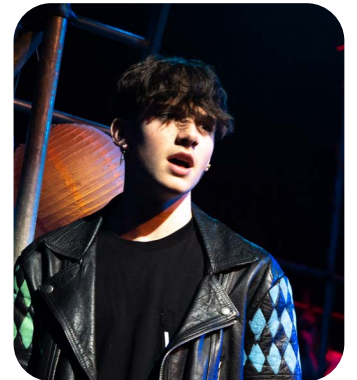


# PERFORMING ARTS



# OUR PRODUCTIONS

Every year, since 2019, **Ratton School**, part of the **South Dows Learning Trust**, stages its flagship Whole School Production at the **historic Royal Hippodrome Theatre in Eastbourne**, giving our students the chance to perform in a professional setting in front of **hundreds of local audience members**.

Our productions are a highlight of the school calendar and an **important cultural event for the local community**, as well as providing our students with valuable cultural experiences and memories throughout their time with us here at Ratton.

Ratton's productions are full-scale musicals that showcase the **talents of over 130 students in acting, singing, dancing, stage management, and technical roles**. These experiences allow students to explore both onstage and behind-the-scenes aspects of theatre, mirroring the professional world of arts and musical production. This immersive approach not only nurtures artistic talent but also builds confidence, collaboration and technical expertise.

Recent productions showcased by Ratton students include ***Little Shop of Horrors, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Bugsy Malone, Rent, Fame, A Night at the Musicals*** and, during 2026, ***The Addams Family***. Our high-quality performances

consistently attract **full audiences** of up to **600 per night during show week**. In 2025, the cast earned three prestigious **National School Theatre Award (\*) nominations**, including 'Best Show' and 'Best Ensemble'.

Beyond the performances, these productions offer students **valuable life and later career skills**. Participating students develop and hone their **teamwork skills, leadership, creativity, communication, and problem-solving abilities**, while gaining the **discipline and resilience** needed for **professional-level work**. Many alumni (*previous students*) return to support current students, contributing in roles such as pit band musicians, backstage assistants, or technical crew at the Hippodrome.

For many of our young people, Ratton's productions are the beginning of a lifelong **passion for the arts** and a stepping stone to further study or careers in creative industries.

In addition to our annual Whole School Production, Ratton Performing Arts and wider school team also host other **large-scale school events** at the local **Royal Hippodrome Theatre**, including the Irish Night and our prestigious 'Red Carpet' awards evening, reaffirming our strong presence at the venue throughout the year.

## NEW THIS YEAR – Introducing Ratton's Scholarship Programme

This year, Ratton is proud to launch its prestigious **Performing Arts Scholarship Programme**, a unique pathway for our **highest-achieving students in music, dance and drama**.

This programme brings together a talented group of Years 8 and 9 students who demonstrate **exceptional ability, commitment and potential**

**across the performing arts**. Scholars follow a bespoke and challenging curriculum, enjoying timetabled lessons in each discipline and exclusive opportunities to develop performance, technical and audition techniques beyond the standard curriculum.

Throughout the school year, scholars take part in a minimum of **three public performances**, showcasing their skills in a range of professional and school settings. They work **collaboratively across art forms composing, choreographing, devising and performing**.

This exciting initiative not only **nurtures artistic excellence** but also provides a direct route to GCSE success, enabling students to pursue all three performing arts subjects at Key Stage 4. At Ratton, we believe in recognising and investing in young talent and the **Performing Arts Scholarship Programme represents the very best of our creative ambition**.



## Performing Arts & Community Engagement

At Ratton School, Performing Arts extends far beyond the classroom, reaching deeply into the hearts of our shared Eastbourne community.

Each year, our talented students perform for thousands of local residents, **sharing creativity, confidence and joy** through a wide range of public performances and charitable events.

Our partnerships with venues such as the Royal Hippodrome Theatre, enable students to participate in **high-profile productions**, including our annual full-scale musical and other school-based events. Also, our link with Eastbourne Theatres, has meant collaborations at the Congress Theatre's 'Let's Dance' celebration; a now partnered event of the **South Downs Learning Trust**.

We are proud to **support local fundraising efforts**, with students regularly performing at events benefiting St Wilfrid's Hospice, Matthew 25 Mission and Eastbourne Foodbank. Performances in nursing homes bring music, dance and drama to older members of our community, fostering empathy and social awareness. Ratton students also **contribute to civic life**, appearing at events hosted by the Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce, including the annual *Mayor's Ball*, *Children in Need* at the Town Hall, and the *Eastbourne Christmas Lights Switch-On*. Our Irish Dance troupe, Rinceoiri Ratton, won 'Best Float' this year at the Eastbourne Carnival CIC event, celebrating the town's vibrant spirit and culture inclusion.

We maintain **strong links with local primary schools**, including collaborative workshops and events with our trust junior school, Ocklynge, promoting arts in education across the age groups.

Beyond Eastbourne, our performers have gained national recognition, including a finale performance at the National School Theatre Awards at London's Gillian Lynne Theatre. Through partnerships with RAPA (*Ratton Academy of Performing Arts*), BN1



Arts in Brighton and the East Sussex Music Service, students access **professional training and industry experience**. A professional network that we are hugely proud of and continue to strengthen.

Ratton Performing Arts reaches an estimated **5,000 audience members through theatre, festivals, and community events**. These performances not only entertain, they also build pride, encourage connection and showcase Eastbourne as a hub of creativity and talent. We can't do it without you, our community, so why not join us and help support our young people in Eastbourne, encouraging a **love of the arts now and for future generations!**





## Proud of our Heritage – Ambitious for our Future!

Ratton School has proudly built a **local and national reputation** for excellence in the performing arts for **over four decades**. In 2002, we were honoured to be among the first schools in the UK awarded **Performing Arts Specialist status** under the government's Specialist Schools initiative.

Our talented students have performed at **renowned venues across the country**, including the **West End**, and for audiences that have included **members of the Royal Family**.

Locally, we have a strong tradition of staging shows at professional venues such as the **Congress Theatre** and the historic **Royal Hippodrome Theatre** – Eastbourne's oldest theatre!

Many Ratton alumni have gone on to successful careers in the arts, working as performers, academics, and leaders of creative organisations.

We believe in the **transformative power of the arts in education**, ensuring that every young person experiences a **rich and rewarding arts journey** that lasts a lifetime.



For more information about our curriculum, including Performing Arts, visit our website: [www.ratton.co.uk](http://www.ratton.co.uk)

To explore our trust and our professional partnership programme and community, check out the trust website: [www.sdl.org.uk](http://www.sdl.org.uk)

To explore Performing Arts Whole School Production Sponsorship, get in touch here: [info@ratton.co.uk](mailto:info@ratton.co.uk)

(FAO: Performing Arts Team) To **BOOK TICKETS** to our production of **'The Addams Family'** please visit the website <https://royalhippodrome.com/event/ratton-school-the-addams-family>



'The Addams Family – School Edition' Scan QR Code!



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