education and impartial guidance we will be aiming to achieve the Investors in Careers Standard.

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GLOBE

Please note that extension number 226 is no longer in use for the Globe Welfare Assistant.

You should now use extension 122 to contact Mr Jones.

RATTON CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 9th December



20p entry

Come and support our Christmas Fayre next Friday afternoon from 3.30-5pm

Cake stalls, games, bric-a-brac and lots lots more!

All proceeds to our community charities

LOST PROPERTY

These items are available for claiming from the Care and Guidance Office if you are the owner, so please come and collect them - thank you!



EASTBOURNE HEARING CENTRE

The Year 10 Health and Social Care group have had fascinating talks from the Eastbourne Hearing Centre.

They have been able to use technological aids to help them hear accurately, and they have also seen demonstrations on alarm clocks which would wake everybody up!

The students have been introduced to sign language too, and have learnt the alphabet and welcoming words like "Good morning" and "Hello".



Now look on the back page to see what the group is saying...

Miss Lardner

EPIC E-LEARNING

Epic is an e-learning company based in Brighton, up the road from Eastbourne. It works with nearly 100 organisations every year to take any topic that staff or customers need to learn, and deliver it via technology. The subjects vary - from presentation skills for staff at Vodafone to product knowledge for staff at Sony, or aviation medicine for British Airways cabin crew. The technologies vary too - PC, smart phone or even Nintendo DS!

Epic is delighted to be a Trust Partner for Ratton School, and the mutual benefits have been numerous. So far, Ratton has been able to help Epic with students to star in some video clips for some maths education interactive resources. Students have also given feedback on some mobile revision apps Epic built with Collins Education. These same students have been offered mock interviews by Epic staff, having found out more about the many jobs that exist in the e-learning industry in an assembly given by Epic's Director of Learning, Dr Naomi Norman. "Epic has a strong ethos of being involved in community and charity projects and we feel privileged to have Ratton School among those we support," says Naomi.

You can find out more about Epic at www.epic.co.uk, and its work in the community and for charity at <http://www.epic.co.uk/news/corporate-social-responsibility-news.html>

Eastbourne Youth Radio

Ratton students took to the airwaves last week as part of the Eastbourne Youth Radio Project. EYR was on air between the 16th and 18th of November. The annual broadcast gives local students the opportunity to produce and present their own radio shows.

Jessica Davis, Stephanie Dale, Sarah Benaissa, Rachael Berrisford and Eric Barrell entertained Eastbourne on Wednesday morning. They presented a live broadcast, which consisted of music, interviews and reviews and saw them test the general knowledge of their teachers and find out what really annoys their friends!

The students worked really hard preparing the material for their broadcast and this paid off on the day. Despite the early start and initial nerves, they presented an entertaining and professional sounding broadcast and were a credit to Ratton School.



DIANA PATIENCE

Diana is in her final year at Ratton and coinciding with the conclusion to her main education has come some very exciting news! Diana has been awarded the principal role in this year's Southern Youth Ballet production of The Nutcracker which will be performed at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne on 4th December. Diana will play the part of Clara, a role which was played by Prima Ballerina Alina Cojocaru in recent Royal Ballet performances.

The Nutcracker is classical ballet at its most approachable and visually entrancing and is a seasonal favourite with something for everyone to enjoy. ETA Hoffman's story tells of one Christmas Eve, when young Clara creeps downstairs for one of her presents, but instead finds herself at the start of a night of magical adventures as the Christmas tree magically grows and the toy soldiers come to life to fight the Mouse King! The beautifully coloured imaginings of the fantasy Sugar Garden and its celebratory dances make a fabulous contrast and Peter Wright's production tells the story clearly from its mysterious start to its happy conclusion. Through it all, Tchaikovsky's music is some of the most instantly memorable of all ballet, with a wealth of famous melodies.

This is the culmination of almost 14 years of classical ballet training in which Diana has trained at The Alexandra Dance Academy in Brighton, Willingdon School of Dancing, and the Sussex School of Performing Arts and is currently training with The Royal Academy of Dance in London so these are very exciting times for her indeed! Well done Diana!

Peel2Save is the brilliant new fundraising card, launched in the summer of 2011 that is taking the UK by storm. The credit-card sized cards fit neatly into your wallet or purse and each contain 64 (yes really!) peel off coupons - each one promoting a great local business eg Pablo's, Brantano, Fort Fun, Cineworld, Pizza Hut, Frankie & Benny's, Bowling and Lazer Quest and loads more!

The cards cost £10 each but typically contain over £300 of value and every card sold will raise funds for our nominated community charities.

Please check with your child as students are bringing the info home...



RATTON ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

For many years now, Ratton has had the reputation of being **THE** school for children who want to enjoy singing, dancing, acting or being involved in Performing Arts. It is as an extension of this that, this year, has seen the launch of the new 'Ratton Academy of Performing Arts'. The Rattonians has been in existence for over 25 years and in that time literally hundreds of young people have had the experience of putting on a show in one of Eastbourne's professional theatres. Since the formation of the Rattonian Youth Group in 2006, that opportunity has been extended to students as young as seven. 'The Ratton Academy of Performing Arts' aims to give not only these youngsters, but people of all ages in the Eastbourne area, the chance to develop their interests and skills in a wide variety of the Performing Arts.

Activities include: Dance classes for exams or just for fun, including Zumba and Boys' Only classes; Singing, individual lessons or groups including Glee; Acting, including Lamda (speech and drama); Trampolining and Cheerleading.

The aim of the Academy is to involve people in activities which develop the person, their confidence, their ability to work with and for other people, and their love of the Arts. This is an exciting and developing new venture which offers everyone the chance to live their dreams.

To find out more, email mark.adams@rattonacademy.co.uk or telephone 01323 514316

'Alternative Sports' New to Ratton



A new 'Alternative Sports' unit has been introduced within the Year 10 and 11 PE programmes. This means students will experience different sports played elsewhere in the world, some of which are included within the 2012 Olympics.

Sports such as handball, tchoukball ball, bench ball, king ball, back ball and Indian dodge ball to name a few, have been enjoyed by many students as well as extending their understanding of sports outside the mainstream, prior to the 2012 Olympics.

In addition, Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been invited to attend an after school 'Alternative Sports' club run by an outside company every Wednesday from 3.15 - 4.30pm. These students have also had the chance to play kinball, street surfing and rocket ball. Students have really enjoyed the club which is growing in numbers all the time. If you are interested in joining the club, see Mrs Upton or pick up a letter from reception. At the present time a minimal introductory rate of £1.50 a week is being charged so get you name down now to join after Christmas. Do not miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

We also have a new handball club running before Xmas on Friday lunchtimes - just turn up and have a go!!!!

Movember!

This month, you may have seen some members of staff growing hair on their upper lip!? This has all been in aid of 'Movember', a charity to promote men's health and support prostate and testicular cancer initiatives. All staff taking part have donated money to take part in this worthy cause. Any donations would be greatly appreciated for all of the pain and suffering over the past month of growing a moustache! You can visit www.movember.com and search for 'Ratton School Staff' to find out more. There will be a calendar with photos of staff who took part available soon for a small donation...

Mr Brooke - PE



WHAT WERE THEY SAYING?! (page 2)



Christmas Concert on Tuesday 13th December from 7pm in the Hall

Please join us for this seasonal event which will be followed by complimentary refreshments.

Entrance is £1.00 for adults and 50p for children with all monies going to charity.

