

Connections



Issue 5

Lion King Trip

On Wednesday 17th December 2008 there was a trip to the “Lion King” at the Lyceum Theatre in London. Students in Lyceum were offered the chance to go and, being a fan of West End Musicals myself, I took the chance to check out this well known Disney classic.

The show opened with the outstanding vocal talent of Brown Lindiwe Mkhize leading the song “Circle of Life” as “Rafiki”. The next loveable character we met was the comedic kill joy “Zazu” played by Cameron Pow.



The Lion king had the most amazing costumes I have ever seen and I applaud all the actors for their amazing puppetry skills throughout the whole show.

My favourite song in the show was “He Lives in You” because of the “tingle factor” I got from the depth of the actor’s voice and the harmony during the chorus.

There was positive feed back from everyone after we left the theatre because all the students who went were amazed at the effort involved in every part of the show from costumes to set.

I would recommend this musical to anyone - even if you don’t like musicals there is something in this show for everyone to enjoy!

Sophie Calverley 10DFo

Ratton School students meet a python and other animals!

Fifteen selected students from Year 8 attended their first session at Drusilla’s Zoo this week to learn about animal welfare, animal handling, environmental, and animal conservation issues.

Over the next five weeks students will be going to zoo every Tuesday evening to have special talks, demonstrations and investigative tasks to do. It is hope that this initiative will encourage our students to think seriously about the science issues raised and at the same time have fun.



More after school STEM activities for students will become available soon with plans in the making for special sessions on how to make things go bang! to be run by Mr Westwood.

Mr Fenwick and Mr Ferguson have organised the Drusilla's Zoo events and are now planning an environmental conservation project with the support of the Friends of Hampden Park to be done in the Summer Term that will investigate the environmental impacts on the old woodland and ponds in our locality.

Students get to meet and handle a python along with other animals at the Zoo with the Head of Education, James Woodward.

These special sessions for the school are being funded by the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative that aims to encourage students to think more about these subjects and in doing so make learning more fun. Ratton is one of only 250 lucky schools in the county to get this opportunity.

Other special activities are currently being planned by the science, technology and mathematics teachers to give our students different and unusual learning experiences. Other students will be invited to attend the STEM after-school activities over the next two years.

Students also meet the Billy Goats Gruff and other farm animals!



Aim2xl



Miss Carter and Mr French have taken over the group Aim2xl for students who are gifted at writing and English. As a group it was decided that we did not like the name "Aim2xl", so we decided to change it to "Out of Ink." Club runs on Wednesdays after school and we do a variety of things from movie reviews and poetry writing to drama activities and educational quizzes! On Tuesday 21st January we went out for a meal to Picasso's in Eastbourne, as we had been studying food critic writing and so wanted to replicate their work. We had a delicious meal and took notes on the food and restaurant.

In July we are going to be putting on a showcase of all of the students' creative talents. There will be a cabaret style evening with stand-up comedy, poetry recitals, mini plays, monologues and much, much more! We hope to see you there!

Miss Carter

Engage in Recreation

Please access our web-page for all up-to-date sport news and information about extra-curricular sporting opportunities.

www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk/extra_curricular/sport/

Year Nine Become Crime Stoppers

On Friday 16th January all of Year 9 had the opportunity to become Crime Stoppers for the day as part of their enterprise learning. Working in teams students had to use their detective skills to solve the mystery of which team of master criminals had broken into the museum and stolen priceless objects. The purpose of the day was to develop students' understanding of the skills different careers require and how they might have been applied in the context of the break in, this will then give them more idea about the sorts of careers they might choose in the future.

The day culminated in the Hall where the winning group from each class was announced by the leaders of each session and prizes awarded. This was a very enjoyable day for all involved and will help students in their future choices.



Nigel Waterson and Councillor Belsey Visit Ratton

Nigel Waterson MP and Councillor Colin Belsey recently visited our school. Mr Waterson presented certificates to some of our students who achieved outstanding results in years 7, 8 and 9. Ratton is part of the national pilot for Making Good Progress, and the achievement of these students is part of our success in this pilot. Each school in the pilot has been rewarded for the number of students who make good progress. We are very proud to report that Ratton received more money than any other school in the pilot (over £8,000).

This is a really good example of our motto "achieving together" in action, and we would like to congratulate the staff, students and parents involved.

Those receiving certificates were:

Jack Baker, Eric Barrell, Jacob Bradbrook, Kathy Carr, Polly Davis, Megan Dennis, Zofia Gibbins, Natalie Grace, Oscar Griffiths, Danu Hadden-Eccles, Robert Hicken, Rosalie Hide, Amelia Inman, Hannah Lidbetter, Lazar Liebenberg, Alice Lum, David Martin, Michael Message, Sophie Patchett, Hannah Robinson, and Ellen Roskilly.



South East Sussex Champions.....and onto the Beckham Academy

Back in November 2008, the Year 7 Girls Football team competed in the area indoor 5-a-side competition and had a fantastic result, beating all the local schools. They continued on to become South East Sussex Champions.

From there the team were drawn to play the next round at the 'Beckham Academy' in London to decide which two schools would represent the South in the National Competition in February.



On Friday 23 January, the squad of eight had an early start to the day, leaving school at 7am for a three hour drive up to the Beckham Academy in London.

Once at the Academy, we were directed to walk down the hall of fame which featured autographed shirts, boots and cups owned by National and International football stars. Throughout the day, the girls posed in front of the many large scale pictures of Beckham which featured in nearly every room. This alone, was an experience for the players!

The competition had four leagues but we were drawn in the biggest section, having five other teams to play. In all matches we battled hard and moved the ball about with skills and energy, matching and bettering nearly all the teams in our section. Overall, we drew 2, won 2 and lost 1. Unfortunately we failed to score enough goals to go through to the semi final and finished third in our section. It was pleasing to see, however, that the two teams who beat us were eventually the top two teams in the competition, so as far as we are concerned we came third overall!!

The Year 7 team have had a very successful season and is made up of a very talented group of players. They deserve every success and are a credit to the school. Each player will receive a certificate and photo to remember the day.

Well done girls!!!

The team:

Veronika Gibbins
Ellie May Swain
Bobby Knight
Kira Marsh
Ellie Frier
Leah Holden
Zoe Heather



Ratton Students to audition for the National Youth Theatre.

Supported by the Performing Arts Department, two year 11 students have been accepted to audition for the National Youth Theatre. Josh Spriggs and Sophie Razzel are now working with the Arts Development Officer, Miz (Maria) Wells, and their Drama Teachers to prepare monologues for the auditions in March. We wish them the very best luck.

Ratton welcomes José from Cádiz - Spain

Jessie Stubbs and Chelsea Willgrass interviewed José and talked about his life in Spain. This is how the conversation went:

-¿Cómo te llamas?

- Me llamo José María González Sáiz

-¿Cuántos años tienes?

- Tengo treinta y seis años

-¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?

- Mi cumpleaños es el seis de abril.

-¿Tienes familia?

- Sí, mis padres, dos hermanos, dos hermanas, cuatro sobrinos y tres sobrinas.

-¿Qué tipo de comida te gusta?

- Me gusta la comida española.

-¿Durante cuánto tiempo estarás aquí?

- Estaré aquí hasta el 30 de junio.

-¿Cómo fuiste desde España hasta Eastbourne?

- En coche desde Cádiz hasta Bilbao y en ferry desde Bilbao hasta Portsmouth.

-¿De qué color tienes el pelo y los ojos?

- Tengo el pelo moreno y los ojos marrones.

-¿Cómo eres de carácter?

- Soy extrovertido y tengo mucho sentido del humor.

-¿Cuál es tu trabajo?

- En España soy profesor de informática y aquí en Ratton soy asistente de conversación de Español .

-¿Qué tipo de música te gusta?

- La música latina, salsa, etc..

-¿Qué haces en tu tiempo libre?

- Me gusta leer, ir al cine y el senderismo.



If you can understand this, muy bien, and keep up the Spanish! If you can't then his name is José María González Sáiz. He is 36 years old and his birthday is on the 6th of April. In his family he has his parents, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, 4 nephews and 3 nieces. José has black hair and brown eyes. He lives in Cádiz in Spain and he likes to read, go to the cinema and to go walking in the countryside. José is outgoing and has a good sense of humour. The music he likes to listen to is Latin and he has brought some examples of this for us to hear. In Spain his job is to teach IT but he working with us here at Ratton school as Spanish language assistant until 30th June. He likes Spanish food - no surprise there!

He came to Eastbourne by car and ferry. His grey Spanish car is the car he uses to get around Eastbourne.

José has been attending most of our lessons and will be taking small groups for conversation in the future. He helps us with pronunciation, vocabulary and everyday phrases. This will help us to develop our language skills and give us confidence if we do go to Spain. He has given a presentation about a holiday he went on to Morocco and this helped us to understand and to ask and answer questions about our topic. We are now making our own holiday presentations.

We hope José is enjoying living in Eastbourne as much as we are enjoying having him here.

By Jessie Stubbs and Chelsea Willgrass - Year 8

Have you seen the DanceArt Mural?

The first of two dance inspired murals was recently completed by a small group of year 11 Art Students. Working both in class time and as an after school activity, the students photographed and photoshopped year 8 Dance students in action and stencilled the design onto the dance corridor wall. With some support from the Art Department, DT, and our Arts Development Officer, plus some materials donated by Brewers, the resulting mural caught the attention of local press and has provided, in the words of our Dance teacher Mrs Duncan, "exactly what was needed".



Once completed the risky 'Feedback Wall' was erected, allowing students to write directly onto the opposite notice board.

Congratulations to those students who were able to positively contribute feedback and ideas for 'Student Make-Overs'. An overwhelming number of responses reflected both a love of dance and praise for Mrs Duncan demonstrating how successful the mural is in capturing the spirit of dance. If you have any make-over ideas and would like to be involved in a project please contact Miz Wells, our Arts Development Officer, in the Drama Office or by email, m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk.

Media Trip to BFI Imax Cinema and the BBC Television Centre

Year 10 and 11 media students had a treat recently when they went on a day trip to the IMAX cinema and a guided tour of the BBC studios in London's Shepherd's Bush.

Gina Allen & Camilla Savill-Lawes write:

The day began with an early start and a coach journey to the South Bank to the state-of-the-art, large-format IMAX cinema.

Watching a film at BFI IMAX is the ultimate experience. The screen is more than 20 metres high (that is nearly the height of five double decker buses) and twenty six metres wide. We watched a film called, "The Haunted Castle" and the 3D effect made you feel like you were in the film.

After a stroll around the south bank in the winter sunshine we got back on the coach and drove to the BBC television centre. On the way some students were excited to spot David Guest strolling around the West End.!

As we waited to go on a BBC tour we met Barney from BBC "Prank Patrol" and everyone rushed over to get pictures and autographs. Then we had pictures taken outside the 'tardis' from "Doctor Who" and got insulted by a waiting Dalek!

We finally got into the BBC centre and were guided around the newsrooms, the weather centre and various studios and green rooms. It was all very interesting, especially when we were given hot gossip about various celebrities' demands when they are working at the BBC. For example, they told us that when singing super star, Prince, arrived at the studios and was told his dressing room

was downstairs he said he was unable to walk up and down the stairs himself and so had to be carried there and back. Another famous celebrity, Mariah Carey insisted she have a roomful of Labrador puppies to play with when she was in her dressing room!

Walking around the studios we watched some of the filming of, “Eggheads” and rehearsals for “The Alan Titchmarsh Show”. Part of the tour allows students the opportunity to perform in front of the cameras and ‘have a go’ at working behind the scenes.

The tour lasts around an hour and a half and going home everyone agreed it was a great experience and gives media students a more in-depth understanding of this most famous TV headquarters in the world.



Students pose in front of The “prank Patrol” bus!



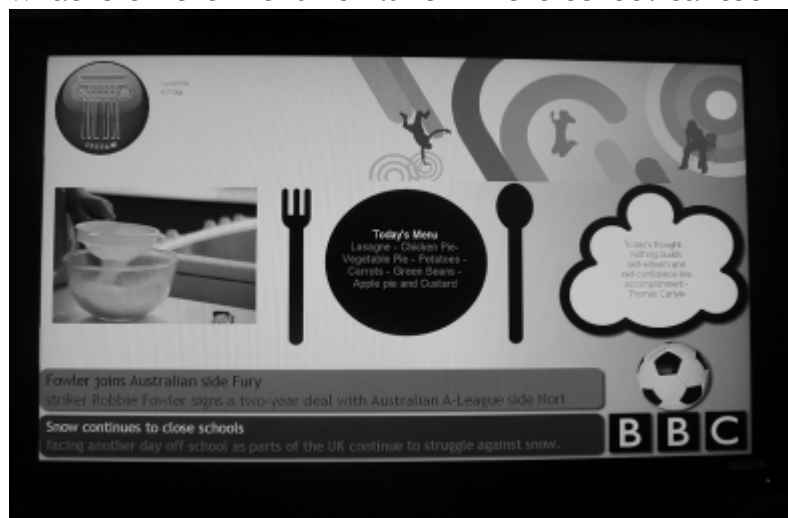
Year 10 girls consider a spot of time travel!



“On air” in the studios

Ratton School’s Digital Signage

At the end of 2008 Ratton decided to implement its very own digital signage solution. The school is now equipped with seven 42 inch plasma screens around the school. The screens are used to relay information to students, staff, parents, governors and visitors. Currently we have 10 different states which appear at different times throughout the day. At break students and staff can see;



and sport headlines, see what clubs are taking place after school and at lunchtime and see the weather forecast for the next few days, not to mention any other important announcements flashing up! After school the screens display; the achievements of students over the past week, play videos of students’ work from the project based learning week and display the weather for the next few days. We have managed to persuade students (and staff!) to read and digest information while watching other, more interesting material. The solution enables any member

of staff to logon to a web-based interface and put up notices and announcements at the click of a button. The screens will display; web pages, TV, video, text, images and much more. Thanks go to Performing Arts for donating money for the solution and Mr Prodger for designing and implementing the screen designs.

“Just So” - A new Production by the Rattonian Youth Group

In April 2008 “The Rattonian Youth Group” was launched with a highly successful production of “Les Miserables” at the Devonshire Park Theatre. A cast of 80 young people from the age of 7 to 19 had the audience on their feet every night! How do you follow that? Well the talented young company, again under the direction of Peter Gurr, Debbie Hackett and Paula Pout, have chosen “Just So” a theatrical delight.

This musical, based on Rudyard Kipling’s “Just So Stories” for children, takes the most imaginative of these tales and weaves them into an adventure that will enthrall children and adults alike.

Join the Elephant Child as he sets out on a song-filled journey, across oceans and through the jungle, to the great grey-green greasy *Limpopo River*. Along the way discover how the rhinoceros got baggy skin, the leopard got spots, the kangaroo got bounce... and the elephant got his trunk!



The Rattonian Youth Group is a community group open to all young people over 7 still in full time education. This year the supporting company of 80 will bring a breath of youthful fresh air and energy to the Devonshire Park Theatre.

The show runs from 15th - 18th April with matinee performances on the Wednesday and Saturday. All matinee tickets are £10, All other performances tickets are £14, with concessions for children at £10 and 60+ £12. All available from Eastbourne Theatres Box Office.

COMMUNITY SPORT

Community sport has been taking place on a Thursday lunchtime. Activities for this term have been:

Badminton - Hall (Miss Papagna)
Yr 7 Football - Courts (Mr Chaundy)
Table Tennis - Small Gym (Mr Elliott)
Indoor Hockey- Gym (Miss Poletyllo)

This year has run slightly differently with students earning points for their community each time they take part. A large number of pupils have participated and have enjoyed the activities. The results so far are:

1st Globe	180 points
2nd Apollo	167 points
3rd Lyceum	132 points
4th Adelphi	130 points
5th Lyric	115 points

Community sport takes place every Thursday lunchtime from 1.30-2.00pm. Everyone is welcome, you don't need to sign up just turn up at the beginning of lunch with your trainers. Come and join in and earn points for your community whilst having fun.

BASKETBALL

The girls' basketball season has just started and we have lots of matches coming up. Basketball club for all ages is on a Wednesday after school from 3.15-4.15pm. Everyone is welcome whether you would like to trial for the school team or just play for fun.