

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Ratton School,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. I hope you and your families are well and safe during these strange and testing times.

School is a very quiet place at the moment. We have around 100 children each day accessing their remote learning at our Keyworker School, and it is great to see them every day and have some of the usual (albeit distanced), conversations we have with our young people that is a big part of the job as a teacher. The students on site are doing incredibly well and are fully engaged in their online learning. We have been really proud of our students who are learning remotely at home too. All have shown our virtues of effort, teamwork and respect. However, as in last year's lockdown, school is a quiet and emptier place without the bustle and life that we normally see with around 1200 students going about their daily routine. As I have written before, we are looking at a potential date of March 8th to see more students back in school, but this is dependent on a range of factors around the progress of vaccination and the pandemic situation. We are all hoping that we see our students again safely as soon as possible. When more developments are shared with us regarding wider school opening, we'll look to swiftly share our plans with our families.

On the theme of minimising risk and a safe environment in school, our school testing centre in the Main Hall has now been operational for almost two weeks, and all staff have been receiving a test twice a week as part of the government's programme to roll out tests to all schools. Next week we plan to test students in our Keyworker School, subject to parental consent, and then do so regularly moving into next term. It seems clear that testing will remain at the forefront of any national strategy to allow schools to reopen safely and remain open, and so the work that we do around this now will help us plan an approach for when all students and staff are back on site on a daily basis. I don't think any of us, when we embarked on our careers working in schools, could foresee the challenges we have faced this year around public health and remote education. Nevertheless, I'm proud of how our staff have risen to the challenge on both fronts and continue to support the learning and welfare of our school community so far this calendar year, but also over the last 10 months.

Please do enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter; I particularly enjoyed looking at the photos submitted by our Year 7 students. I hope you do too.

Best wishes,

Mr Peevers, Head of School

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Friday 12th February
Year 9 offline day

Mid-term break
15th—19th February

INSETS 2020-21

Friday 21st May
Year 11 Valediction - early closure
for Years 7-10 at 1.20pm

Friday 2nd July
Inset day - school closed
to students

Friday 23rd July
Early closure at 12.20pm



The theme for this year's internet safety day is '**An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world**'. The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, but how do we separate fact from fiction?

Please find a range of resources below for you to use at home to celebrate Safer Internet Day and explore the reliability of the information available online:

[Top tips for all ages](#) [Safer Internet Day Quiz](#)

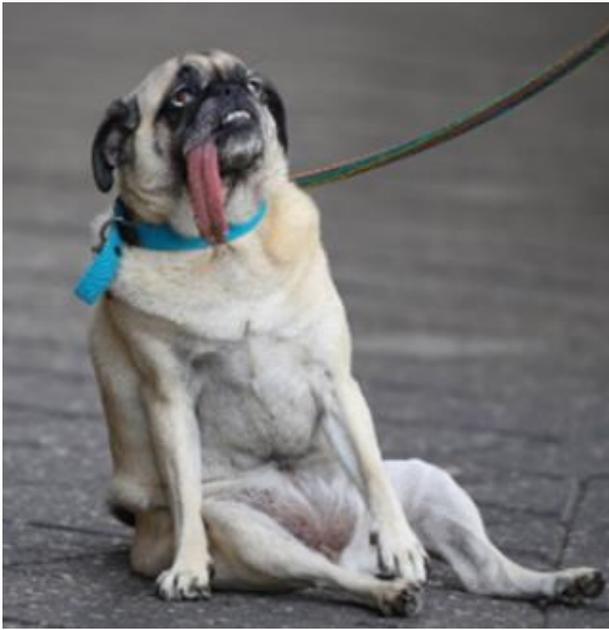
[Family Activity Packs by Think U know](#)

[Viewing videos online](#) [Cyber security](#) [Social media](#) [Sharing images](#)

[Live streaming](#) [Online gaming](#)

We all need a laugh!

Ms Devine asked students, “**How does the dog feel and how do we know?**” and then laughed hysterically for about 10 minutes during a live lesson at Ella Harris’s hilarious response:



“Walkies!” - the dreaded shrill cry of my owner. Kate. I grunt in protest, my left eye weeping in vain, the right one wandering off to the side, desperately scanning for an escape. I slump to the floor, enveloped by my own misery, wallowing in an ebony pit of despair. Why can no-one see that I am an outcast, doomed to spend all eternity shunned and alone, isolated on an island made from the saliva cascading from my mouth. Oh God forbid I may someday find love, find a mate who to has an aliment – perhaps an ear that covers their face, or one leg far shorter than the others, causing a comical waddle. Am I to walk every inch of this forsaken earth against my will, wheezing with every forced step, an artificial gurn plastered on my unsightly face?

Oh woe is me!

With a final rasping wail, I concede; for it has been resorted to bribery, I shall muse unaided, munching on the very cheese that has me betraying my very morals. Damn this weak vessel...



EASTBOURNE COLLEGE PRESENTS 'FLEXI 15'

JOIN US ONLINE
for Sport Mobility
weekdays 12.50-1.05pm

Boys and Girls
(no equipment needed)

ACCESS LINK
<https://vimeo.com/event/648002>

YEAR 7 OFFLINE DAY

We've had some lovely feedback from our Y7s about how they spent the offline day and how much fun they had.

Firstly, from James Kingland:



I have really enjoyed the 'offline' day – as I was encouraged to get outside, I managed to walk the new addition to the family who joined us in lockdown, Dudley the Cavachon.

I also decided to write my letter from the writing task to the patients with Covid-19 at EDGH and send it to the email address on the site, so it can be printed, laminated and given to patients to cheer them up.

After that it was time to make lunch for the family and chicken and ham salad wraps were on the menu, followed by a vanilla and jam swirl sponge cake 😊

All in all a brilliant day and I would love another offline day soon.

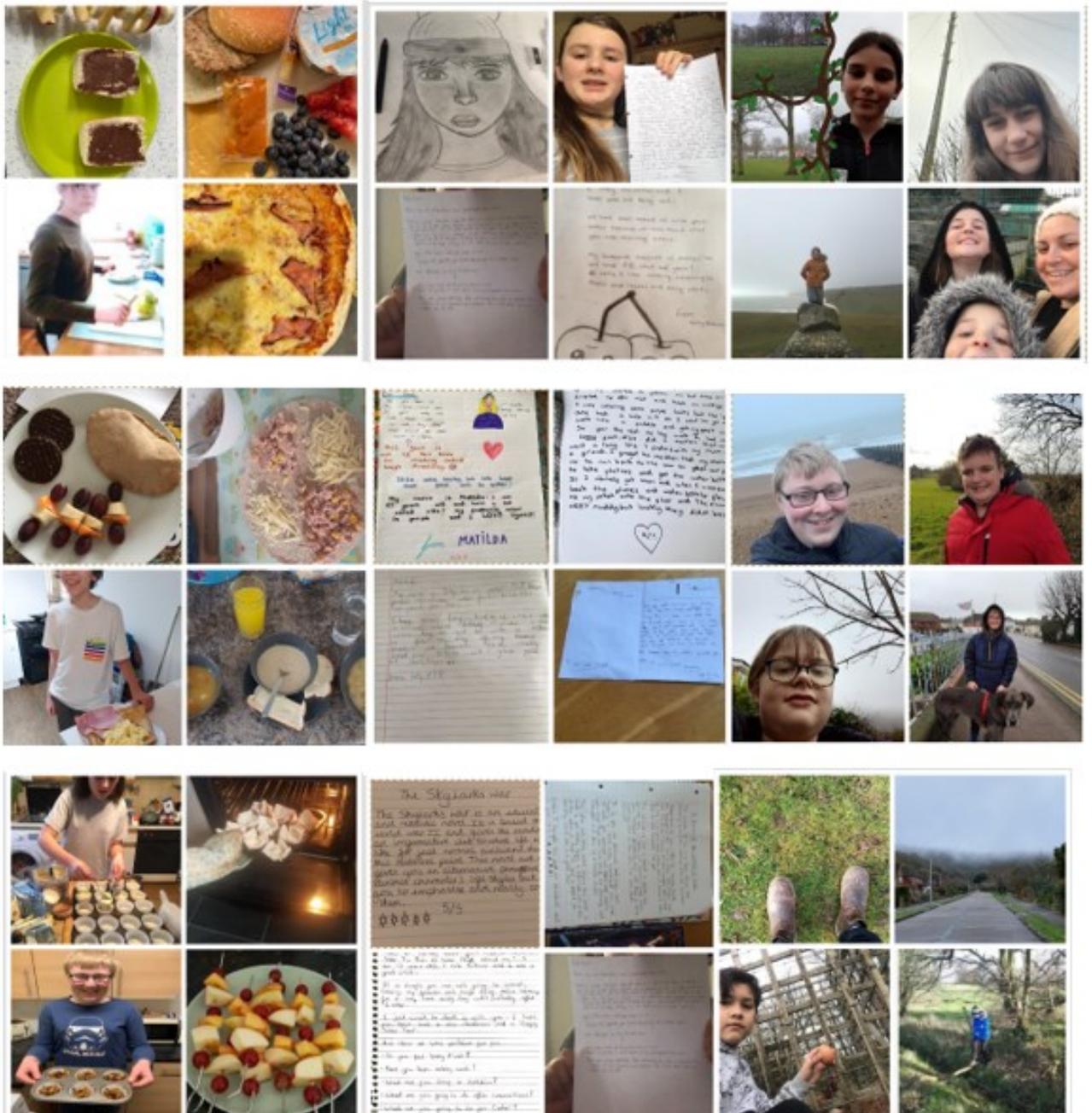


Zack Wilding made some sausage rolls, he did some plain, some with mustard and some with cranberry sauce. His family loved them!





Bobby Burt made some scrumptious cornflake cakes and concluded that they were very delicious and would definitely make again - but would add more chocolate next time! Ha ha!



And there were plenty of other amazing things our students were doing:

Many congratulations to our students who have earned the highest number of achievement points from 18th January - 29th January

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Lily Walker	Libby Jones	Morgan Penfold	Lyra Davison-Trickett	Ella Harris
Freya Titmuss	Anneliese Grant	Hebe Warren	Emily Kinne	Kurdi Ahmad
Amber Cairns	Niamh Read-Riseley	Flora Bamforth	Isabella Barzanti	Hannah Dent
Ashlee Warrington	Sophie Brook	Macy Bryson	Kiki Otto	Amber Springett
Evelyn Reilly	Isobel Sommers	Evie Ward	Natalie Geal	Emily Burke
Santiago Abreu Dos Santos	Jasmine Harris	Charlie Robinson	Oscar McKenzie	Lennon O'Donnell
Henry Eldridge	Jem Wilson	Jackson Bowles	Harvey Crowther	Luke Woolven
Gethin Opie	Charlie Walton	Lee Do Rosario	William Mulvenney	Louis Nicholls
Noah Restell	Ieuan Opie	Ed Novis	Cem Ali Cetin	Alfie Moreton
Dyako Ahmed	James Linzey	Joshua Dowsett	Jack Pearson	Joe Whitmore
Jake Green	Koby Mills	Leo Debreczeny	Jake Gell	Sebastian Chumbley
Toby Sawyer				



Covid-19 Testing Facility Up and Running

A progress update from Sam Roberts, Operational Manager and Project Manager for COVID-19 Testing.

In early January, the Department for Education recommended that schools start testing for asymptomatic Covid-19 carriers to help reduce the spread of infection and make schools safer for staff and students. I joined the school a week later as the Project Manager and Operational Manager and am delighted to share some images of our County-leading facility with you.



The current guidance is for staff to be voluntarily tested twice a week, and for pupils to be voluntarily tested twice in their first week following their return to school. These numbers represent a considerable logistical challenge for schools as year groups return, but it is one I am confident we are set up to meet at Ratton. We have the capacity to deliver 1000 tests a week for pupils and staff, should we need to. The testing team is made up of volunteers from the exam invigilation team who are very professional and of course familiar with the school, its staff, and its virtues. They have all completed the NHS testing training guidance and certification, and we have further supported this with additional onsite training from our brilliant school nurse, Jenny, to ensure that our testing standards are consistently excellent, supportive, friendly, and reassuring.

By the time you read this newsletter, the testing centre will have conducted over 300 tests on school staff. As I write this, we are seeing so many successes: overwhelmingly positive feedback from staff, no positive cases, and no 'void' tests either (this is the measurement of tests that have been completed without error or failure and is the key marker for success within the testing centre).

You may have seen discussion in the press on the differences between Lateral Flow tests (which we are using) and PCR tests (these are the ones normally sent out by the NHS). On Monday 27/01/21 NHS Test & Trace and Public Health England removed the need for those in secondary schools that test positive (via a lateral flow test) to have a secondary (PCR) test at home to confirm the result. This is excellent news for Ratton as it allows our response to any positive Covid-19 test to be accelerated and those testing positive to receive immediate support and guidance (as well as protecting those in school much more quickly).

In the week commencing February 8th, we will begin testing the students currently attending Keyworker School. This testing will enable us to not only keep the staff and students safe, but also to measure and understand how the testing of students impacts our testing capacity ahead of all students returning. For your reassurance, the school nurse will be present in the testing centre for every test that is taken by a student to offer experienced clinical support.

We will be in touch soon to give you more details about the testing plans, parental consent, and data privacy agreements.

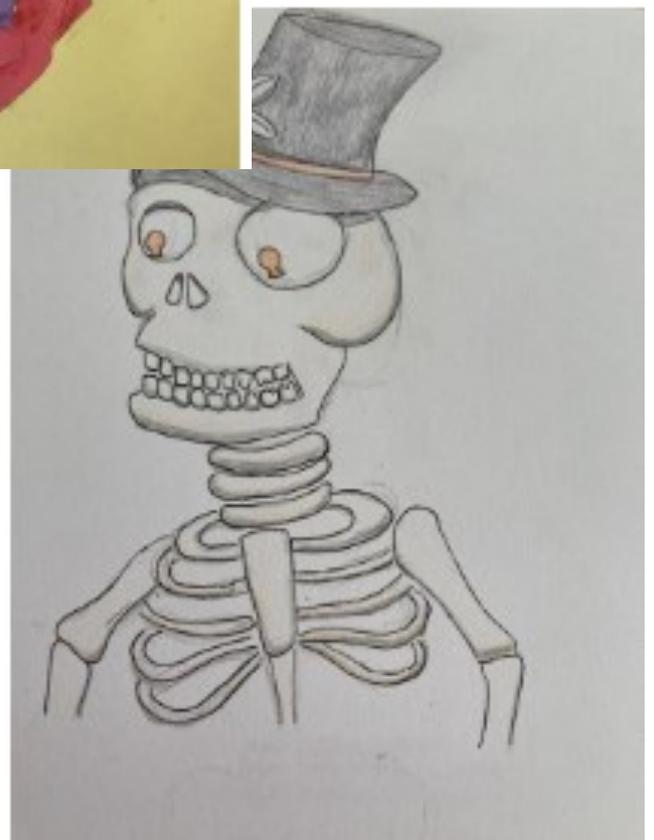
In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about the testing process, please do get in touch via email to sroberts@ratton.co.uk



Mr Knox-Macaulay doing his test

YEAR 8 DAY OF THE DEAD PROJECT

How cool are these skulls and skeletons Y8 students have been making for their art classes?! Well done to **Leah Barber, Harriet Dunton, Ria Bowles, Maisie Bell Williams** and **Theo Trott**.



Mental Health Matters

We're in this Together



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

If you are a regular reader of Wellbeing Matters, hopefully by now you know that we are committed to the emotional health and wellbeing of our young people. Each October we create activities around World Mental Health Day. This year we are also flagging up Children's Mental Health Week.

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is Express Yourself.

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

The Children's mental health charity 'Young Minds' have put together some resources for parents to try with their young people. You can find them by clicking the link here: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Ratton is working closely with Holding Space- a compassionate and supportive local charity to provide extra support for young people and families during these tough times. They run an online support group every week, as well as offering support for parents managing their children's anxiety and offering low-cost counselling for young people.

<https://holdingspace.org.uk/> Website for Holding Space.

You can ask us at Ratton to help you access that support, or contact them directly - there's a contact form on their website.

Mental health issues are not a weakness, not a character flaw and should not come with any shame. That goes for us and our children. Reaching out to ask for help can be really hard, but know that it is the first step towards things improving.

We wish you and your families all the very best,

Ms Bryden

Renewable energy project 7ZSi3

A big shout out to Year 7ZSi3 for their enthusiasm and dedication to their renewable energy project. The task set was to produce a model showing a renewable energy source using recyclable materials or sweets/cake. The results were fantastic and here are just a few examples. Four prizes will be awarded based on creativity, scientific content and effort.

Ms Appasawmy



Coronavirus Support

Services and support are still available for your child with SEND.



SENDIASS Advice Line

 01273 772289
sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk

AMAZE FAQs

Please visit their website:
<https://amazesussex.org.uk/coronavirus-faqs-for-parent-carers-of-children-with-send-in-east-sussex/>



CITES

Children's Integrated Therapy and Equipment Service
 Therapy One Point: 0300 123 2650
Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm

CAMHS

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
 [0300 304 0100](tel:03003040100)
<https://sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/>



Education

Your child's school is your first point of contact. If this doesn't resolve the issue, or you have query about an ISEND service your child is open to, contact the coordinated Covid-19 helpline.

 0345 60 80 192
cs.customerrelations@eastsussex.gov.uk



We recognise that many services which would usually be accessible to our community have suffered during the Covid-19 restrictions. We have always strived to open lines of communication and offer support to everyone, encouraging people to hold difficult conversations, and support them to manage their complex feelings of bereavement.

Sadly the reality is that we all currently have to face these issues, and many of our community may have experienced a recent bereavement. We are also seeing that this current situation and the length of isolation and restrictions have exacerbated the

complexities surrounding grief.

We would like to offer information about our Adult and Children's Bereavement Support Service. This service is free and currently being offered to everyone in our catchment area – regardless of if we have ever cared for their loved ones at the hospice. We are also extending this service to any key workers who are working within our catchment area regardless of where they live in the county.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us on 01323 434251 or via email on

sarah.vaney@stwhospice.org – referrals can also be made via our website <https://www.stwhospice.org/Pages/Category/bereavement>

Children's 1:1 service

The Seahorse project, is a bereavement counselling support service for children and young people aged between 6-17. We work with children and young people who have experienced any type of bereavement, such as sudden death including natural, accidental and intentional as well as death after a long term illness. We accept referrals for bereavement through friends, family and people of significance to children and young people.

We offer up to six weeks specialised bereavement focused counselling either on the phone or online. We offer a creative approach within the space as we recognise that it is not always easy for a child/ young person to verbalise some of their experiences and feelings however they can explore these through art, metaphor and play.

Additionally we can provide support and advice for other services working with children who have experienced a bereavement.

You can refer a child/young person on: <https://www.stwhospice.org/forms/the-seahorse-project-referral-form>

On our website you can also find our pre- and post-bereavement workbooks which are free to download. These book are for children and young people to complete either by themselves or with their carers. They can spark conversation and reflection amongst families. Additionally we also have a social media account where we promote ideas to work with children around bereavement, provide updates on service and link to other services.

Please note that some of the info in this newsletter may have been included from other organisations. In including the info this does not mean that Ratton School is endorsing them in any way.

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