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Note From The Head

Welcome to the fifth edition of this year's Ramsey Voice. I cannot believe that the academic year is passing by so quickly. Year 11 students are well and truly into their GCSE examinations and we are planning to meet our new cohort of Year 7 students at their Induction Days in June.

Our aim is "To provide every individual in The Ramsey Academy with an equality of opportunity and encouragement to realise his or her full potential."

In order to achieve this we have to ensure we offer a diverse and engaging range of opportunities for students and have the staff who are willing to provide the activities and experiences. We are fortunate to have an exceptionally dedicated and well qualified group of staff who are prepared to commit time to prepare stimulating lessons and organise events which give students the opportunity to challenge themselves.

To achieve our aim we require a curriculum that caters for all levels of ability and interests. Many people assume the curriculum is simply what happens in lessons, but it is much more than that. This edition reflects the diversity of our curriculum both in and out of the classroom. Often the experiences out of the classroom are vital to shape the attitudes and engagement of students in the classroom. All lessons and activities aim to embed a Growth Mindset approach, and challenge students to 'think hard', encouraging metacognition and understanding rather than simply the learning of knowledge, as well as developing 'mastery' of the subject that can be applied in differing situations.

The aim of our curriculum is to not only prepare students for public examinations, but also equip them with the life skills necessary to gain employment and be productive members of the community.

To support this aim, this year we introduced the Ramsey Charter. The aim of the Charter is to ensure The Ramsey Academy provides a range of opportunities that are available to all students which develop a greater awareness of cultural, historical, social and moral issues depending on their year group. The Charter entitles students access to the resources for them to successfully complete the PIXL Edge Award, developing life skills of leadership; organisation; resilience; independence and communication. It also allows students to track their progress to completion of all the activities which will support their academic studies and their personal development.

The range of reports in this newsletter highlights the diverse nature of our curriculum and how we are fulfilling our obligation to provide access to the activities we have promised in the Ramsey Charter.

Many young people face difficulties and are not sure how to ask for help. Participation in these activities helps to boost self-confidence, but advice from other providers such as the online Kooth service, which is an excellent confidential helpline outlined in this newsletter, are available to support those who may be unsure of what to do to improve their mental health.

Many are worried about failure, but they should take inspiration from James Dyson, the famous British inventor and entrepreneur;

"I made 5.127 prototypes of my vacuum cleaner before I got it right. There were 5,126 failures. But I learned from each one. That's how I came up with a solution. So I don't mind failure."

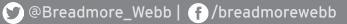
- Mr R James

Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice Expeditions

Over the first two weekends in May, forty one intrepid Year 10 students took to the deepest, darkest parts of Tiptree and its surrounding villages to complete their practice Bronze Expeditions. Over the two days, some groups covered nearly fifteen miles whilst battling rain, cool temperatures and extreme heat. The students were assets to the Academy both in their behaviour and their resilience facing the new challenge of navigating in an unknown place! With only a few slight hiccups, most of the students completed the expeditions and were pleased to return home, finally allowed to remove their walking boots and heavy rucksacks. The students must now complete their final qualifying expeditions in July, as well as their sections - volunteering, physical and skill - in order to complete the award. Well done Year 10, you were superb!

- Mr A Lugton, Miss H Ralph, Miss K Hilton, Mr P Walker and Mr D Martin





Visit to BT at Adastral Park, Ipswich

On Wednesday 14 March, a group of Year 10 Computer Science students took part in the British Science Week and visited the BT labs at Adastral Park, Ipswich. We spent the morning in two different sections, learning about how technology is developing. In the first section we were taken on a tour to be shown future technology that is being developed in different working areas. Our favourite part of this was the future shop, Alexander Black. Here they have developed different parts of a department store, for example they had delayed mirrors which allow you to see youself in your outfit with a 360° view. Then we went into the banking area where, to our surprise, there was a fully functioning, holographic person who you could interact with. All of the areas we visited were very interesting as we could see how technology is developing over time and what we will be expecting to see in the next few years.



The second part of the morning we were able to walk around the section to learn about other parts of technology. There were stands with different companies providing games, information and demonstrations. We were given a booklet to complete as we went around, so we had to ask the companies and people information to help fill them in. There was one stall covering the aspects of LAN and WAN and ended with a little guiz to test our knowledge on what we had learnt. There was an Army stall with people showing us how they use technology to help the military and others around them.

During our time walking around, we were asked to test some videos and give our opinions on how annoying certain types of buffering are. We were given an iPad and some headphones to watch a series of clips that included a type of glitch and we had to rate each one with how annoying they were and were asked if this carried on, would we watch the rest?

Overall we really enjoyed this trip as it developed our learning and was very interesting. We would recommend others in the years below to go when they have the opportunity, as we would definitely go again.

We would like to say thank you to Mr Martin and Mr Lugton for taking us and Mr Hendry for helping organise the trip.

- Amy Tyler and Hope Hamilton (Year 10)

What a day, Ramsey Rocketeers once again!

On Wednesday 18 April we made our way to Stow Maries, Maldon, we were full of nerves and excitement as this was the day we'd been waiting for. Over the past few months, Ramsey's Rocket Club had been meeting every Tuesday after school, to build their masterpieces in preparation for this event, it was here at last; The Rocketry Regional Finals.

Based upon last year's results, we were hoping for the best and expecting the worst, however this time we were more prepared, and proud to be representing the Academy. As well as our main rocket bodies constructed, the weather was also on our side; it looked to be a promising day as we arrived and made our way in to the aircraft hangar. We needed specific requirements to be able to fly which these included weight, height, possession of an altimeter, all the correct components and a fully covered rocket body, Next were the eggs...

To 'qualify', our flight had to reach a height of eight hundred metres, separate safely (with a parachute), to be within the forty one second time limit, and have both of the two eggs intact that we had to have inside the rocket. Unfortunately none of us had qualifying flights, but we maintained a positive attitude and great enthusiasm throughout the whole day. This wasn't always easy as challenges were never very far away. The youngest team were three Year 7 students, none of whom had competed in the competition before, yet numerous times they went up to the launch area and gave it a go, even if it didn't necessarily work in their favour. We all came home smiling after a really incredible day, and although The Ramsey Academy won't be heading to Nationals we stand a good chance next year!

- Hannah Birch (Year 10)









Year 7 First Give Project - Braintree Area Food Bank



As part of the First Give Project, 7B have chosen to champion the Braintree Area Foodbank. Maggie Drewett came to talk to the class on Wednesday 21 March to help them to prepare their presentations. Maggie was able to talk to the class about how the Foodbank operates and showed them a parcel which would be given to a single person to provide three days of food. Maggie also spoke to the students about the costs involved with running the Foodbank service. The Foodbank is often well supported at Christmas, but this support is urgently needed throughout the year. 7B have decided to organise a food and toiletries collection for the charity. The Foodbank has only been running for six years in Halstead, but already they have provided much needed support to nearly seven hundred families. - Mrs A Perrins

Year 7 First Give Project - Essex Air Ambulance

On Wednesday 21 March 7A were visited by Clair Mitchell from the fundraising team for Essex Air Ambulance to assist the class with their First Give Project. First Give is a project which encourages students to become more socially proactive and requires the students to pitch for a £1000 grant on behalf on a charity. The students were able to ask Clair lots of questions about the needs that the Air Ambulance faces and about how they raise money for the cause. Clair told the students that every mission the air ambulance attends costs on average £2500 and the average number of missions flown each day is four, so there is a constant

need to raise money. It came as a shock to the students to discover that the Air Ambulance receives no funding from the Government or from the National Lottery. Some of the class had personally been helped by the Air Ambulance, or knew someone close to them who had been helped.

7A will now begin to try to fundraise for the charity and to raise awareness of what the charity does in advance of the First Give final.

- Mrs A Perrins



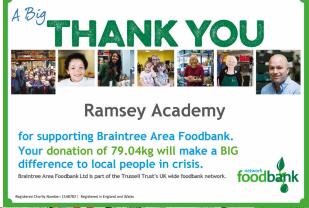
Year 7 Food Bank Collection

For the second year in a row Year 7 students have been taking part in the First Give Project. 7B have chosen to champion for the Braintree Area Foodbank which has a base in Halstead. They have researched the charity and have interviewed Maggie Drewett who came into the Academy to help them understand how the Foodbank operates and the issues that the charity faces.

Following their research the students decided to organize a food collection. They emailed staff and other students with the posters they created and produced an informative PowerPoint to encourage donations. The donations have flooded in and the students have collected 200 separate items to boost stocks at the Foodbank.

7B will now go on to the First Give final in June to try to win £1000 to support the Foodbank further.

- Mrs A Perrins





Lexonik Sound Training - Helping Students Reach Their literacy potential



The Ramsey Academy were pleased to relaunch the Sound Training programme in September 2017 with Miss Siseman at the helm.

Sound Training is a programme that is 'unique in its approach and delivery'. It 'promotes reading for knowledge, fluency of decoding and word mastery'. Students who are selected to take part receive six one hour sessions in groups of four, from a specially trained member of staff. They participate in a number of fast-paced and enjoyable activities in order to learn how to process sound at speed. This programme is aimed at a range of abilities and supports students in reaching their reading and literacy potential regardless of their starting point upon beginning the six week course.

So far this academic year five groups of students from Years 10 and 11, twenty students in total, have successfully completed the programme. The average reading age increase has been twenty six months. We have a further twelve Year 10 students who are currently participating in the programme who are already applying skills taught in their introductory session to their studies.

The progress made so far is very pleasing: I am sure that we can build on that success next year.

- Miss H Siseman

BBC School Report



Thursday 15 March was BBC School Report Day this year, and for the second year running, The Ramsey Academy had a small team of budding reporters (From Years 7 - 10) working on both written reports and a filmed piece containing several news stories - all of which have now been uploaded onto the Acadmey website to be viewed and read.

After registration, we met in NF1 and started the day with half an hour of searching for stories we wanted to write and talk about. We managed to find stories on intriguing issues such as school holidays, sports, financial skills and the Beast from the East. Afterwards we organised ourselves into groups and mapped out our time

periods - we spent an hour or so trying to find teachers and students to interview, writing surveys, or writing up small drafts for our reports, before moving on to filming, writing and editing. By the end of the day, we had uploaded our reports to the website and our final video had been successfully filmed, edited and was being uploaded as we discussed how good the day was and what we would improve next time.

Since our first time of taking part in BBC School Report, it is safe to say that we have improved - we spent half the amount of time as last year on organising what stories to produce and we seem to have uploaded twice as many stories as last year, with the range of topics being covered a lot broader than it was last year. However, we also have a few areas to improve on, such as how we conduct our interviews and a few technical ideas such as lighting in our filming.

To anyone who has the opportunity to take part in an activity like this one, I would say that you should take part in it - not only is it great fun, but the skills you develop are crucial and would help you in many aspects of your life. Some skills include being able to meet deadlines, debating and comprising in teams and working with other people that you wouldn't necessarily work with, as well as improving your literary, timing and producing skills.

- Tazmin Sloat (Year 9)

Visit From Baroness Scott

On Friday 4 May, The Ramsey Academy were honoured to welcome Baroness Scott of Needham Market. She visited the Academy as part of an initiative called "Peers in Schools" where serving members of The House of Lords are invited by schools to meet with students. The Baroness has had an interesting career. She was a Liberal Democrat Councillor in Suffolk from 1991 to 2005, and she has held many positions on the County Council, including Group Leader in the joint administration with the Labour Party. She was appointed to the Local Government Association Transport Executive in 1997, became Chair in 2001 and is now Vice-



President of the organisation. She has represented the UK local government in Europe as a member of the Committee of the Regions from 1997 to 2001 and as part of the North Sea Commission. On 11 May 2000, she was created a life peer as Baroness Scott of Needham Market. Baroness Scott has served on many committees in The House of Lords, including the Domestic Liaison Committee and the Constitution Committee. She served on the Joint Committee on the Draft House of Lords Reform Bill and currently serves on the European Union Committee and chairs its Energy and Environment Sub-Committee. The Baroness visited Year 9, and spoke to them about the history and role of The House of Lords, as well as how she got to be one of the twenty eight percent of peers who are women. The students then asked her a range of questions which she answered well, giving the students much food for thought; questions ranged from whether she had experienced sexism, to her views on the imminent departure from the European Union. She discussed some of the recent debates she has been involved in, and what the outcome of these debates were. Many students really engaged with this rare opportunity, to meet a serving member of the House of Lords. - Mrs H Price



Year 10 Butcher Visit



On Monday 5 February a butcher from the Colchester Institute came to visit The Ramsey Academy. He showed a group of Year 10 students how to cut and prepare different parts of a chicken. We then used this information the following day to help us to make chicken nuggets. This was very interesting and helped us put into practise the skill we have been learning.

Oliver Cooper (Year 10)

Year 10 Food Prep and Nutrition Visit

On Monday 12 March, Nick Hard from Hards Butchers in Halstead, kindly demonstrated to the Year 10 Food students how to skilfully bone and fillet a chicken. Nick brought with him one of his colleagues, Elsie who at twenty three years old had just won a major competition in London. Elsie was able to explain how a career in butchery can be exciting and creative! It definitely is not all blood and bones! There are opportunities to travel overseas and take part in international competitions. Elise demonstrated the art of meat preparation and presentation by helping students create chicken parcels with the meat from the thigh bone.



Each student was given half a chicken to practise their knife skills, with and to take home. All the chickens were very generously donated by Nick Hard. Thank you Nick for a really interesting and productive morning. The students learned so much! - Mrs K Bushell

Music In The Park May Day Celebration



On Monday 7 May 2018 the School Band performed on the bandstand in the Public Gardens as part of the May Day Celebrations. Whilst enjoying the wonderful weather, the audience were treated to solos from Lily McKean, Mollie Brine, Tom Winter and Jessica Thomas. For the band performances they were joined by Sam Smith & Rosie Shackell.

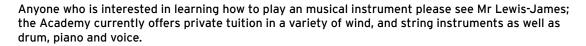
Well done to all!

Mr G Lewis-James

Musical Achievement

I have recently passed my Grade 2 Music exam on the Guitar. It was quite nerve racking because I was playing some quite difficult songs, but I'm very glad that I passed, this has allowed me to move onto Grade 3 rock school. I have been playing the guitar since Year 3 of primary school, I wanted to play the guitar because I love listening to songs with lots of guitar in them and this inspired me to learn how to play the guitar.

- Edward Williams (Year 8)





Gardening Club Update May 2018

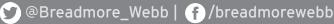
It has been a busy time for our club over the last few months. Not, as you might think, growing crops and potting on plants. Our focus has been the manufacture of hundreds of wooden poppies. In conjunction with Halstead In Bloom and The British Legion we are contributing towards a display for Armed Services Day at the end of June. It is intended that there will be a display of poppies in the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church in Halstead. We had a stall at the Halstead 'May Day In The Park' celebrations and planted just fifty of our poppies around us. The effect was brilliant and we attracted a lot of interest. The full display will be incredible.

A number of our long term gardening members are now reaching the end of their time at Ramsey. I will be sad to see this crowd of noisy, boisterous, enthusiastic and loyal gardeners depart. It is now time for others to step up and take their place. There will be a number of large projects to keep members challenged and occupied. All are welcome to come along.

- Mr S Pittuck







MFL German Play

Recently both Year 9 and Year 10 students who study German got to experience a play spoken completely in German for an hour. It was a two man show about a son that was grounded after his mum came home from Parent's Evening. The son also had three girlfriends which was funny to watch as the play unfolded. Before it began we were told some context about the main theme of the play, but from the tone in voices, expressions used and phrases that we had learnt in class, you could work out what they were saying to each other. It was a good experience for all of the students as everyone left with a sense of achievement knowing that they had understood at least one point in the play. The play featured lots of humour, drama and included some students becoming characters. Overall it was an enlightening experience that we were all lucky enough to take part in and watch for ourselves. - Dawn Ryder (Year 10)



Photography Club

This term has seen the start of the Photography Club on Wednesdays. Around twenty students have embraced learning new skills using digital SLR (single lens reflex) cameras with Miss Jarvinen, who previously taught GCSE Photography in her last school. In their first week the students learned some basic techniques, such as using Macro for detailed, close-up photography; understanding depth of field, and consideration of their composition. Students have been experimenting with the techniques around the Academy ground taking an array of fabulous photographs. During their second week students were assigned to capture various activities taking place during Aspiration's Charity Week. The students have enjoyed capturing a variety of images using their new skills, with one student taking over two hundrad and sixty photographs during one lunch time! The clubs runs every week, rain or shine, on Wednesday lunchtime and after school. - Miss P Jarvinen

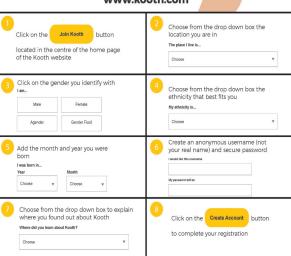






Kooth Mental Health Awareness Visit





w that you are in you can click on the icons at the top of the page to choose from the articles, topic page, forums choose to talk to a counsellor by clicking the speech marks next to the turquoise circle.

To talk to a counsellor click the turquoise "Chat now button"

www.kooth.com

On Tuesday 17 April, students at The Ramsey Academy had an assembly with a very informative representative from an organisation called 'Kooth'. Kooth's aim is to improve the mental health of young people, particularly by encouraging them to speak out around it.

The representative began explaining to us that if we had a physical injury, a twisted ankle for example, naturally we'd ask for help, why is it any different for mental health? His words were really hard-hitting to us and a lot of us were made to consider for the first time the concept that mental health should be our responsibility. Kooth had recognised the barriers young people are up against; having to speak face to face with people, telling familiar faces, and potentially feeling judged, so they have a website where we can go when we feel we aren't in the best mindset. Among lots of other reasons, this idea is especially good as in the evenings when young people may be feeling the most isolated, Kooth are still offering their services.

Included in the website are one to one chats with professionally trained councillors, numerous articles aimed at hundreds of issues young people face such as exam-stress, community support where young people can chat in live forums (monitored by the Kooth team) and so many more fantastic resources to support us. Having a representative come in and speak to us was also effective as it was evident how passionate he felt about the scheme he was talking about, which made me feel confident that if I ever felt the need to use Kooth's website, I'd be in safe hands. If ever things feel guite stressful, it's reassuring to know that Kooth is there if we don't feel able to speak to someone within the Academy.

Kooth's website is - www.kooth.com

- Hannah Birch (Year 10)



Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final At The Ramsey Academy Wednesday 25 April

Prior to the day I was nervous and apprehensive about the performance of my speech, but it was an amazing experience and an even better opportunity to meet new people, speak and sing in front of judges and an audience, and most importantly, to gain confidence.

The pre-speech workshop was great fun; a perfect way to let out any nerves, and it allowed all the contestants to get to know each other and chat.

The other contestants' speeches were very inspirational and heart-warming, and it was great to hear their stories.

I was relieved to have spoken with no major mistakes and have received some very good feed-back comments. Once all the speeches had been delivered I was given the opportunity to sing two songs whilst the judges made the final decision on the winning speeches, both of which were great fun to perform. - Maisie Smith (Year 10)

At the end of the school day, most of the students made their way home. However, a handful of Year 9 and 10 students gave up their evening to help out at a truly inspiring event – The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final. Contestants from around North Essex came to Ramsey for the Regional Final, to decide a winner to represent our county at the grant final.

As helpers we received a minute by minute order of events, everything was undertaken with military precision. The work began four hours before the event started. We spent two hours preparing students and teachers for the inspiration on stage. I helped the contestants around the Academy, which was of course, completely unfamiliar to them. Even before the competition had started, the atmosphere was intense. You could feel the tension as people arrived.

The event started: bright lights illuminated the stage, giving the feeling of a West End theatre production. The contestants sat in anticipation: you could feel the nerves yourself. The speeches themselves were breath-taking.

Overall, the evening was an impressive celebration of young people achieving great things and fulfilling their potential. - Dom Hunt (Year 10)



Aspiration Charity Week

Aspiration charity week was held 30 April - 4 May. The week consisted of many spectacular activities, run by both students and staff, in order to support and raise money for our much-loved local charity, 'The Smile of Arran Trust'.

Highlights of the week included:

- Busk Stops many of our talented musicians brightened up the Ramsey corridors and outside areas with their melodies.
- Cake, sweet and merchandise sales many creative bakers made delicious cakes and treats that were sold during breaks.
- Netball and Basketball Tournaments Staff v Students! Both teachers and students battled it out in either the netball match
 or the basketball match, organised by our very own Sports Captains: Milly Jay and Jack Edwards. Even Mr. James flexed his
 muscles on the basketball court!
- Lip Sync Battle As usual, Aspiration's Lip Sync Battle had an amazing turn out, filling the hall with students of all ages to cheer on and watch all the brave contestants, and congratulate our winners! Mrs Tosh was overwhelmed by the support of the students.
- On Friday, while many of the Year 10 students were on the DofE expedition, the rest of the Academy enjoyed fairground games at lunch. Hook-a-duck, bean bag throwing and space-hopper races to name but a few. Some students took part in 'The Smile of Arran' sponsored walk. We also wore our own clothes with a green theme for Arran.

Once again, Aspiration Charity Week this year was extremely successful and we all have our fingers crossed to beat last year's total of £2000..

Thank you to everyone who was involved in this aspirational week, we really appreciated your support and generosity.

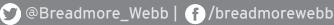
- Lily Gidden (Year 10 Prefect)











Year 11 Leavers' Careers Advice

College and Sixth Form places:

Good luck to all the Year 11 leavers who have embarked on their GCSE exams. I hope you all achieve what you need. If any students still require last minute advice or guidance on careers or college places, please contact me in school on Wednesdays.



Some colleges will still receive late applicants and it is recommended that students have a backup plan. Students are therefore able to accept more than one college or Sixth Form place and wait until their results are issued, before making their final decision.

If on results' day students achieve much higher or lower than they expected they are advised to contact the colleges directly to discuss what places are available to them.

COLLEGES/SIXTH FORMS

- Chelmsford College Tel No: 01245 265611 www.chelmsford-college.ac.uk
- Writtle College Tel No: 01245 424200 www.writtle.ac.uk
- Colchester Institute Tel No: 01206 712777 www.colchester.ac.uk
- The College at Braintree Tel: 01376 321711 www.colchester.ac.uk
- Colchester Sixth Form Tel: 01206 500700 www.colchsfc.ac.uk
- Braintree Sixth Form Tel: 01376 556353 www.braintreesixthform.com
- Otley College Tel: 01473 785543 www.otleycollege.ac.uk
- Ormiston Academy Sudbury: 01787 375131 www.ormistonsudburyacademy.co.uk
- Hedingham Sixth Form: 01787 460470 www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk



For any Year 11 students considering an apprenticeship NOW is the time to apply for any vacancies being advertised. An apprenticeship, is a way for a young person to gain fully recognised qualifications whilst being employed. Students need to be sure that they are ready for full time work, and are confident that the type of work they are entering is suited to them. Students can choose to do an apprenticeship RATHER than full time college.

Apprenticeships are available in all types of industries, including business administration; health care; childcare; graphics; marketing; mechanics; catering; sport, and so on.

General Information on apprenticeships:

- Qualifications, skills and experience gained in the workplace
- Minimum of one year, depending on the level
- Practical learning with nationally recognised qualifications
- Progression to the next apprenticeship level/possible permanent employment
- Weekly wage paid

Students need to:

- Visit the National Apprenticeship Service website to search for local vacancies. https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/ apprenticeshipsearch
- Check websites of large organisations for information about the companies and recruitment of school leavers.
- Put together CV and covering letter templates in preparation for applying to local businesses.

For more information or advice please contact Mrs Eaves:

Leaves@ramseyacademy.com

Dates For your Diary

Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June - Half Term

Monday 4 June - Non-Student Day

Thursday 21 June - Year 7 Tower of London Trip

Tuesday 26 - Wednesday 27 June - Year 6 Taster Days

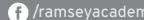
Thursday 5 July - Year 5 day

Monday 16 - Thursday 19 July - Year 7 Bushcraft Trip

Monday 16 - Thursday 19 July - Year 10 Berlin Trip

Friday 20 July - Last day of Term





Dates