

## DIARY DATES

### Monday 12th October

Open Mornings 9.10am & 10.15am

### Tuesday 13th October

Open Mornings 9.10am & 10.15am

Govs Resources Committee 5pm

### Wednesday 14th October

Open Mornings 9.10am & 10.15am

Y9 1st Generation—Uni of Sussex

### Thursday 15th October

Open Mornings 9.10am & 10.15am

Y10 Success Evening 5.30pm-7pm

### Monday 19th October

Open Mornings 9.10am & 10.15am

### Tuesday 20th October

Open Mornings 9.10am & 10.15am

Y7 'Streetwise Pedestrian Safety'

Govs TLA Committee 5pm

### Wednesday 21st October

Open Mornings 9.10am & 10.15am

### Thursday 22nd October

Open Mornings 9.10am & 10.15am

## LIGHTING THE WHOLE SKY

We had over 200 students acting as tour guides or helping in all subjects at our Open Evening. There was an amazing atmosphere with the whole school community involved in showing the breadth of opportunity we offer as a school. The key to the evening was how our students reflected the values - particularly 'Responsibility' and 'Excellence'.

There is one more 'Success Evening' to go; Thursday 15th of October starting at 5.30pm for Year 10. The evening will focus on some of the significant changes for Year 10, in the format and content of GCSE exam courses, especially in Maths and English. We look forward to welcoming parents/carers and students to this popular event.

With National Poetry Day happening this week, I just wanted to share a short poem by a Persian poet, Hafez:

**The Sun Never Says**  
Even after all this time  
the sun never says to the earth,  
'You owe me.'  
Look what happens with  
a love like that.  
It lights the whole sky.

Please enjoy this newsletter.

*Mr Knox-Macaulay, Headteacher*

## Congratulations

Many congratulations to our highest achieving students whose hard work and commitment we are proud to recognise.

These students are identified for 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, good effort in class, effort in tutor time and participation in an extra-

curricular activity to name but a few!

### Week ended 25th

#### September

James de Savigny, Bethany Lenihan, Diogo Gomes, Tadiwa Musarurwa, Fletcher Burton and Iryna Askirka

### Week ended 1st October

Tadiwa Musarurwa, Adam Milsom-Smith, Marie Hunnisett, Taylor Briley, Levi Woolf, Nathan Eade, Madeline White, Luke Drakeley and Jose-Carlos Valero

## NICOLE BOOKER GETS TOP BALLET MARKS

This year Nicole has taken numerous exams including her Gold medal for Ballet which she took a couple of years early due to the high standard she has already achieved. Nicole took her exams at the beginning of July and got results at end August gaining top marks at Honours 90/90.



Every February Nicole participates in various disciplines of Dance at the Eastbourne Music and Arts Festival at the Winter Garden. This year she came 2nd in her class for her Character.

## Learning an instrument at Ratton

There are many instruments which you can learn at Ratton.

We have many instrumental teachers, from both the East Sussex Music Service and the private sector, who come into the school on a weekly basis. Instruments available are: violin, cello, trumpet, keyboard, piano, guitar, bass guitar, drums, saxophone, clarinet, flute and more.

Prices are very reasonable and take parental income into account.

If your child is interested in learning, please email Mr Kearsey at [r.kearsey@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:r.kearsey@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk)

## Year 11 Careers Day



On 30<sup>th</sup> September Y11 students took part in a Careers Day. The day was productive and informative with students taking part in different workshops that helped us think about our future.

Workshops included: searching for college courses; how to present at interview; thinking of university and learning about apprenticeships. Students also attended a college fair with a variety of colleges giving out information on their college and answering any questions. As well as this, John Young, a local TV newsreader and reporter, delivered a workshop. This included students reading off an autocue pretending to talk to a prospective employer.

Overall, it was an interesting insight for what lies ahead for us.

*Summer Elliott, Y11 student*

9th October 2015

## GCSE REFORM UPDATE

As you may be aware GCSE qualifications are being reformed. Below is a summary explaining what we know about the changes. The new GCSEs (9-1 GCSEs) are being introduced gradually, with the first wave being taught from September 2015. Old style GCSEs (A\* -G) GCSEs will no longer be taught from September 2018.

### Reformed GCSEs (9-1 GCSEs)

Will be more demanding; have been designed for a two-year period of study; will be linear so students will take all of their exams at the end of the course (usually the end of year 11); non-exam assessment known as coursework or controlled assessment will be removed or reduced in the majority of GCSEs; will have a new grading scale from 9 to 1.

### A New Grading Scale

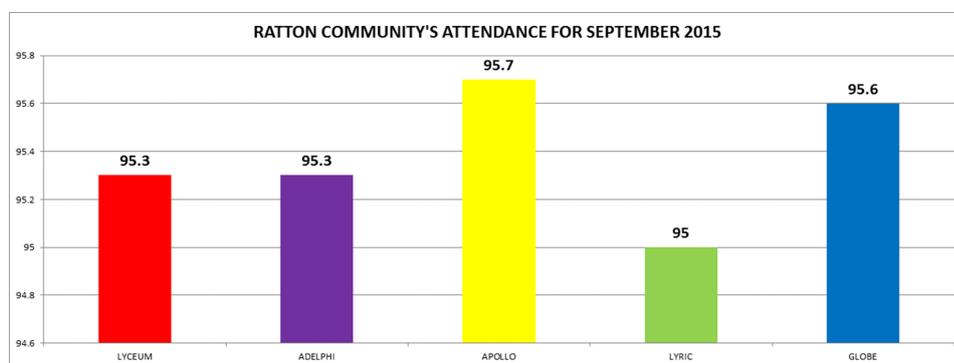
Reformed GCSEs will be introduced gradually over three years from September 2015. They will be graded from 9 to 1 instead of A\* to G. Students taking GCSEs over this period will therefore receive a mixture of 9 to 1 and A\* to G grades.

Students will not lose out as a result of the changes. Exam boards will ensure that: broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above; broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above; the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G; grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C and bottom third of a grade B. A grade 5 has been defined as a good pass by the Department of Education.

The phased introduction of reformed GCSEs will mean students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades in summer 2017 and summer 2018.

If you have any questions about the introduction of the new GCSE courses please don't hesitate to contact Mr Welsh at [j.welsh@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:j.welsh@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk) or alternatively more information about GCSE reform and when reformed GCSEs will be introduced for individual subjects is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-changes-a-summary](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-changes-a-summary)

## COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER



**Congratulations to Apollo who had the highest community attendance for September.** Good attendance and punctuality is really important so that there is not any lost learning due to absence. Just a reminder that in order to maximise learning, we are not allowed to authorise holidays during term time unless it is for an exceptional reason. **We wish to strengthen our attendance and punctuality and to support this, over the next couple of weeks we will be conducting punctuality sweeps.** Students arriving late will be expected to stay behind on that evening for 20 minutes. We will text you to let you know if your son/daughter is late. Thank you for supporting this.

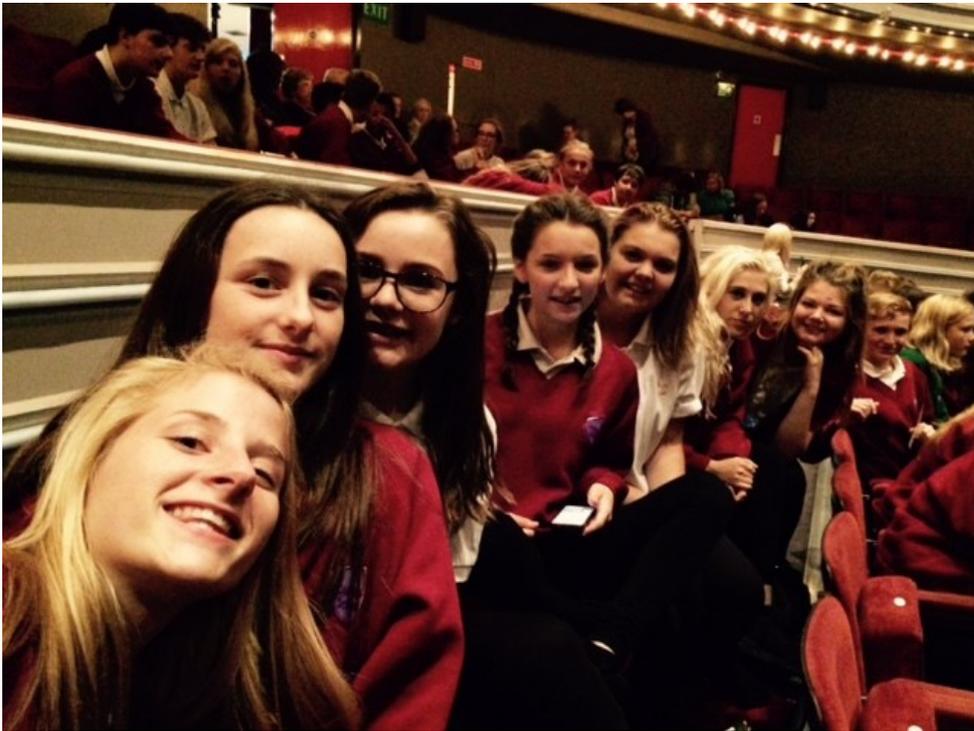
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## An Inspector Calls—Review by Berry Eaglestone

Last month I went on a school trip to see An Inspector Calls. It was an excellent production and well worth going to see.

After seeing the production I now understand the play and context better; it showed what it was really like back in Edwardian times and how important status was. It was so realistic it felt like I was a part of the scene with brilliant effects and great acting.

Educational and fun - a fantastic school trip!



## The Vikings Invade Ratton!

Despite being run out of the UK in 1100AD the Vikings reappeared when students from Year 7 took part in the European Day of Languages by learning about the Vikings; how Viking words are still used today in the days of the week and UK place names (you're welcome Grimsby!). Then utilising the ancient language of Runes, they built their own Viking shields to go into battle with. Luckily no deaths were dedicated to Odin that day and everyone had a lovely time.

Miss Jensen (Ethics & part-time Viking)



9th October 2015

# Mass ride

(or walk)

with  
Safe Cycling  
**bespoke**  
Eastbourne Cycle Campaign Group  
at 3.30pm, Sunday 29th November

*Move for climate change action and  
mount your bike, or walk the prom,  
meet at Wish Tower slopes 3.30 pm,  
29th November to form a bright pack  
to cycle, part road,  
to Sovereign Harbour and back..  
with fairy lights for glowing bikes  
or lanterns for those stepping out,  
to lift our spirits and light the way,  
join millions mobilising that day  
around the world, that hope and pray,  
world leaders meeting in Paris next  
day make the move to modify,  
heed the Pope, hear Bono's cry.  
It's carnage, banker Carney sees  
to financial stability.  
Arrest the mess of wasted hours  
and days and years, here and now!*



## VALUES IN ACTION

Please can parents, carers, friends or other family members respect our neighbours by not parking across their driveways when collecting or dropping off children for school.

Also, please do not park on the yellow zig zag lines outside school or use the school drive at any time (except for disabled persons).

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**SCHOOLS FANTASY LEAGUE**  
www.schoolsfl.com

**Ratton School**  
achieving together

**FANTASY FOOTBALL IS BACK**

**SCORING STARTS OCTOBER 17TH!**



Pick an awesome team name

Choose a team of premier league superstars!

Manage your team over the season

Compete against your friends and teachers

Enter your team today: [www.schoolsfl.com](http://www.schoolsfl.com)

Join the Ratton School league by entering the pin: **6698174**

Speak to Mr. Brooke for more details.

**EASTBOURNE**  
Borough Council

**Sportivate**  
inspired by 2012

**TRAMPOLINING**

**Bounce your way to fitness**

**WHEN:** Monday Evenings 5.15 - 6.15pm From November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015.

**WHERE:** Cavendish Sports Centre

**WHO:** Females aged 11-16 years old

**COST:** Pay just **£10** for the 6 week course.

If you attend every session you will then receive a **£10 discount** off the next term of trampolining!

Please note the next term may be held on a different day/time and/or at one of our other sports centres

**Sign Up Today!**




active SUSSEX  
SPORT ENGLAND

## Good Neighbour Schemes - volunteering opportunities for parents

East Sussex has one of the largest populations of people over the age of 85 in the country, with around 10 per cent of older people saying they feel lonely. The Good Neighbour Schemes are playing a vital role in tackling the growing problem of social isolation.

Do you have a bit of time that you could use to help others?

Are you interested in being more involved in your local community?

Would your neighbourhood benefit from a Good Neighbour Scheme?

Would you volunteer to help?

East Sussex County Council is working with five community and voluntary organisations to set up and develop Good Neighbour Schemes across East Sussex.

This exciting project is about:

helping others in your street, village or local area

popping in for a chat or helping out with practical things like shopping or gardening

getting involved with others in your community to lend a helping hand

using your skills to support your community

Good Neighbour Schemes link people who need some support with volunteers from their community who are able to help. The support includes befriending and can include practical help such as collecting shopping, pensions or prescriptions, small household jobs, helping with pets, letter writing and form filling.

To find out more about volunteering opportunities, visit: [new.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/volunteering/good\\_neighbour\\_schemes/](http://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/volunteering/good_neighbour_schemes/)