

Executive Headteacher Bulletin

Term 1, Academic Year 2024-25

October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of Children in the South Downs Learning Trust,

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer, and our learners had the opportunity of some much-needed rest and recuperation. As we embark on this first term, I'd like to share what we can expect over the next month or two.

Communication and Resources

For updates specific to individual schools, remember that our monthly Headteacher Bulletins will provide pertinent highlights and reminders for each respective year group. You can find these on each school's website: www.ratton.co.uk or www.ocklynge.co.uk .

Successful Transitions

I'm delighted to report that our new Year 3 learners at Ocklynge and this year's Year 7 learners at Ratton have made a smooth transition into their new schools. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff, learners have quickly settled into the rhythm of school life. This positive experience lays a firm foundation for their success this year.

Record Attendance at Ratton Open Events

The recent open events at Ratton School were an incredible success, with the highest number of families visiting the school in the past five years! A huge thank you to all the staff at Ratton for making these events so welcoming and engaging. One parent shared, *"It felt like the school gave us a big hug and truly focuses on the development of the whole child."* Feedback like this is a testament to the warmth and commitment our staff show every day.

Important Reminder

Just a gentle reminder that the **East Sussex secondary school admission deadline** is **31st October 2024**, so be sure to get your preferences confirmed online if you haven't done so already.

Looking ahead, **Ocklynge Junior School** are hosting their open events this November, in time for junior school preferences at the end of this year. You can find booking information via their website with further details being shared via their social media platforms soon. Watch this space!

Staff Shout Out – Good Luck Beachy Head Runners!

A special shout-out and best of luck to all our staff across the trust who will be taking part in the Beachy Head running events this month, from the 10k to the full marathon. Our goal is to raise **£1,000 for the Children with Cancer Fund charity**, one of our #CharityChampions here at #SDLT. We are incredibly proud of the team's dedication!

All contributions make such a difference. Please support if you can as the charity do such important work for local families impacted by cancer. You can donate to the Just Giving page here:

[South Downs Learning Trust is fundraising for Children With Cancer Fund \(Polegate\) \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/South-Downs-Learning-Trust).

Admissions Updates

Ratton School is currently undergoing a consultation process to change its admissions criteria. This change aims to provide children from Ocklynge with a clearer path to secure a place at Ratton if they wish to attend. More updates will follow as the process progresses.

Willingdon Community School is also nearing the end of its consultation process regarding the potential joining of the South Downs Learning Trust. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Looking Ahead

Wishing all our learners across the trust a very productive and happy year ahead! I look forward to visiting our family of schools over the next term, meeting more of you, and getting to know your children as they achieve with us.

I will communicate with you again towards the end of Term 2. In the meantime, if you wish to contact me, feel free to reach me on pmurphy@sdl.org.uk or info@sdl.org.uk For more information about South Downs Learning Trust and our individual schools, please visit our trust website at www.sdl.org.uk.

With my very best wishes,



Paul Murphy
Executive Headteacher

