

five communities + one vision

# one school

Ratton is a great school where students are happy and successful and where:

Skilful and dedicated staff help students have high aspirations and realise their potential;

Strong discipline creates a safe environment and good behaviour enables the best possible learning;

There are excellent facilities and wonderful opportunities;

Governors are determined that the school will provide an outstanding education.

# one vision

We are united by a shared vision for Ratton:

Developing caring, confident and creative students who achieve excellence.

# one set of virtues

To be a part of Ratton means to believe in one set of core virtues:

**Compassion** - Showing kindness and caring for other people and the environment.

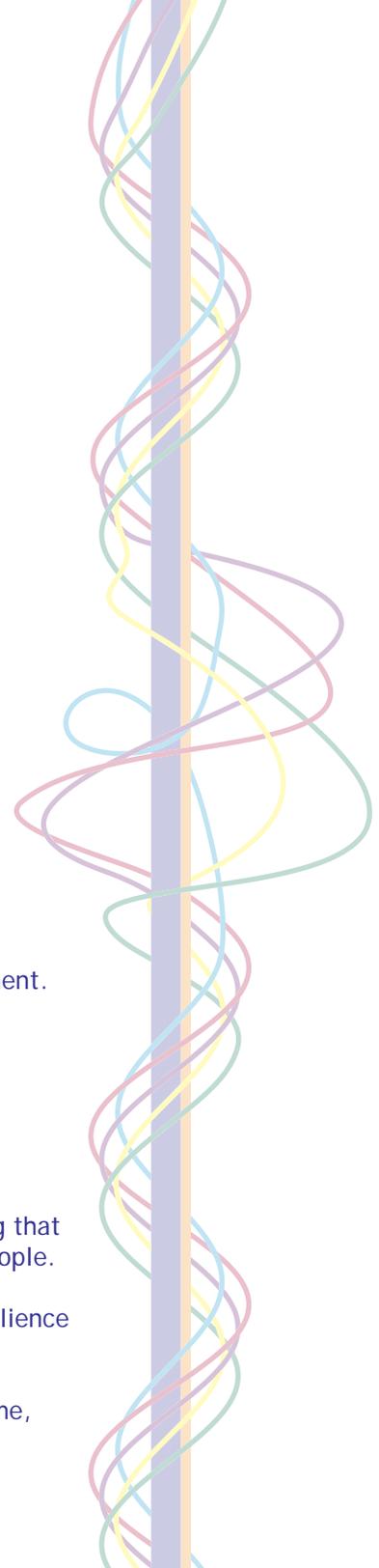
**Respect** - Acting with respect to others both in and out of school. Valuing diversity and avoiding discriminatory language.

**Creativity** - Being curious about the world, solving problems and asking thoughtful questions.

**Team Work** - Achieving together by working as part of a team. Understanding that we all have to do our fair share and get along with different people.

**Effort** - Putting effort into all aspects of school life. Demonstrating resilience when faced with a challenge.

**Responsibility** - Taking responsibility by being in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.





# HEAD BOYS & HEAD GIRLS 2016-17



*// I cannot speak highly enough of the school and my daughter has been very happy throughout her five years. //*

Year 11 Parent

*We seek and achieve a national reputation for excellence.*

*// Students like being a member of the five different learning communities and small tutor groups. They are competitive and participate in school and in the local and wider community. //*

OFSTED

We continually review what we do in order to improve and strive for the highest personal achievement in all aspects of individual, community and school life. We judge ourselves against the best nationally and internationally.

EXCELLENCE



*// I am delighted with my son's response to the Performing Arts which was not a high priority when choosing a school, but has really helped his confidence and self-esteem. //*

*// There are wide ranging opportunities for students to deepen their experiences through the performing arts, clubs and extra classes, which are very popular. //*

Year 11 Parent

OFSTED

We believe that if our students are to make a difference in the world then they need to be creative, to be free thinkers capable of developing original ideas so that they can go out and change the world. We believe that if our students are to be successful in a highly competitive international labour market they need to have excellent qualifications and the ability to be flexible and innovative.

**Ratton has an outstanding reputation in the Arts and a wide range of other subjects including the Sciences, Humanities and Languages. We have a strong culture of creativity, successfully unlocking the creative abilities in all students whether they are performers or not:**

- + Through Music, all students develop confidence and have an opportunity to play an instrument and develop and master skills that will bring themselves and others great enjoyment.
- + Through Drama, all students develop team working skills and confidence and have the opportunity to perform at professional venues with the Rattonians Youth Group.
- + Through Dance, all students have the opportunity to perform across the genre from popular to classical, as well as improving their fitness and dexterity.
- + Through Art, all students gain the confidence to express their thoughts, ideas and opinions through the manipulation of a wide and exciting range of materials, tools and media.

The flexibility and innovative approach that comes from a strong culture of creativity benefits the students far beyond the Performing Arts. A strong creative culture leads to exciting and stimulating teaching and inventive and ground-breaking opportunities for learning.

Ratton has a very strong reputation for developing student confidence. We believe that if our students are to succeed in the modern world they must be confident in their own ability and confident to say what they think and stand up for what they believe in.

Ratton students are happy and successful. We build confidence by giving our students a very wide range of high quality enjoyable opportunities where they succeed.

# Achieving Together with the Curriculum

At Ratton, we are able to offer an exciting and innovative curriculum which aims to prepare our students for academic success as well as enable them to develop as confident and well informed young people. Our curriculum is broad and balanced, offering a wide range of opportunities both within and beyond the curriculum. For example, students have the opportunity to study three modern foreign languages - French, German and Spanish as well as Latin for some students. In Maths, students in years 7 and 8 are grouped according to their ability, regardless of their age.

Ethics is an important and popular subject that students enjoy from Year 7 and through their Ethics lessons Year 7 students are supported through the challenges of transition from primary school. As they progress through the school they are given the opportunity to debate and discuss the issues they face as young adults as well as developing their understanding of other cultures and religions.

In English, students are encouraged to be creative, critical readers and writers. They are exposed to a wide range of texts and encouraged to read widely. Every week we have 'Drop Everything and Read' when all members of the school community take 15 minutes out of their day to simply read for pleasure.

Ratton's extra curricular offer is very extensive and really does have something to suit everyone:

- + Sport - we have highly successful sports teams across a wide range of sports.
- + Performing Arts - Ratton has a strong and long-standing reputation and there are clubs and groups to suit all ages and abilities.
- + Cooking, Chess, Astronomy, Art, Textiles, Gardening are just some of many clubs on offer.
- + Travel - there is an extensive range of trips for students in all years and we have strong national and international links, recognised by the prestigious 'International Schools Award'.
- + Careers - information, advice and guidance begins from year 7 with creative and innovative ways of encouraging students to consider and plan for their future as they progress through the school.



*“ The core values of the school underpin the caring relationships between staff and students and mean that students behave well and feel safe. ”*

OFSTED

*“ My child has gone from strength to strength since joining Ratton and has become a more confident and happier child who looks forward to school every morning. ”*

Year 8 Parent



C O N F I D E N C E



*// I feel that at Ratton I have found out many things about myself, what potential I have and the skills I need in order to do well in life. //*

Year 11 Student

# Achieving Together

At Ratton, we understand that to succeed we need to work in partnership with parents, students and the local community to ensure that every single child fulfils their potential.

'Achieving Together' is not just a commitment to work in partnerships - it is at the heart of our ethos and systems. Ratton is a friendly, approachable and responsive school.

# Achieving Together with parents...

Our systems ensure that parents are involved in the life of the school by:

- + Effective home-school communication through the use of the Ratton website, our fortnightly newsletter, email and letters.
- + Keeping parents up-to-date about their child's progress by using reports, year group 'success evenings' and providing information about the rewards and sanctions their child may have been given.
- + Consulting and involving parents with regular surveys and information events.
- + Providing strong teams in care, welfare and attendance ensuring that parents are always able to have direct contact with somebody who knows their child well.

Our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy can be found at [www.ratton.co.uk/about-our-school/policies-procedures](http://www.ratton.co.uk/about-our-school/policies-procedures)

# five communities one school

This is what our students think about their communities ...



**Adelphi** is a vibrant community where every student counts and is valued.



**Apollo** is an open-minded community that is dedicated to preparing young people to compete successfully in an ever-changing world.



**Globe** is a caring community where students are compassionate and culturally aware.



**Lyceum** is a community that explores languages to build an open-minded world.



**Lyric** is a talented, enthusiastic performing community. Enjoying excellence, it is the spotlight of Ratton.

**//** *Ratton School promotes the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.* **//**

**// The school's performing arts specialism makes a strong contribution to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, their enjoyment of learning, arts culture and personal development. //**

OFSTED

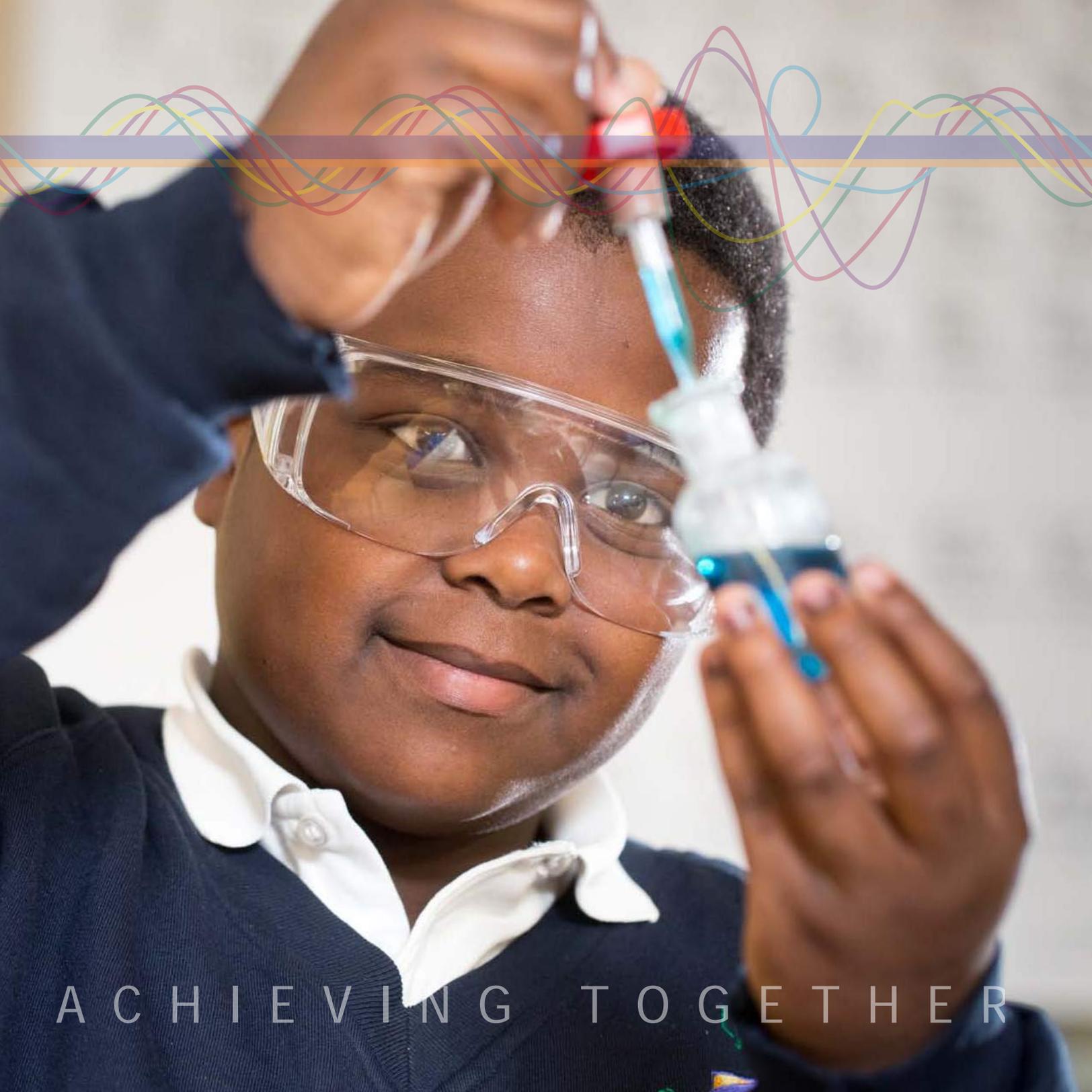
We believe that to develop the whole person we need to encourage our students to care for their school, home, community and the wider world.

**Care is about action:** we help our students understand that if they really care then they will behave and try their hardest. We put great emphasis on our students knowing their rights, but also their responsibilities and showing respect for others.

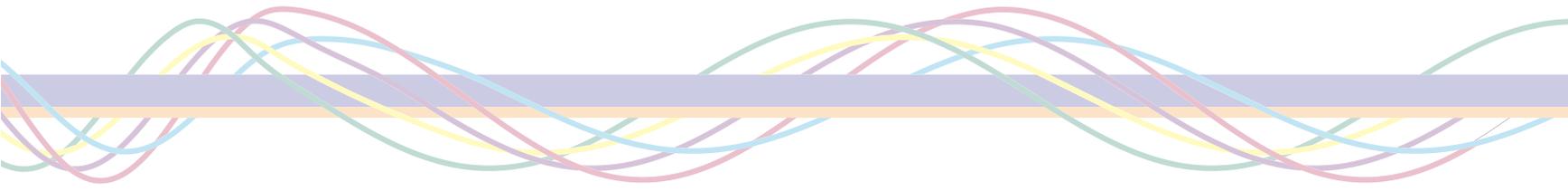
**Learning Communities:** a vibrant part of the school, designed to make a big school seem smaller - with small tutor groups, high levels of support, opportunities for leadership and competition between communities.

**Communities strengthen our students' sense of belonging:** belonging to a tutor group, belonging to a learning community, and being a part of Ratton School. Your sons and daughters will quickly identify with their community; they will mix with students from other year groups who all have a common identity. They will become proud of their community and have the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of community activities.





A C H I E V I N G T O G E T H E R





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# Achieving Together with the local community...

Ratton has a good understanding of both the needs of its local community and how our community can support Ratton, including:

- + Collaborating with other schools for the benefit of young people across Eastbourne.
- + Using our wide range of resources to benefit our partner primary schools.
- + Using our international links to promote international learning.
- + Understanding, and cooperation.
- + Acting as a community resource at evenings & weekends.

# Achieving Together with students...

We ensure our students play a valuable role in shaping the future of the school and are partners in learning by:

- + Giving the student body a very powerful voice through active student-led Learning Community and School Council meetings.
- + Providing students with a wide range of opportunities to take on leadership roles.
- + Arranging meetings on a regular and frequent basis between the Head Boys and Head Girls and the Headteacher.
- + Giving students who have become accomplished autonomous learners a greater say in what and how and where they learn.