

# Headteacher's Bulletin

## November 2024 Edition

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the November edition of the monthly bulletin. I hope you and your families are well. School life continues to be busy as we rapidly approach the festive period. I hope you enjoy reading about the fantastic work which has been going on here at Ratton over the last month.

### Events this term

I would like to congratulate Year 11 students on their brilliant behaviour during their mock exams week in November. Routines were well-established in the exam hall and the students engaged well, which bodes well for another round of mock exams and the real thing later this academic year. **Year 11 Parents and Carers' Evening** takes place on **Thursday 12 December** and the opportunity to book appointments is on Edulink now.

We have had many trips this term including our wide range of workplace visits for Year 8 students to sites such as the Royal Hippodrome Theatre and Drusillas. This is part of our commitment to providing a workplace visit for every Year 8 student at Ratton. Year 10 students have visited the Birley Centre at Eastbourne College for a 'Why University?' event to start thinking about next steps.

We have also held the Year 7 and Year 8 discos – I hope the students have enjoyed these events. My thanks also go to the staff and Student Leaders who made these occasions happen. While these may not be academic events, they are important for fostering a sense of community and enjoyment at school, leading to belonging. This is still crucially important as it was not so long ago that children missed out on social events like these during the pandemic.

As ever, event photos and school news reports can be accessed via our social platforms, as circulated each month via our school 'Social Card'. Mrs Hamblin, Trust PR/Comms Lead, will be in touch under separate cover with this month's updates. Be sure to check them out, we have some fantastic achievements to celebrate this month.

Please click, read, like and enjoy!

Highlights are also available on our website, with sporting fixtures and achievements highlighted herein.

### Parental Engagement

Thank you to those parents and carers who responded to our first survey of the year. We had a lot of positive feedback, and we do read all the comments you have taken time to write. It was great to see over 90% of respondents stated that they agreed or strongly agreed that their child does well at this school, their child feels safe at this school and that their child can take part in activities and has a good range of subjects to study. However, we are never complacent and know that we can work further to improve academic and pastoral provision for all our children. Your comments will help us to do so.

A lower number of parents and carers – 74 % – agreed or strongly agreed that we let you know what your child will be learning this year. This is higher than the figure of 58% at this time last year, which is

pleasing but I would like to take the opportunity again to share with you where you can find this detail. In the first instance can I point you towards our website for an overview. If you click on the links for individual subjects and the overview documents (e.g. [Curriculum Overview | Ratton](#)), you will be able to see the sequencing of the curriculum, keywords and concepts for each year group. For example, see the Maths overview here: [Maths | Ratton](#). Parents and carers who have attended the Success Evenings this year would have had the opportunity to hear from English, Maths and Science teachers about the curriculum content for each year group, as well as how they can support their child's learning. I encourage parents and carers to attend these evenings in the future, as they provide valuable curriculum information.

Mr Brown, Deputy Headteacher, will also be hosting this term's **Parental Forum meeting on Tuesday 10 December at 5.30pm-6.30pm**. He will be offering a session for parents and carers to visit school and find out more about what we offer at Ratton to support your child's wider personal development. Mr Brown will present on this area of school life, both in the taught curriculum and extracurricular activities. He will take questions and listen to parental input on this topic.

As a school we are collating evidence for accreditation for the 'Excellence in Pupil Development Award' [EPDA - Excellence in Pupil Development Award | AwardPlace](#). You will receive an email on this topic; please respond to indicate your attendance. Please do attend if you are interested in finding out more and having your voice heard as a parent or carer.

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended our Year 7 learning walk earlier this term. This included a presentation by Mr Chaundy, our senior leader responsible for teaching and learning, about our work on Ratton School Classroom practice. This information can also be found on our website here: [Curriculum Overview | Ratton](#). **The learning walk also featured visits to lessons to see this work in action.** Please do look out for details after the break of upcoming parent and carer learning walks that we will be hosting for other year groups and book your place to take up the opportunity of seeing the school in action.

## Sporting Success

- Harry F #TeamYearEight for winning his boxing match recently. His first proper bout which took place in Hastings and Harry came away victorious! Well done.
- Sticking with boxing, shout-out to three of our students who all train with our friends at Eastbourne Boxing Club, for their continued commitment and dedication. Harry F (above), Alex T and Robert R both in #TeamYear10. Keep up the fantastic work.
- Well done to Fin L-F #TeamYear10 for competing in the Cardiff Cross Country challenge. Fin placed in 9<sup>th</sup> place in the under 15 boys race, competing against high level national standards. Fin also placed 15<sup>th</sup> out of 145 top quality athletes at the Liverpool Cross Challenge very recently. He has also been selected to represent Sussex in the Inter County Cross Country Championships. Watch this space!
- Next up, a Rugby shout-out for five of our #TeamYear9 students who all play for their club Eastbourne Rugby U14s team. Octa T, Antonio S, River C-O, Malachi S and Alfey I. Their coach got in touch with us to share of their recent contributions and success in the teams dominant victory over Heathfield recently. Their coach shared some great feedback on each student, acknowledging them as wonderful ambassadors for Ratton. Well done, keep it up.
- A shout-out for our #TeamYearEight mixed basketball team. Our boys and girls teams represented Ratton this term against St Catherines and did a brilliant job. Special mention for both Adam M and Maisie W who captained both teams. Well done.
- A big shout-out and well done goes to Patryk P #TeamYear10 for another phenomenal swimming achievement. He recently competed in the South East Regional Swimming Championship and, as ever, came away with some outstanding stats/times. Patryk hopes to

be selected by the South East Swimming Organisation to represent in international competitions. We wish him all the luck and look forward to sharing more inevitable success from Patryk soon! Watch this space.

- A shout-out for our #TeamYear10 mixed basketball team. Our boys and girls teams represented Ratton this term brilliantly, with the girls winning their tournament and finished unbeaten in the mini league. Boys made it to the finals, placing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Great job!
- A big shout-out to our #TeamYearEight Sports Leaders who hosted their first big event this year, being the Primary Schools Cross Country Event. The event saw children from Years 5 & 6 visit us from 14 local primary schools, taking part in a Cross-Country event on our field. Our Sports Leaders did a fantastic event, leading the event and acting as mentors to the visiting children. We had some wonderful feedback from visiting teachers about our students, who did themselves (and us all!) proud.
- Next up, #TeamYear7 and #TeamYear8 enjoyed their interhouse competitions recently. Our students demonstrated superb behaviour during the competitions, taking part in their sporting activities with determination and commitment. WATCH THIS SPACE for results, to be released via school news soon! Well done to them all. #TeamYear9 event to be rebooked (cancelled due to weather).
- #TeamYear7 girls football team celebrated their first win against TEA, well done. Keep it up!
- Shout-out to Xander B #TeamYear10 for achieving his purple belt grading in Karate. Great job.
- Shout-out to Daniel O in #TeamYear8 who has been selected to represent the U13s South East Sussex district football team. A great achievement, well done. Keep us posted!
- Shout-out to our #TeamYearEight boys football team, who continue to play brilliantly and represent #TeamRatton with dedication! Keep it up.
- A final shout-out and acknowledgement goes to our #TeamYear7&Eight girls netball teams, who continue to show commitment and enthusiasm when representing #TeamRatton in local matches. Keep it up!

## Attendance

I would like to thank you for supporting your child's school attendance this term. Despite the season, and the rise in colds and viruses, our attendance as a school remains above the local and national averages. I would just like to share a few figures. For example, 90% attendance may sound like a strong attendance record. However, 90% = 171 days attendance out of 190 days in school a year; this is 19 days lost. **19 days (about 2 and a half weeks) lost = 95 lessons or hours of learning lost over the school year.** Please do take note of the following guidance from the NHS on when and when not to send your child into school: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-keep-child-at-home/)

## Reminders around communication

For new parents and carers, and a polite reminder for existing families, some information and tips regarding talking about any concerns you have about your child at school are below. It is helpful if you can:

- **Stay regularly connected** with your child's tutor or year leadership team. Raise any concerns with them. Your relationship with your child's tutor and their year leadership team is important.
- **Reassure your child** that you will speak with the school. Talk to the school first. Then you can advise your child with a complete picture of what happened.
- **Ask for an appointment** to talk to teachers. It is not always possible for school staff to meet parents immediately. If it is helpful, they may invite a senior teacher or other key staff, such as the special educational needs coordinator (SENCO).

- **Give staff a chance** to respond to messages about concerns before taking further action. Depending on the nature of the concern or incident, schools may need a few days to respond after investigating and gathering information.

**Staff will aim to respond to emails between 8am and 5pm on weekdays, within 48 hours if your question is not urgent.** Do check the Edulink app regularly for updates on achievement points and messages from individual staff.

## Homework

Parents and carers are also able to access details of their child's homework through Edulink as this now links with your child's Teams calendar. Research suggests you do not need to be a subject expert - and we do not expect you to be! - to support your child's completion of homework but **speaking with them about their homework and giving them structure through a designated place and time** to complete their tasks will help. We continue to offer homework clubs and subject specific clinics before and after school. Directed Study Time also operates Tuesday to Thursday for students who are referred to Mr Chaundy for homework non-completion.

## Upcoming Events

**Christmas Lunch** takes place on **Wednesday 18 December**. We hope that many students will take part and get into the festive spirit early. Details have already been shared of how to purchase and order, so please do check your Edulink messages if you have not already done so.

We **finish for term, and this calendar year, at 1.30pm on Friday 20 December**. During the last week of term, **Year 11 will have their 'Love Life Day' on Thursday 19 December**, where normal lessons will be suspended and the Ethics team will be delivering a day themed around Relationships and Sex and Health Education, including work around the key issues of consent and healthy relationships. We will also be holding year group celebration assemblies to recognise those students who have demonstrated our virtues, including this term's focus virtue of Respect.

Once again, thank you for your support this term. We know it can be a challenging time with the continuing cost of living crisis affecting all families in the run up to the Christmas holiday. If we can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Breakfast Club for all students continues to run at 8.15am daily in Refresh and all students are welcome to join us for a free breakfast – toast, cereals, juice and hot drinks. In the meantime, I hope you and your families stay well and safe over the next few weeks.

Best wishes,



**Mr Peevers**  
**Headteacher**

