

Ratton The Newsletter

A fortnightly insight



DIARY DATES

Tuesday 1st December

Governors Strategy Mtg 8.45am

Thursday 3rd December

Interact Live Lounge 3.30-4.30pm

23rd November–4th December

Y11 Pre-Public Exams

Friday 4th December

Inset Day

Tuesday 8th December

Full Governors Mtg 5.00pm

Academy AGM 6.30pm

Wednesday 9th December

Christmas Dance Evening 6.30pm

Thursday 10th December

Y8 Parents Evening 4.15-7.15pm

Songs for Syria POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY 2016—WATCH THIS SPACE!

Christmas Approacheth!

Year 11 have made a good start to their pre-public exams and have approached the process in a very positive and professional way. We know that exams are not the most exciting part of school life but a calm and well planned run in will give Year 11 the best possible chance for success. The results will give students and staff the opportunity to celebrate what went well and work on any gaps in learning.

As this is the penultimate newsletter of 2015, it is a good opportunity to reflect on what went well over the last year and how we can improve. As far as improvements, the new Student Parliament toured the site with Mr Brown this week and is looking at possible improvements we could make to the school environment. Their feedback will be very important and will make a strong contribution to our student leadership.

I am looking forward to the assemblies celebrating the large number of students in Years 7 to 9 who have achieved the Ratton Diploma. The purpose of the Diploma is to reward as many students as possible for their day-to-day effort in school. It is really important that we are working hard to recognise those 'quiet heroes' in school.

We have a number of Christmas events coming up including a Christmas Dance Evening on 9th December at 6.30pm, a MUFTI Christmas Jumper Day on 15th December, our Winter Concert on 15th December at 7pm and Christmas Lunch on 16th December.

Please enjoy this newsletter packed full of the achievements of our students.

Mr Knox-Macaulay, Headteacher

Congratulations

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 13th November

Maggie Rayner, Harvey Breach, Kerry Davies, Sadie Douglas, Abbie Lewis, Regan Tannahill, Erin Molyneux, Jevan Cousins, Eion Bevens and Chloe Hastie

Week ended 20th November

Chloe Bird, Maddie Tann, Ruby Backler, Taylor Briley, Georgia Harrison, Joshua Chin, Benny Norris, Hannah Vera-Morris and Evelyn Croswell

Suwi raises £200

On Saturday 14th November Suwi Simfukwe who is in Year 8, participated in the Eastbourne Lions Club fundraising Swimathon.

He was representing his 3rd Eastbourne Boys Brigade Company and completed 36 lengths in 20 minutes, and raised almost £200!

We are very proud of Suwi's achievements.



MEETING JENNY McLACHLAN

On Tuesday 10th November a selection of year 8 and 9 girls were given the great opportunity to meet the local author Jenny McLachlan.

It was great sitting in a room full of extraordinary writers from years 8 through 9 and a professional writer! I enjoyed the gathering so much because she let us in on the tips and tricks that she uses to create her heartfelt stories. She also shared with us the things that she had been through when she was a teenager herself such as almost dying when eating a liquorice allsort because she was scared by a ghost at the theatre and being in a Technology class at school and dropping a chisel that got wedged into her shin and being too embarrassed to tell anyone, so she limped the entire way home!

Jenny is a funny and talented person and I was very happy to be one of the people lucky enough to meet her. I enjoyed the meeting so much that I bought one of her books called 'Love Bomb'. Jenny bases her stories on teenage girls, similar to herself when she was that age, who are entering adulthood and exploring the difficult decisions that we have to make.

The books that Jenny has written are: 'Love Bomb', 'Flirty Dancing' and 'Sun Kissed'. She is also writing a new book, which is due to be published in March.

You can follow Jenny on her Instagram which is @JennyMcLachlan_writer

By Aimee Perry



LOVE IN A BOX



Year 7 students Aleshia Warren, Tineeki Trott and Luana Torres were upset to learn that some children will not receive any Christmas presents and decided to do something about it. They want to make a difference to underprivileged children throughout Eastern Europe by working with the Mustard Seed Relief Mission to provide boxes of presents made up by using shoe boxes decorated with Christmas paper. The girls would love your help by making up a shoebox which will be individually received by a child who wouldn't normally get any Christmas presents. Please collect a leaflet from reception for suggestions as to what you can include in your box and make sure that you include a completed label available from reception.

The deadline for receiving boxes in school, which should be taken to room 215, is 2nd December.

'Each shoe box is picked up, checked, sealed and sent to the children via lorry. The lorry is met by the English distribution team where the precious gifts are given out to the children who are eagerly awaiting them. Then the fun begins as the children open the gifts. There is always a shriek of laughter, joy and excitement. The children wait all year for this moment. The children always thank the distribution teams and ask us to say a big thank you to all the kind English people who show they care.' Mustard Seed Relief Mission

Bag packing at Tesco on 7th November 9.30am-5pm

A group of our fabulous students organised packing bags in Tesco's at Langney and raised £453 for the Jade Allistone Brighter Future Fund - with the proceeds going directly to GOSH.

We are very proud of them!



DOUBLE PRIMARY SCHOOL FESTIVALS



Ratton School Academy Trust hosted two primary sports festivals in the space of three days as Year 9 Sports Leaders continue in their quest to maintain the legacy left after the London 2012 Olympic Games into the Rio 2016 Games by enthusing younger children to participate in physical activity.

Monday 16th November saw 30 Year 1's and 2's from Roselands taking part in a Hockey Festival where a variety of different stations were designed and led by the Ratton Sports Leaders team. The children from Roselands had a thoroughly enjoyable time, acquiring and developing skills and using them in competitive situations. The 15 Year 9 Sports Leaders, all working towards their Ratton Diploma Award, engaged with all the children involved, communicating, demonstrating and assisting their guests from (which for some) their old infant school. For this group of Sports Leaders, it was the first of 5 Primary School Festivals that they will lead this academic year. Many congratulations on such a fantastic display of leadership and communication, generating enthusiasm in physical activity to the younger generation goes to Sam Lock, Rachel Davis, Amber Gunter, Kamran Yousefi, Matthew Powell-Cullingford, Nathan Gost, Jake Hulkes, Riley Tomkinson, Sadie Goff, Beth Lenihan, Jane Scholes, Tallulah Roberts, Melissa Priestman, Michelle Chisnell and Heather Read-Riseley.

The high standard of delivery was continued into Wednesday's Trampoline Festival, when 15 Year 1's from Motcombe participated in an action packed afternoon filled with an array of jumps, twists, bounces and seat landings. The other group of 15 Sports Leaders guided the children during their turn on the trampoline to new heights and ignited a passion in the youngsters, perhaps wanting to be catapulted into the world of gymnastics in years to come! For this group of Sports Leaders, this was their second primary sports festival, previously leading a Year 3/4 basketball session with children from Tollgate and yet again demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and school values during this time. A highly positive, active and engaging afternoon fostering independence and perseverance from all involved. Many congratulations to this group of sports leaders also - Samuel Kranidiotis, Jonatas Constancio, Jamie Grose, Ben Poole, Daisy Cass, Kerry Davies, Georgia Gates, Ebony Grant, Georgia Harrison, Laila Lansdowne, Rebecca Marshall-McCleave, Molly Richardson, Jessica Tilley and Tegan Wheeler.

YEAR 9 STUDENTS WIN THEMSELVES A PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD!

On Tuesday 24th November **Amber Gunter, Daisy Dibbens and Heather Read-Riseley** participated in a public speaking event which was held in commemoration of Ian Gow the former Member of Parliament for Eastbourne.

Students from six different schools in Eastbourne delivered a 10 minute speech on the theme of democracy to an audience which included 'Question Time' presenter David Dimbleby and the local MP Caroline Ansell.

Ratton School won high praise from all the judges - they commented on the engaging and confident delivery of the students and the thorough research they had done in preparing for it. The students impressed the judges so much that they were also given the second place award!



Harriet and Sarah Compete at Regionals



Two Ratton students who swim for Eastbourne Swimming Club recently qualified to compete in the South East Regional Winter Short-course Championships at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth.

Harriet Farrington and Sarah Quinn, both 15, performed incredibly against other top South East Region swimmers, in the open age group championships.

Sarah swam a great swim in the female 100m breastroke with a time of 1.19.91, placing her 40th in the open age group and 28th in the juniors. She also swam 200m breastroke in a time of 2.50.20 placing her 33 in the open age group and 24th in the juniors.

Harriet had a superb swim in the 100m individual medley race, narrowly missing out on a place in the final, achieving a personal best time of 1.09.22 and only just missing the opportunity to qualify for the Short-course National Championships in December. Harriet's personal best time placed her in 12th position out of 33 swimmers in the open age group and 7th in the juniors.

DANCE NEWS

We are busy rehearsing for the Christmas Dance Evening on Wednesday 9th December and hope to see many of you there to support our young choreography dancers. Tickets

are available in advance from the Finance Office (£2 adult/£1 child).

Many of our new Year 7 students are keen dancers and we would like to congratulate Katie Laing on her recent success in the Mabel Ryan Award, a national Cecchetti ballet competition held at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. Katie was the youngest of 57 competitors



with age ranges up to 15 years old so her teacher told her to just enjoy the experience and shine - she certainly took the advice to heart coming 3rd overall! What a fantastic achievement - well done Katie!

After Christmas we will welcome a trainee teacher for the RAD PGCE Dance programme - Miss Kent - who will work with our dance department teaching classes and clubs from both key stages.

Mrs Duncan

Consultation on admission arrangements for community and controlled schools 2017-18

The County Council is consulting on making three changes to the admission arrangements for community and controlled schools. These changes (if agreed) will take effect for admissions in the 2017-18 academic year. The changes affect the sibling link, late applications and the tie break (distance measurement).

Consultation opened on 23 November 2015, and will run until 31 January 2016. It is available on the consultation hub via the link below and we would encourage you to respond -

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/consultation-on-admissions-arrangements-2017-18>

COPIES OF KEY POLICIES CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE INCLUDING OUR CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING POLICY