

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Wednesday 13th March

Y10 Work Experience -
Parents Meeting 6.00pm

Thursday 14th/Friday 15th March

Y9 Engineering Projects

Tuesday 19th March to

Thursday 21st March

Ratton School performs the **Little Shop of Horrors** at The Royal Hippodrome Theatre at 7.00pm nightly
Book at royalhippodrome.com or call 01323 802020

Tuesday 19th March

Ratton Local Governing
Committee Meeting

Thursday 28th March

Y11 Parents Evening (2) 4.15-7.15pm

Dates may be subject to change—please check the website for the most up-to-date calendar of events

Forensic Teamwork!

It was wonderful to see almost 90% of Year 9 families attend the recent Pathways evening about GCSE options this week. In addition to this evening there have been a range of events to inform Year 9 about the courses on offer and also advice on how to choose. Our new online system should make the process easier for all. We are also providing individual meetings with a senior member of staff for all students to support them in making an informed choice.

Year 8 enjoyed an early start to National Science Week which starts from Monday 11th of March. They took part in a Forensic Science Day and used a range of scientific evidence to identify the suspect. I was very impressed to see them use a range of analytical skills and good teamwork to solve the crime.

We are always looking for opportunities to develop the skills and experience of all our staff, so it was interesting to host a large group of Chinese teachers who are undertaking research into education in the UK. They had the opportunity to visit lessons and share their experience of the Chinese education system with us.

Talented students from all year groups are involved in our school musical 'Little Shop of Horrors' being held at the Hippodrome Theatre at 7pm from Tuesday 19th of March through to Thursday 21st of March. I am sure that it will be a fantastic performance that will be even more enjoyable in a professional theatre. We hope you can attend on one of the three nights.

Finally, I would like to celebrate the large number of students with attendance close to, and at, 100% and encourage all students to aim high. We know that high levels of attendance at school supports success.

Mr Knox-Macaulay, Executive Headteacher

INSET DAYS NOTIFICATION FOR REST OF ACADEMIC YEAR

**Early closure at 1.40pm on
Monday 4th March**

**Full day closure on
Friday 28th June**



This week Brooke Nicholls in Y9 took part in the Hastings Musical Festival.

He gained a 1st place honours in the Silver Award category and then went on to win the special trophy Tony Akehurst Cup for the highest mark in any solo electronic keyboard class out of all the contestants with a 95% mark!

We are super proud of him!!



Many congratulations to our highest achieving students
between 8/2/19—28/2/19

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Crystal Ogwuda	Nancy Richards	Leigha Thomson	Matilda Ranger	Millie Springett
Marta Vera Morris	Rebekah Whitby	Mollie Simpson	Abbie Lewis-Clarke	Millie Johnson
Angelina Liagridonis-Dix	Annalie Brown	Danielle Mapp	Amelia Poore	Ashleigh Haffenden
Lola Bryson	Lili Francis	Matilda Budd	Izzy Widdows	Ella Vaney
Morgan Penfold	Freya Blackler	Amelia Burton	Chloe Duncan	Jasmine Vine
Ted Brickley	Finn Warner	Michael Tanner	Tom Lester	Rebecca Tonra
Lucas Taylor	Alfie Taylor	Adam Davies	Harrison Prater	Stephanie Fielding
Alex De Freitas	Ashlee Kovac	Callum Nicholls	Wesley Greenley	Benny Norris
Dylan Long	Jack McCarthy	Harrison Haines	Alex Partridge	Joshua Chin
Brandon Linnell	William Mulvenney	Brooke Nicholls	George Weston	Louis Pavey
		Leo Sowdon	Thomas Tyrwhitt-Walker	Charlie Rogers
		Marlon Wiegand	Alfie Pedleham	Jacob Gunter
		Michael Morehen	Thomas Tyrwhitt-Walker	Kai Bishop
		Ollie Dadgostar		William Chan
		Sebastian Chumbley		

BLAZE YOUR OWN TRAIL

To launch your career you need qualifications and experience. Apprenticeships give you both.

BOOK A FREE PLACE for you, parents/carers and friends at a Roadshow event and meet local employers, training providers and apprentices.

Tuesday 5 March
Town Hall, Eastbourne 5-7pm

Wednesday 13 March
Hastings Library, Hastings 5-7pm

Visit c360.org.uk/NAW2019 to book, for up to date information and to find dates when Apprenticeships in Sussex will be popping up in Hailsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Crowborough, Heathfield and Uckfield.

For more information and book c360.org.uk/NAW2019

*If you need wheelchair access please call 01323 415034 first.

BLAZE YOUR OWN TRAIL
#YoureHiredES
#FireItUp

Traineeships • Apprenticeships • Higher Apprenticeships • Degree Apprenticeships



Year 8 Work Place Visit to General Dynamics UK, Hastings

Top Secret - it's Classified!

On Tuesday 5th February, a group of our Year 8 students visited the engineering company, General Dynamics UK, in



Hastings. On arrival, students were welcomed by Rob (Works Manager for Manufacturing) and Joy (HR Manager) who introduced us to Graham, a new apprentice to General Dynamics UK. We were taken to the conference suite where Rob and Joy gave a presentation on the company. We learned that General Dynamics UK is part of a world-wide company, with its head office based in America. The company has been established in the UK for more than 50 years and began its days in London before moving to Hastings in 1974. General Dynamics UK is one of the UK's leading defence companies and an important supplier to the UK Ministry of Defence.

Students asked some great questions and found out that the company employs 1400 people in the UK. Rob gave us an introduction to engineering and informed our students that General Dynamics UK provides the tactical communication system, known as Bowman, to the UK armed forces. The company is also a leading provider of avionic systems onto the Eurofighter Typhoon, Tornado, AgustaWestland & Wildcat platforms. Students found out that there are 260 highly-skilled employees at the Hastings Churchfields site and we were then invited to visit staff on the 'shop floor' and have a tour.

Students also asked if the work General Dynamics UK do is 'Top Secret!' The answer was yes! Staff have to sign the official secrets act and there are different levels of 'classified'. Rob then asked students if they knew what electrostatic force meant. Most of our Year 8s knew the answer to this and one gave a very accurate description. We then found out that because the electrostatic force can affect the equipment on the shop floor, we had to wear special yellow strips over our shoes to prevent this from happening! Students met technicians who programme the equipment which makes the circuit boards, staff who check and test the boards, and technicians who mend broken boards using a microscope. We saw the testing machines & met pickers, packers, painters & despatch! Students asked what qualifications they would need to work at General Dynamics UK and found out that Maths, English & Science are essential – Maths & Science for the engineering side and English for office/HR work.



Students had a great time on their work place visit and many are thinking about engineering as a future career!



Proudly
Presents



Featuring the well known
hits '**Suddenly Seymour**' and
'**Somewhere That's Green**'
this botanical bloodfest is a family
treat not to be missed!

Royal Hippodrome
Theatre Eastbourne

19-21 March 2019
7:00pm

Tickets: £12.00 Concessions £8.00

Book at: royalhippodrome.com or call **01323 802020**

STUDENT LEADERS' TRAINING DAY

On Wednesday 13th February, all of the new Y10 student leaders went to the University of Brighton to learn about being successful leaders, and how to be positive role models in school.

We participated in many activities, all focusing on how to work as a team. To start with, we played games where we had to work together, which meant that we had to communicate and respect each other. We also took part in trust exercises, helping us to have confidence in each other.

We then got a tour of the University campus, which was both enjoyable and interesting. This was shortly followed by lunch. After our break, we had another activity where we had to work in our communities and make short presentations, which we shared with the group. These were about being a role model, taking the initiative, promoting the school ethos and values, public speaking, as well as being the public face of the school.

We had a really fun and exciting day where we got to know our fellow student leaders, and create friendships. We learnt how to be good leaders, trust each other and to work well together.



Saffie Kingham

REACH FOR THE SKIES!



A cluster of intrepid astronomers gathered on the penultimate evening of term and were finally able to marvel at the sparkling winter constellations after three successive previous nights of cloud-shrouded frustration.

The waxing gibbous Moon was the dominant feature of the evening sky; its ancient rugged highlands, pockmarked with stunning craters and interspersed with subtly wrinkled basaltic lava plains, made for a fantastic sight through the telescopes brought in by Mr Fromm and past student Millie.

Next up was a peek deep into the most famous star-forming region in the sky, the Great Nebula in Orion. The trapezium-shaped cluster of young stars at its heart were revealed, enveloped by swathes of glowing interstellar gas.

After embarking on a direction-finding tour of the constellations and hearing time-honoured Greek myths relating to their origin, our stargazers conquered the biggest challenge of the evening by spying the faint and elusive galaxies M81 and M82 at the very edge of visibility. The light from this pair of gigantic star systems, which have been embroiled in a tortured gravitational tussle for the last billion years, had travelled across space for about 12 billion years before reaching our eyes and disappearing in a flash. Awe-inspiring stuff!

WELLBEING MATTERS

Wellbeing refers to the sense of positive regard we have for ourselves and that we feel satisfied with how things in our lives are going. In this part of the newsletter I share research, tips and activities to try and give our wellbeing a boost.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that we have an additional wellbeing support system in place at Ratton. I am delighted to introduce the Student Wellbeing Team. This is a group of 23 students who have received training from Vicky Williams (Eastbourne Wellbeing) so that they can support other students with any worries. They have set up the 'The Drop In' which is a break time support group for anyone who needs someone to talk to. It will be open first breaks on Wednesday and Thursday in 109. It makes me very proud to work with such compassionate and respectful young people.

Many thanks and congratulations to the Student Wellbeing Team who are:

Year 8: May Bickers, Mahima Shomie, Angela Chin, Zephan Robinson, Lucas Geering, Oscar Romero-Neil, Nancy Richards and Lili Francis

Year 9: Gini Harvey, Katie Winsor, Evie Gell, Tiarne Mole, Billy Smith, Mollie Simpson, Poppy Watts, Ella Harris and Leigha Thomson

Year 10: Marshall Grant, Albie Springate, Leon Robinson, Sam Kavakli, Amber Read and Holly Vaeson

All well wishes, Ms Bryden



STUDENT WELLBEING
TEAM

THE
DROP IN

Need to talk about something
that's on your mind?

We are ready to listen.

No judgements.

We are available in room 109

Every Wednesday and Thursday

at 1st break.

11.15-11.35



As part of an incentive to improve students' vocabulary, we have introduced a word of the week. There are posters displayed in every tutor room, as well as on the plasma screens, and students are rewarded for using any of the words in their verbal or written responses.

Last week the word was **Volatile** and this week it is **Wrath**

LEARNING SUPPORT ENRICHMENT DAY

On the last day of term 3, five students attended a trip at Bushy Wood taking part in a range of activities organised by Buzz Active and supported by learning support.



Heading off to the woods with the sun shining we were met by our fantastic Instructor Katie and took a long walk through the grounds to the archery area. All students and Miss Vaney had a go at shooting an arrow; targets were hit and the students were fantastic at cheering each other on.

Lunch was eaten outside, just before heading towards the very high climbing wall!

Working as a team each student had two successful attempts at climbing the wall. At the top the aim was to ring the bell and support each other not only with words of encouragement but also with their own strength. The other students were responsible for guiding their team mate up and down the wall using the ropes and a lot of trust!

All of the students took part and faced challenges throughout the activities, trying out things they had never done before and activities they never thought they could be successful in – a very inspiring and fun end to the term.

HOME ON THE RANGE!

On Tuesday 5th March Ratton Cadets went on a Range Day to Crowborough Ranges. They took part in a variety of activities including 25m outside range shooting, shot gun shooting with Clays as well as a bush craft stand where Cadets took part in a survival challenge on fire starting. Cadets were only given a flint and steel and small amount of cotton wool to help them with this task. The Cadets then had to use their surroundings to gather materials to accomplish the task.

All cadets from both Ratton and Eastbourne College had a thoroughly enjoyable day.



Lewes FC Girls Under 16's are Sussex Champions!

Congratulations to Katie C, Jess H (yr 11) and Katie Y (yr 10) who helped Lewes FC Girl Under 16's to the Sussex Girls Challenge Cup on Sunday as they produced a superb display of attacking dominance against Mile Oak Wanderers at Culver Road, the home of the Sussex County FA. Well done girls!!!

