

Headteacher's Bulletin

OCTOBER 2025 Edition

Dear Ratton Parents/Carers,

As we complete our first week after the midterm break, I hope you managed to have some quality family time over the last week or so. Here is a look back over the last month or so and some pointers towards what is coming up on the school calendar over the coming weeks.

Parental Engagement

October saw opportunities for parents and carers to come into school and meet with teachers and hear how they can best support their children academically and socially. We have held a Success Evening for Year 10 with input from a range of staff around literacy, numeracy, science, and detail on the way forward on work experience and post 16 opportunities. Thanks to all the families who attended; I hope you felt the evening was useful. We also held the first meeting of the Ratton Parental Forum for this academic year, where Ms. Papagna and I discussed a range of issues with parents and carers, including the potential for a renewed Ratton PTA. If any parents and carers would like to join this group moving forward, please email info@ratton.co.uk. The benefits for children of parental involvement in a PTA include:

- 1. Improved School Experience**

When parents get involved, schools often see better student outcomes — from academic performance to behaviour and confidence.

- 2. Sense of Belonging**

Your child feels proud and supported knowing their parent is actively involved in their school community.

- 3. Better Communication**

Being in the PTA helps you understand what's happening in school, which means you can better support your child's learning.

Please also give us your views on school life through the parental survey that was emailed via Edulink before the midterm break. The link is still open to allow you to record your views, and we look at the response in the first week of next term. Please also look for an upcoming survey from Miss Banks this term regarding your views on the use of mobile phones in school – do respond and tell us what you think.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Congratulations to our Year 11 students on their excellent focus and behaviour during the recent mock exam period prior to the holiday. Year 11 students have had an excellent first term in their final year with us and have shown real dedication to their learning in lessons and excellent behaviour and attitudes so far.

They really have embodied the Ratton virtues of teamwork, effort and responsibility over the last month. I look forward to seeing how the year group goes from strength to strength in the next year and seeing many Year 11 parents and carers on Thursday 27th November for our parents' and carers' evening. It is crucial that you attend to find out how you can support your child across the curriculum in the coming months – it also sends the message to your child that you care and are invested in their success.

Year 11 students experienced their Year 11 Careers Day earlier in October, with a day dedicated to a range of activities to prepare them for the world of work. A range of local Post 16 providers attended to discuss their offers, and the students also experienced a talk from a motivational speaker, among other activities.

Sporting Success

- Fin L-F (#TeamYear11), a huge well done for wining the Eastbourne 5K this month with a PB of 15mins and 36 seconds!
- Well done to the Year 7 boys football team who, earlier this term, played a strong Gildredge House team. We are excited to see what the season has in store for you all.
- A big congratulations to our U15 girls football team, who came away victorious in the English Schools FA Cup recently. We are really proud of you here at #TeamRatton!
- A big shout-out goes to our representing Year 7 girl's rugby players, who recently took part in a Rugby Festival hosted at Seaford Head Rugby Club. We look forward to seeing how you progress this year.

Attendance

I would like to continue to highlight the importance of good or better attendance of your child at school. You may remember that last month, I used some data generated regarding attendance and our GCSE results earlier this Summer. Students in Year 11 whose attendance was above 95% achieved almost a grade higher than target on average.

Staying with attendance, I would respectfully and politely remind all parents and carers that holidays are not permitted in term time. Government guidance states that we are no longer able to authorise any requests for children to be taken out of school unless there are exceptional circumstances (and family holidays/trips do not fall into this category). I know it is difficult when holiday prices rise during school holidays, and with the current pressures with the cost of living rising, but we have a duty to follow this guidance. We have seen a rising number of requests during this last month.

The consequence of your child taking an absence/holiday during term time is that it will be recorded as unauthorised and that we may request a Penalty Notice to be issued by the local authority to each parent/carer for each child should the child be absent during the requested period.

Please note that if a Penalty Notice is issued, this will be to each parent (for each child) incurring a fine of £120.00 which decreases to £60.00 if paid within 21 days.

Reminders around communication

We'd like to remind parents and carers that staff may not always be available to meet without a prior appointment.

If you need to speak with a member of staff, please contact the school office by phone or email to arrange a suitable time. This helps ensure that the right person is available to support you and that teaching and learning are not disrupted.

We understand that some matters may feel urgent; however, arriving at reception and requesting to see a staff member immediately cannot always be accommodated. Our staff are often teaching or in meetings, and we want to make sure everyone's time is used effectively. As per our Trust Parental Engagement document here: [Key Information - South Downs Learning Trust](#), we encourage all visitors to schedule appointments in advance to avoid disappointment.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in helping us maintain a calm and well-organised school environment.

Upcoming Events

This week saw our annual 'Love Life' Day for Year 11 students; they worked with our Ethics team and other staff to explore key themes around Relationships, Sexual and Health Education for the day.

We also host some visits this month from Elevate [Home | Elevate Education](#) who will be working with groups of our Year 9 students on time management and study skills to give them a solid foundation before they embark on GCSE studies in Year 10. Thanks to all parents and carers who have already taken advantage of the Elevate online seminars advertised by Mr. Welsh last term.

Next week, we have our first round of interhouse sporting competitions taking place – good luck to all taking part!

Additionally, our Year 8 workplace visit programme continues with visits to a diverse range of settings including the Dela Warr pavilion in Bexhill, and Knockhatch attraction. Fostering aspirations around careers and successful futures starts early at Ratton School!

I hope you have a great month ahead – do keep up to date with what is happening at Ratton School by following our social media platforms by way of school news. As ever, please do reach out if you need us.

Best wishes,



Mr Peevers
Headteacher