

8th April 2011

Issue 13 2010-11

A NEW LIFE

I hope Easter brings you a happy family time and rest. However, it is worth sparing a thought for the meaning of Easter. For the Christians amongst us it is easy, “for God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life”.

But what about the eggs? Well, the eggs represent new life, and a chocolate egg (Fairtrade of course!) is a gift to celebrate the new life of spring.

These two ideas have meaning for us all - sacrifice and new life. If Christmas is about making a sacrifice to thank the people we love, Easter is a time to remember the sacrifices that others make for us. Sacrifices, big and small, change lives. When other people give of their time for us, when others do things to help us, they are giving us new life.

Easter is a good time to remember the people who make sacrifices for us and thank them for the gift of life.

HAPPY EASTER!

Mr D Linsell, Headteacher

YEAR 8 STUDENTS MEET NICKY SINGER



“We were thrilled to go on a trip to see the fantastic **Nicky Singer** at the Underground Theatre in town. There was a selection of other local schools that were also there. We thought it was fun, amusing, and a great experience. We had a quiz on her books and general knowledge about other literature. She talked about how she came up with the ideas for her novels which consisted of things that she had been through herself. After we bought a few of her books and she signed them, we even managed to get one of the library copies signed (The Innocent’s Story). We highly recommend her books to all ages.”

*Samantha Read-Riseley, Brendan Pittman, Patrick Gough,
& Adam Preston (Year 8 students) with Mrs Beck*

IMPROVING TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Ratton we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of teaching and learning in order to improve outcomes for all our students.

This year we have two programmes running, both with the aim of raising standards of teaching and learning. We have a ‘Good to Outstanding’ research project underway which involves ‘outstanding’ teachers working together and observing each other teaching to identify exactly what makes a lesson ‘outstanding’. Their findings will be cascaded to other staff so that, through further discussion and observation, they can support other colleagues to become ‘outstanding’ practitioners.

Alongside this project we have been carrying out paired lesson observations across the school, giving feedback and offering support to enable us to learn from each other to improve practice across the school. We are focussing particularly on the levels of challenge within the lesson, the engagement of students, and the progress they make in lessons.

Ofsted graded the quality of teaching at Ratton as ‘good’. We are aiming higher!

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 1st April

Millie Weeks, Jakub Swider, Sarah Holden, Ellie Chapman, India Elliott, Aimee Gray, Liam Shields, Zoe Heather, Natasha Gash-Quantrell, Amy Potter, and Summer Donnachie

10 weeks to 1st April

Sarah Holden, Ellie Chapman, Megan Dennis, Jamie-Leigh Rae, Christie Groom, Aidan Pittman, Lauren Johnson, Lucy Pedersen, Beth Tagg, and Jamie Taylor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 11th April - Monday 25th April
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR EASTER BREAK

Tuesday 26th April

First day of Term 5

8.40am

Thursday 28th April

Graduation count stops

Friday 29th April

School closed in celebration of marriage of HRH Prince William and Miss Kate Middleton

Monday 2nd May

May Day Bank Holiday - school closed

Tuesday 3rd April - Friday 6th April

Year 10 exams



Please bring your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles (sheets, towels, cushions etc) into school the first week back after the Easter break. They will be collected by the council who will pay us by the weight raised, with all proceeds going to **Help for Heroes** - the charity which raises money to support members of the Armed Forces who have been wounded in the service of our country.

Thank you!

BMX/Skate Park in Hampden Park?

The Friends of Hampden Park have formed a Steering Group to see if they can resurrect the BMX track on the periphery of the park adjacent to Cross Levels Way which was subjected to an arson attack some 2-3 years ago and was never rebuilt. They will be trying to raise funds, identify exactly what people would like, and see what they can achieve.

To aid their efforts sourcing funding they would like to survey residents and potential users and ask that anyone interested in using such a facility go to their Facebook page **Everol YMCA** to download a survey form and email it back to them at everol-ymca@hotmail.co.uk by 30th April 2011.

Ratton Live Lounge - Friday 10th June at 7.30pm in the Hall

An evening of live covers of songs from the charts featuring students and staff from Ratton School.

If you would like to be involved, please see Mrs Wood.

REVISION

For all Year 11 and Year 10 Linear students and Mr Anderson's Year 9 students - please use the materials on the VLE to aid your studies: to access materials you go into 'Maths course' and then 'Year 11'.

Good luck with all your exams!

PLEA TO PARENTS OF SICK CHILDREN!

There have been several instances recently where students have contacted parents when they feel unwell, using their mobiles, and then parents have collected them from school.

However, it is vital that any such requests go through the appropriate Welfare Officer for your child's community so that we are fully aware of the whereabouts of all students, particularly in case of the event of fire or other evacuation.

Thank you for your support.

UK Junior Maths Challenge 2011

This year's Junior Maths Challenge will take place at school on Friday, 6th May. The top 100 highest achieving mathematicians in years 7 and 8 will be selected to take part in this exciting opportunity. If successful they could go on to take part in both regional and national finals.

Good Luck to all of you!

Miss Blyth (KS3 Curriculum Leader - Mathematics)

29th March 2011 - Year 8 Rugby vs Hailsham Community College

Ratton looked hungry for tries as they started the game off with some strong powerful runs from the midfield. Some tough tackles from the defensive line made sure that the HCC players would not get on the scoresheet in the first 10 minutes. Hailsham managed to take advantage from a Ratton mistake to score the first points with a converted try. Several times Ratton looked to get over the try line, but HCC kept their defensive line strong by piling on the pressure against a determined Year 8 team. Hailsham scored another 2 un-converted tries with no reply. Some strong Ratton tackles followed, allowing **Tom Groves** to pierce through the HCC defence, completing his 20 metre mazy run with a try between the posts. Another 2 points were added with a **Freddie Black** conversion. Trailing 17-7, it looked as though Ratton could fight back. Another Hailsham try before half time dented the home team's confidence as the visitors stretched their lead with another 7 points.

Determination kicked in during the half-time team talk, but an early converted try in the second half from the visitors put the game beyond reach. The Ratton team kept on pushing, but it was clear that there was not much gas left in the tanks of the 16 player squad. HCC scored 3 more converted tries to finish the game off, resulting in a loss of 7-52 for the Ratton team.

Please come along and show your support for future fixtures - watch this space!

Mr Brooke, PE Dept



Year 8 squad: George Baker, Bruce Partridge, Ollie Braby, Owen Davies, Irvin Allymohamed, James Stone, Khevane Byroo, Tom Groves, Freddie Black, Ryan Gregory, Ryan Button, Reece Giles, Chris Hartigan-Jeremiah, Alex Carolan, Jake Botting, and Garrat Weblin.

Ratton Girls continue their sporting success!

Last Tuesday, the Year 7 Basketball team hammered their Seaford opponents by a whopping 23 - 9 with all the girls playing well. The victory was complimented by the Year 8's winning by a narrow margin of 10 points to 8.

Congratulations to all!

Cricket Competition for Ratton School

ESPNCricinfo are offering 30 lucky children the chance to win a junior coaching session with two former international players at Lord's Cricket Ground on **Friday May 20th 2011**. In order to enter, please go to www.espncriinfo.com/chancetoshine and answer the question: Who is the current England captain? The closing date for the competition is **Monday 18th April**.

GERMAN EXCHANGE - STUDENT REPORT

From 23rd - 30th March students from years 8, 9, and 10 went on the German exchange to Elmshorn near Hamburg. On the first day we had to get a plane to Hamburg airport and then took a train to Elmshorn where we were met by our pen pals. At 5:30 we went to Erich Kaster Gemeinschaftschule for a welcome party, with each parent bringing a traditional German dish. The next day we went to the school and we had a tour round the school. At the moment they are in the middle of building a new school. They showed us the rooms including the canteen and the games and chill room. They also showed the room where they keep animals like fish, hamsters, birds etc. Then we went in to a couple of lessons. At 11 o'clock we walked into the little shopping centre in Elmshorn. The next day we went to Hamburg and went to St Michel's Church where we went to the top of the tower. There were some amazing views and you could see all around Hamburg. Then we went to the mini railway museum. Afterwards we went to the main shopping centre where we were allowed to go off and shop and then we got the train back to Elmshorn.

On Saturday we spent the day with the family. They took us to places such as the fair, zoo, swimming, beach and places like that. In the evening we went bowling and spent time with our pen pals. On Sunday we spent the whole day and night with our families and some of us stayed at home and some went out as it was up to the families what you were going to do that day.

On Monday we went to Berlin. It was a long train ride so we had to wake up earlier than normal. We had a tour along the site of the Berlin Wall and saw other famous sites like the Jewish Memorial and the Reichstag. On the last day we went back in to school for 3 lessons and had a farewell pizza party. We said goodbye to all the friends we made and then we went back to our pen pals house to pack. The day we left there were tears and laughter. It was a very successful and enjoyable week.

Millie Stone year 8

eastbourne **SHOUT!**

Find out more: 01323 514322 /
m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk.

Eastbourne Shout followed by
local student bands

Warming up with 'Oh I do Like
To Be Beside The Seaside'
Shout Songs are Greensleeves,
Summertime, Yellow
Submarine, Mamma Mia
and a Lady Ga Ga Medley.



Come along and sing along

**Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd May, 3pm
at Eastbourne Bandstand.**

Just turn up or learn the songs in advance: www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk (click Eastbourne Shout in the Quick Links on the left).



Play Day!

at the Redoubt

Find out more: 01323 746514 /
kibson@cavendish.e-sussex.sch.uk

FREE outdoor activities include:
Mosaics
Badges, Buttons and Flags
Outdoor games
Semaphor

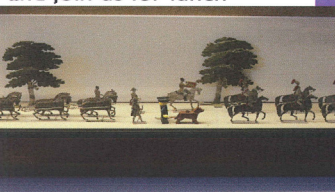
**Performances and
Have-A-Go workshops from:**
Ratton Stomps
The Ratton School
Irish Dancers
Circus Monkeys



Bring a picnic and a cushion
and join us for lunch

Indoor activities include:
Museum Mannequins
Camarada Installation
Performances from:
BYT Kids and
Revisededition Youth
Theatre

Entrance to the museum costs £3
per child, free for accompanying adult



Saturday 14th May, 11am - 3pm

