

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Colne Road, Halstead, Essex CO9 2HR. T: 01787 472481 F: 01787 474267
E: office@ramseyacademy.com W: www.ramseyacademy.com

Headteacher: Mr C Appleford



Weekly family communication. Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Families

I will keep my message brief this week due to the wealth of information contained within this week's communication. Following last night's Open Evening, which is covered in detail throughout this communication, I wanted to take a moment to express how incredibly proud I am of our school community. It was a genuine pleasure to welcome so many prospective students, families and members of our wider community into the school.

The warmth, positivity and collaboration on display throughout the evening were truly inspiring. Our students were exceptional ambassadors for the school, demonstrating confidence, pride, maturity and **mutual respect** at every turn. Equally, our staff showcased the dedication, professionalism and care that make our school such a special place to learn and work.

What stood out most was the way our community came together. The conversations, relationships and shared sense of purpose were a powerful reminder of what makes our school so successful. Last night was not simply an opportunity to showcase our facilities and curriculum; it was an opportunity to demonstrate the values, culture and sense of belonging that sit at the heart of everything we do. I left the evening with an enormous sense of pride in everything I saw. Thank you to all students, staff, families and governors who contributed to making the event such a success. Together, you demonstrated exactly why this is such an amazing school and why our community continues to thrive.

Year 11 – Exam anxiety support assembly

As part of our graduated support programme in the lead up to next summer's examinations, Year 11 students will attend a **Mental Health and Exam Anxiety Assembly** on Monday 28th September during Period 1. Following the usual Year 11 assembly, colleagues from the **NHS Mental Health Support Team (MHST)** will deliver a presentation focused on wellbeing, coping strategies and managing exam-related anxiety. We are confident that students will find this both informative and supportive as they continue their preparation for the year ahead.

Year 6 -7 secondary admission round for September 2027 (for families & friends with children in year 6)

The new secondary school admission round opened recently, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027.

- The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.
- Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2027-28 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.



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Open Evening

We were delighted to welcome many prospective students and their families from our feeder schools to The Ramsey Academy for our Open Evening last night. The event was a tremendous success and provided a fantastic opportunity for visitors to experience the vibrant, inclusive and ambitious community that makes our school so special.

Throughout the evening, families enjoyed an impressive range of activities across all subject areas. In Drama, students took the lead in directing and performing scenes, while Science was alive with a variety of exciting experiments that captivated visitors. Geography challenged students with a cookie mining activity, while Food and Nutrition showcased some excellent cooking skills. Visitors were also treated to netball demonstrations, energetic dance flash mobs, and an incredible acrobatic display from Eva, along with many other engaging activities across the school.



The evening gave our community the chance to see The Ramsey Academy doing what it does best: providing exciting opportunities, inspiring young people and nurturing their talents. The atmosphere around the school was exceptional, with students and staff proudly showcasing their achievements and sharing their enthusiasm for learning.



Our Headteacher talks were extremely well attended and featured speeches from our Head Students, George and Esme, who spoke confidently about their experiences at the school. They were followed by three outstanding Year 7 students, Lilly-Rose, Nala-Rose and Rebecca, who spoke eloquently about their transition to secondary school and life at The Ramsey Academy.

One of the highlights of the evening was a wonderful excerpt from our upcoming spring production of *Oliver!*. Seth and the cast impressed the audience with a lively performance of "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two", giving visitors a glimpse of the talent and dedication that goes into our school productions.



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I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a memorable occasion. In particular, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our student helpers, whose enthusiasm, confidence and willingness to support visitors were essential to the success of the event. Our prefects were especially impressive ambassadors for the school, and special recognition must also go to Kayden, whose expert piano playing provided a wonderful soundtrack to the evening.

The event was a fantastic celebration of our school community and our Ramsey value of **Aspiration**, with students demonstrating the confidence, creativity and ambition that help them achieve success. It was truly an excellent evening and one that all involved can be very proud of.

-Mrs Price



Year 11 Careers Fair Visit at Chelmsford Racecourse

On Wednesday 23rd September, our Year 11 students attended an inspiring Careers Fair at Chelmsford Racecourse, where they had the opportunity to explore a vast range of post-16 and future career pathways. With over 100 exhibitors in attendance, students were able to engage with representatives from further and higher education providers, learning about A Levels, T Levels, BTECs, apprenticeships and university degree programmes.



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The event showcased an impressive variety of career sectors and organisations, including NHS Biomedical Science, the RAF, Ryanair, STEM careers in Earth Science, Royal Mail, Military Academies, Rom Theatre Arts and Essex Fire and Rescue Service. Students were encouraged to ask questions, gather information and gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities available to them as they begin making important decisions about their futures.

The visit perfectly reflected one of The Ramsey Academy's core values: Aspiration. By speaking directly with employers, training providers and education specialists,

students were able to broaden their horizons, raise their ambitions and recognise the many pathways available to help them achieve their goals. The experience encouraged them to think positively and ambitiously about what they can accomplish in the years ahead.

Our students were an absolute credit to The Ramsey Academy throughout the day. They conducted themselves brilliantly, engaging confidently and respectfully with exhibitors and demonstrating genuine curiosity about their future options.



Many stallholders took the time to speak with Mrs Price to praise our students for their politeness, maturity and enthusiasm. The organiser of the event also commented that Ramsey students stood out at this event, describing their engagement and conduct as exemplary.



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The impact of the visit was clear on the journey home, with students returning full of enthusiasm about the opportunities they had discovered and how useful the event had been in informing their next steps. Alongside a wealth of information, prospectuses and careers advice, many students also returned with plenty of freebies from the exhibitors!

We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 11 students represented The Ramsey Academy. Their maturity, enthusiasm and commitment to exploring their future options embodied our value of Aspiration, and we hope the experience will inspire them to aim high and make informed choices as they prepare for life beyond Year 11.



Homework and EdClass Logins

- Please disregard any emails regarding these login details that students may have received. Unfortunately, these messages were issued directly by the EdClass system in error. EdClass is **not a platform used by all students** and is instead a targeted intervention resource used to support specific individuals where appropriate. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused. As this communication was generated externally, it was unfortunately beyond the school's control.
- We are pleased to confirm that, in addition to the log-in support emailed to all families on 14.09.2026, all Year 7 students have now received a tutor period in a PC room ensuring they are able to, and confident with, logging into our homework platform Show My Homework (Satchel One). Any log in issues have been dealt with by tutors and departments are on hand to support with subject specific platforms as necessary.
- If your child is still experiencing issues with Show My Homework, please alert their form tutor in the first instance. Queries around other learning platforms should be raised with the subject teacher for direct support. Departments dedicate time during lessons to ensure students are clear on how to use platforms utilised in subject areas. Please note, Science homework is set centrally and so the staff name may not be that listed on your child's timetable but is still a task for them to complete that will be reviewed by their usual teacher.
- Over the coming weeks, we will be providing families with clearer information regarding the various homework platforms, online learning systems and support resources used across the school.
- We thank families for being so proactive in supporting the completion of homework and raising issues promptly.

-Ms Smalley



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First Week of Fixtures: A Strong Start to the Season

We have completed our first week of fixtures for the 2026/27 season, and it has been an exciting start to the year for our football teams. Our **Year 9 and Year 10 teams** opened the season in excellent fashion with convincing victories, showing great teamwork, determination, and quality on the pitch. The performances from both squads have set a positive tone for the weeks ahead.

Unfortunately, it was a more challenging outing for our **Year 8 team**, who faced tough opposition and were knocked out of the cup in the first round. While the result was disappointing, the players showed great effort and **resilience**, and we are confident they will bounce back stronger in their upcoming fixtures.

Attention now turns to **next week's matches**, with plenty more action to come. We are also looking forward to seeing our **Year 7 team** take to the field for the first time this season as they begin their journey representing the school.

Finally, this season marks the last for our **Year 11 students**, and we are excited to see them lead by example as they embark on their final year of school sport with us.

We wish all of our teams the very best of luck for the fixtures ahead and thank staff, parents, and supporters for their continued encouragement.

-Mr Farrelly



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Free School Meals

Please refer to email communications regarding the important change to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility which came into effect on the 1st September 2026. Thank you to those who have already submitted your application. Where eligibility is confirmed, the school has been notified, and our systems have been updated.

If your child received Free School Meals last academic year and you have not yet re-applied, their eligibility will now have ended. We therefore strongly encourage all families in receipt of Universal Credit (that have not done so already) to check eligibility online as soon as possible. Navigate to the - The Ramsey Academy - Pupil Premium webpage and scroll to the bottom of this page to find the link to check your eligibility (graphic below to support).

If you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our data manager kaskew@ramseyacademy.com.

<https://www.ramseyacademy.com/Pupil-Premium/>

Apply For Free School Meals

[Free School Meals Application](#)

ParentPay – Lunch Funds

Could we ask parents to check over the weekend that students have enough money in their account for lunches etc. for the week ahead and top up the account if necessary.

Absence Reporting

If you wish to report your child's absence via email could you please send the email to attendance@ramseyacademy.com

Travel Aid for Parents of Sick Children (TAPS)

TAPS are a Halstead based charity providing travel support for parents/carers of sick children who require ongoing or one-off medical treatment at a hospital in England. Applicants must live in the relevant catchment area and will need to complete an application form. Information can be found on Facebook – Travel Aid for Parents of Sick Children or contact them via email TAPSHalstead@hotmail.com



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Braintree Youth Project Charity

BYPC provide a range of activities, programmes, discussions, trips and opportunities designed to support young peoples' personal, social and emotional development. They have a dedicated programme for young people aged 11 – 14 which focuses on developing important life skills, confidence, communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving and positive relationships with peers whilst ensuring that young people have fun and feel part of a supporting community.

Essex County Council -survey

Essex County Council would like to hear from parents and carers about youth vaping to help evaluate a recent campaign. This survey is for parents/carers of 9-14 year olds in Essex. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will be anonymous as we will not ask any personal information.

Please complete the survey by 1 October.

<https://research.potentia-insight.co.uk/survey/selfserve/53b/260910#>

Healthy Schools Team -Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Services



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October Half Term Bikeability Courses

Essex Bikeability has a range of cycling courses available, including:

- Bikeability Level 1
- Bikeability Level 1 & 2
- Learn to Ride
- Child Bike Workshop & Learn

These courses are designed to help children develop confidence, improve their cycling skills and learn how to ride safely in a fun and supportive environment.

 **Venues:** Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow and Witham

 **Book online:** essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking

Please note there is a **£15 non-refundable booking fee**.

Places are limited, so early booking is recommended.

Local Parent Support Hub

Team Dandelion is a local parent support hub offering support to parents and carers of neurodivergent, fostered, and adopted children. They provide free coffee afternoons where parents can come together to access support, advice, a listening ear, and a sense of community.

A range of local professionals and organisations also attend these sessions, including Essex Family Forum, Families in Focus, and the MAZE Group.

The **Halstead Coffee Hub** takes place on the second Tuesday of every month, and the **Braintree Coffee Hub** is held on the third Tuesday of each month. Both sessions run from **1.00–2.30pm**.

HALSTEAD

St Andrews Church Hall, Parsonage Street, Halstead, CO9 2LD

- Tuesday 13 October
- Tuesday 10th November
- Tuesday 8th December

BRAINTREE - Braintree Baptist Church, Swan Side, Braintree, CM7 3DA

- Tuesday 20th October
- Tuesday 17th November
- Tuesday 15th December



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Careers

Please access our careers padlet for up to date information, advice and guidance

<https://padlet.com/alex2536/ramsey-careers-newsletter-polnaluxwpqmtl>

Labour Market Information: Does your child's career ambition link with employment opportunities?

Labour Market Information (LMI) is information about jobs, employment trends, skills, salaries and future workforce needs. It is important for both students and parents because it helps families make informed choices about subjects, qualifications and next steps, linking education to real career opportunities and future employment prospects. Understanding LMI helps students plan realistically and confidently, and enables you as parents to better support and guide your child's career decisions.

- **Local – Braintree and Halstead:** For example, strong opportunities in construction, health and social care, logistics, retail, and local apprenticeships with employers in and around the district.
- **Regional – East Anglia:** Growing sectors such as agriculture and agri-tech, renewable energy, digital technologies, engineering and healthcare, reflecting the wider regional economy.
- **National – UK:** National trends including increasing demand for digital and IT skills, healthcare professionals, green energy jobs, engineering, and roles requiring flexibility and transferable skills across sectors.

Using LMI allows students to see how today's learning connects to tomorrow's careers and helps families understand where opportunities are growing both locally and beyond. We will be using this information to tailor our careers provision to meet the needs of our young people.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mr. C Appleford
Headteacher



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