



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

"Aspiring to be the best you can be"



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Note from The Head



Welcome to the first edition of this year's Ramsey Voice. As normal it has been a busy start to the term: this newsletter celebrates the activities and success of the students at the end of last term and during the past few months.

Our aim continues to encourage students to 'be the best you can be', which requires them to take opportunities and accept the challenges they face. We were pleased that the Year 11 students rose to the challenge of their GCSE & BTEC courses, producing excellent results. The recently published National Performance Tables show we have achieved results above expected progress and maintained the standards we have set ourselves. The next challenge is to 'raise the bar' further and strive for all subjects to be above national average.

To be successful, in our opinion, is more than just achieving good qualifications. Young people need to develop life skills, an awareness of the importance of the community and positive mental well-being. To achieve these aims, students are offered many opportunities to try new activities and explore the world around them. We have revised the Ramsey Achievement Award (RAA), allowing students to celebrate their success in a more structured and reflective manner.

Progress Reviews are held every half term with each student's Form Tutor and targets are set for the next few months. The RAA Badges are awarded at the end of each academic year following completion of specific criteria.



During the past few weeks many sporting events have been taking place. The Rugby World Cup in Japan has showcased the importance of teamwork and increased the awareness of a different culture. The Chicago Marathon produced a new world women's record and in Vienna, the first sub 2-hour men's marathon was completed. The latter two records highlighted the need for individual resilience as well as physical ability. However, success in all cases could not have been completed without significant input from an extensive support network. In many ways this reflects what students need to succeed in school. In addition to their personal dedication, they need the input from school staff, and support from home. If all three elements work together the chances of a successful outcome will be increased.

The words of Michael Jordan, one of the most successful basketball players of all time, are a reminder that we cannot achieve on our own:

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships."

Students must be encouraged to view their whole school experience as a 'championship' rather than a series of individual games.

School Captains

It's scary to think that we have already completed half a term of Year 11 and time is passing very quickly. We are Will and Tazmin, and we are the Ramsey Academy's School Captains. In our past four years at Ramsey we've both completed a myriad of things, from performing in professional theatres, to excelling in music and winning numerous awards - and yet it still feels quite surreal to be honoured with the role of School Captain.

So far already this year we have assisted at Open Evening with two different speeches and some tours, and our next responsibility will be to attend the Remembrance Service in November. However, in school we have a few exciting changes in the works that we hope to be able to bring to reality very soon. As we do so, we hope to grow and improve and become even better ambassadors for the school. Tazmin Sloat and Will Birch



Bushcraft Trip

During Activities Week we took 96 year 7's on a three-day Bushcraft residential adventure to Penshurst Place, Kent.

The trip would provide fantastic development of leadership skills; demanding resourcefulness, decision-making and practical thinking from students. Each day was made up of a range of hands-on workshops, offering a chance to really get to grips with life in the outdoors within a truly unique environment.

Getting off the coach, all the students and staff were excited about the adventures ahead and the new surroundings. We had a short walk through the woods to the camps where we were shown our tents and then put into small tribes of between ten and fifteen, with each tribe assigned a Bushcraft Leader who would look after us during our visit.

The camp was in the heart of the forest, covered by huge canopy of the trees which gave us shelter from the sun which was useful as we had gone on the hottest days of the year! In the centre of the camp was a Yurt, a massive open sided tent where we all hung out together and ate our meals and spent the evenings telling stories of the day's events.

Each day started with breakfast followed by two activities, then lunch, followed by another two activities, dinner and then bed.

We quickly found out about all the fun tasks we would be doing which included: Shelter Building, Plane Crash rescue, a welcome lake swim, Wilderness First Aid, Bushcraft's Got Talent (where the camp came together for a hilarious night's entertainment), night stalking games and even a chance to eat fish eyes!

Our days were kept busy with all the activities, we only stopped for food which was plentiful and delicious. We cooked burgers on open fires, enjoyed full English breakfasts, pancakes, pasta and marshmallows over the open fires. Our sleeping tents were so hot most of the students decided to sleep out in the open for both nights or in the shelters that we built.

During our three day stay the only wash we had was our lake swim which the students loved! Also we didn't have our mobile phones and they weren't missed at all.

Quickly the time came to leave and students left with a sense of achievement, confident in their ability to live and operate in an outdoors, as well as a greater understanding of the British landscape,. Our time spent living in the wild was truly fantastic and we were all taken out of our comfort zones.

Climbing onto the coaches all smelling of bonfire and thankful for the air-con, we thanked our Bushcraft Leaders for a wonderful stay and pledged that we would be back for more next year!

Miss Buschman



Strasbourg Trip



On the morning of the 21st July 2019, Year 10 at the Ramsey Academy boarded the coach, ready for our exciting trip to Strasbourg! The trip was very highly anticipated and, although having a very early start, we were all (mostly!) wide awake and ready to go! The journey there was around fourteen hours, including an hour on the ferry, which most of us hadn't experienced before and was therefore an exciting, new experience which we all enjoyed thoroughly.

Having arrived at the hotel, which was incredible, we all settled into our rooms and prepared for the next few days. Our trip included many exciting activities, such as a trip to the Mercedes-Benz museum in Germany, a tour around the city of Strasbourg, bowling, a boat trip and a day out at the brilliant Europa theme park! Although most of us were absolutely soaked afterwards, the day was phenomenal! Blistering heat accompanied us throughout the trip, so no need for the lovely 'Strasbourg 2019' hoodies indeed!



Needless to say, we all thoroughly enjoyed our trip! It really was amazing, and we truly encourage the younger years to partake in the trip. Rosy D-T & Mia T

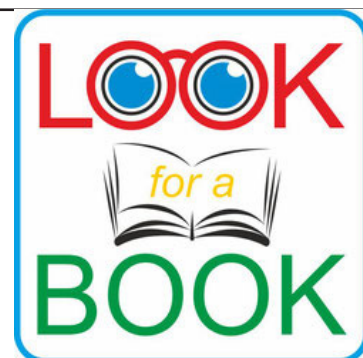


'Look for a Book' Halstead

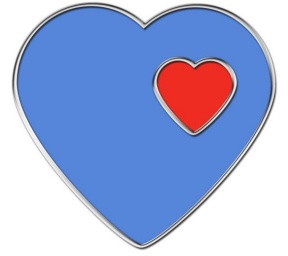
'Look for a Book' is an initiative which has been taking off in many areas all over the country since the beginning of the summer. It takes the form of a hide-and-seek activity; children's books are hidden around an area for someone else to find and read. The finder can then choose to keep the book or re-hide it for someone else to find.

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead decided to launch the idea in Halstead as part of their Open Evening on 26 September. Staff donated almost 200 books that their own children had read and grown out of to kick-start the idea: Around 150 books ranging from picture books for babies to books for teens, were hidden around the school for Year 6 pupils and their families to find, read, keep or re-hide. A Facebook page (Look-for-a-Book-Halstead) and a Twitter account (@BooksRamsey) were started so that hidiers and finders could post photographs of where books have been hidden and where books have been found.

Each book was lovingly wrapped in a clear, waterproof wrapper along with a bookmark explaining what the initiative is and the Facebook and Twitter account details by one of Ramsey Academy's Year 9 Literacy Leaders. Since Open Evening some books have been hidden around the areas that pupils live to open up the idea to more people. More books will be hidden in the next week or two as well, so keep your eyes open. Ms Williams



Endeavour Charity Week July 2019



Endeavour House has chosen to support 'My Blue Heart'. The organisation exists to encourage understanding and compassion towards everyone who has to live on without someone they love.

They aim to give bereaved people a way to show others they are grieving through wearing a heart shaped badge in forget-me-not blue, with a red heart in its heart. The badge conveys the message 'I carry your heart in mine' and always will.

They hope that the blue hearts will become a nationally recognised symbol of bereavement, providing a way to communicate loss and giving others the opportunity to show consideration and support.

All profits from the sale of blue hearts are donated to other established charities to support their work with bereaved children. We will be supporting EACH. Staff will also wear blue hearts to show they will discuss worries with students and to promote the use of blue hearts in school to support children and young people who have experienced a significant loss.

All students were encouraged to join in and help raise as much as possible towards this worthy cause.

This year we had a Hawaiian summer theme. We held daily cake and sweet sales, selling blue hearts, sweets and the blue lollies were a big hit. A big thank you to all staff and students that donated cakes they all went down really well.

There was a 'Splat the Teacher' competition which was keenly watched by a vast number of students who enjoyed watching members of staff getting wet and some of our brave students too!

We held a clothes and shoe collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds. We collected a massive 150kg of clothes and collected £60.

There were many sporting events including volleyball, football and basketball.

Non uniform day topped our week off with staff and students attending school dressed in summer outfits.

Staff eagerly awaited the raffle with some fantastic prizes. Many thanks to anyone that donated prizes.

So Endeavour would like to thank all students, staff and parents for their generous contributions and help throughout a non-stop week.

Mrs Tyler [RSL Endeavour House](#)



Endeavour Charity Week July 2019



Results Day - Class of 2019

The Ramsey Academy is delighted to celebrate another year of excellent results.

Building on the success and continued improvement of recent years the quality of results have been maintained and are in line with expectations.

We are delighted to report that 63% of students achieved grades of 9 - 4 and 35% % of students achieved grades of 9 - 5 in both English and Maths. It was also pleasing to see an increase in the number of students achieving the highest grades.

A number of subjects received excellent results particularly English, Maths, History, Religious Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Design & Technology, Food Preparation & Nutrition and Health & Social Care.

Particular mention should go to;

- Owen Tuthill who achieved 6 grade 9s, 1 grade 8, 2 grade 7s and 1 A in Additional Maths
- Molly Gerrard who achieved 5 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 1 grade 7 and 1 grade 6
- Rosie Shackell who achieved 1 grade 9s, 4 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s and 2 grade 6s
- Hannah Birch who achieved 1 grade 9, 3 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s and 2 grade 6s
- Dom Hunt who achieved 5 grade 8s, 1 grade 7 and 3 grade 6

However, whilst the attainment grades are important, we are delighted with the progress of many of our students. Those who have made the most progress since joining The Ramsey Academy include Roman Watkins, Kallie King, Millie Slee, Jessie Allen and Ruby White.

"We are delighted the hard work of the students has produced excellent results which will allow them to progress to the next stage of their education or employment. On behalf of the students, I would like to thank the staff and parents for their support. The results show that as a school we provide an all-round education, with a range of opportunities for all students, whatever their ability level and interest. The continued improvements at the Ramsey Academy are contributing to our aim of becoming an outstanding school in the heart of the community and first choice for local families. We wish all the students good luck and best wishes for the future." Mr James



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Football

On Wednesday 25 September the Year 10 boys played a friendly football match against Hedingham School and won 5-4. The Ramsey Team were Harrison D, Callum H, Tom L, Jack, B, Jamie GG, Josh I, Ewan H, Dylan M, Corby W, Will P, Josh R, Cobi B and Brad K. Great play, boys! Mr Child



Football

On Wednesday 18 September 2019 The Ramsey Academy Year 10's played a friendly football match against Honywood and won 4-3. The team were Harrison D, Callum H, Tom L, Jack, B, Jamie GG, Josh I, Ewan H, Dylan M, Corby W, Will P, Josh R, Cobi B and Jessie S. Well done, boys! Mr Child



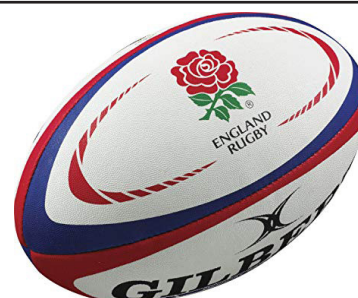
Table Tennis Tournament

On Monday 7 October 2019 The Ramsey Academy played and hosted an Under 16 Table Tennis Tournament. Games were played against Honywood School A Team, Honywood School B Team, Hedingham School and Alec Hunter with The Ramsey Boys Team finishing in 2nd place overall. The Ramsey Boys Team were, Bleu M, Billy J, Josh D and Callum W. The Girls team played Alec Hunter and won. The girls team consisted of Mia C, Ellie W, Ellie P



Rugby Tournament

On Wednesday 9 October 2019, The Ramsey Academy Year 10 and 11 Teams attended a Rugby Tournament hosted by Braintree RFC. We played matches against Hedingham School, Joyce Franklin and Alec Hunter Schools and finished overall in 3rd place position. The team were Harrison R, Alfie H, George C, Bleu M, Owen S, Will F, Robin P, Ben J, Cobi B, Lewis C, Ewan H, Jamie GG, Beau C, Josh I, Jack R, Robin P, Owen P, Josh D and Yuliy D. Well done to all boys who took part. Mr Child



Rounders Tournament

On Wednesday 7 July, three teams made up of students from Year 7, 8 and 9 attended a rounders tournament at Alec Hunter School. After some brilliant performances the Under 13 team made up of Year 8 students came 3rd overall in the district. The teams were:
Year 7: Sienna Z, Katie R, Katie E, Gemma W, Erin P-J, Lily-Mae C, Rosie M, Brooke P, Melissa A, Alex L, Kellum S, Kaiden K, Felmark F and Zach D.
Year 8: Maisy C, Niamh T, Lucy R, Katie H, Zara C, Evie W, Kenza C-M, Amelia G, Jess H, Rosie H, Nina P, Martine P-S, Will G, Chay G, Eddy P, Jamie H, Will S, Courtney S and Jess G.



Year 9: Izzy P, Rose V, Erin N, Macy B, Ellie P, Becky W, Amy S, Aiden P, Callum H, Harry S, Tom L, Charlotte C and Katie B. Congratulations and well done to all who played. Miss Hibble



Shakespeare in Schools Festival Workshop



Preparations for the Ramsey Academy's production of "Macbeth" move on a pace as we rehearse for our November performance in the prestigious, national Shakespeare in Schools Festival at the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford. The festival is a nationwide project that encourages young people of all ages and abilities to engage with their cultural heritage, community and creativity through the performance of Shakespeare.

Work on "Macbeth" began in the summer term and since then the students have been rehearsing hard in their own time with Mrs Barnes and Miss Fisher to bring this show to life.

On Wednesday 2 October, the cast and technical crew had the fabulous opportunity to work with professional directors and facilitators from the Shakespeare Schools Festival organisation at the Cramphorn Theatre, Chelmsford. Here the cast were able to explore characterisation, think about performance skills and consider the meanings in the play. The technical students, who have been tasked with planning the lighting, sound, props and costumes, were able to gain some insights into the equipment available at the Civic Theatre and take a look around the lighting and sound box in readiness for their work on the show.

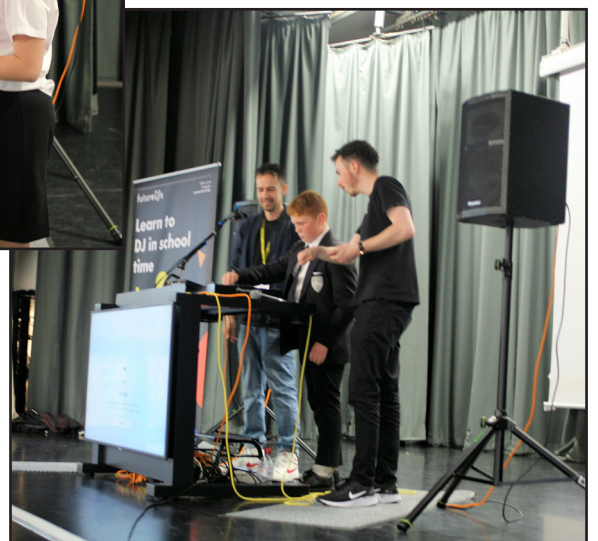
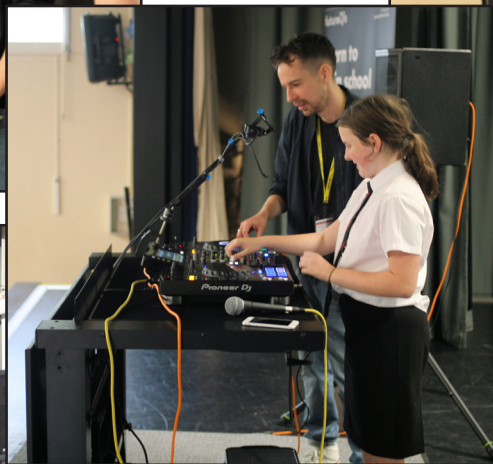
We commend our students as their behaviour, commitment, maturity and enthusiasm during the workshop were outstanding. The workshop facilitators from the Shakespeare in Schools Festival organisation were highly impressed and particularly pointed out how well they had done.

Three other schools will perform abridged, half-hour versions of Shakespeare's plays on the same evening alongside The Ramsey Academy so the programme will be varied. We're really looking forward to the main event on November 12 2019 at 7.00pm. Tickets can be obtained from the Civic Theatre Box Office so snap them up now before "sell out"! Mrs Barnes



DJ Workshop

On Thursday 3 October Year 8 & 9 students took part in a workshop given by the Future DJ's company. Some students even got the chance to perform on stage with professional DJs. Future DJs will be delivering lessons in school from January 2020. More details can be available from Mr Lewis-James.



Outdoor Music Festival

On Monday 22 July 2019 Ramsey staff and students were treated to an outdoor music concert arranged by Mr Lewis-James. On a hot day it was a refreshing interlude. Ramsey Staff



A collage of 20 photographs capturing a car show event. The images show students in formal wear posing with various vehicles. Key photos include: a woman in a red dress; a couple in formal wear by a silver car; two women in red and black dresses by a dark classic car; a woman in a black dress; a couple by a white car; a woman in a blue dress by a red convertible; two women in white and silver dresses by a white car; a group of men in suits by a white van; a man on a bicycle in front of a crowd; two women in white and blue dresses by a green military-style vehicle; a woman in a silver dress by a green and white Beetle; a group of men in suits by a white car; two women in silver dresses by a silver SUV; two men in suits by a white car; a group of men in suits by a dark classic car; three men on a motorcycle; two women in silver dresses by a blue car; a woman in a silver dress by a blue car; a crowd with a yellow tractor in the background; and a yellow pickup truck.



Awards Evening

On Wednesday 18 September, we held our Awards Evening which recognises the achievements of students in all subjects across the previous year. More than 100 students received awards for academic excellence and progress in their subjects. Awards were presented by Mr Paul Harrison, our Chair of Governors, and the hall was packed with parents who helped their children celebrate their successes.

Alongside the subject awards, students who had made a major contribution to their House were given certificates and the overall House shields which recognise all round achievement were presented to Tazmin Sloat, Jessica Thomas and Tom Winter. A fantastic evening and once again congratulations to all award winners. More photographs from the evening are viewable following the link <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/photo-gallery/s-86/2019/awards-evening-september-2019> Mr Leys



Air Cadets Assembly



On Thursday 13 September I gave a presentation to students about Air Cadets. We recently had an open day at the Squadron as we have an opportunity for new members to join.

I joined Air cadets 3 years ago. To join you have to be 13 years of age or in Year 8.

We meet twice a week in Halstead on Monday and Wednesday evenings 19:00 to 21:30. Air Cadets offers such a range of activities that are so enjoyable.

I have recently been promoted to corporal and I am currently working towards my silver D of E award.

If you are interested and think Air Cadets is for you! Come and see us. Morgan J Year 11

Greenfield Interviews

During the Summer Term, Year 10 students had the fabulous opportunity to attend "mock interviews" at a range of local companies. Students were required to produce CVs and apply for job roles, interviewing in a realistic application situations. Employers included Greenfields, Sainsburys, Braintree District Council and Fusion Leisure Centre. This was a challenging but really invigorating experience and many students felt that they had built a great deal of confidence having to present themselves to adult managers from our local businesses. Mrs Barnes



Open Evening Success



Thursday 26 September saw The Ramsey Academy throw open its doors and welcome parents and children who are currently in the process of choosing secondary schools for September 2020. All departments put on amazing demonstrations of the work we do and potential students had the opportunity to try a wide variety of activities. Once again our current students, of whom around 250 helped on the evening, showed what it is to be a Ramsey student and were wonderful ambassadors for the school.

The evening was incredibly busy with a huge number of visitors and the hall packed for both of Mr James's talks to parents. Over the next few weeks we are holding a number of Open Mornings where parents have the opportunity to visit us on a normal school day. The Open Evening was once again an event which makes staff immensely proud to be part of The

Ramsey Academy. Mr Leys



Careers Fair

On Wednesday 25 September 2019 Year 11 students visited the Careers Fair at Chelmsford City Racecourse. The fair hosted representatives from public and private sector employers, as well as universities, local colleges and training providers. The event, including transport was fully funded by "Make Happen" which is part of the Essex National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) funded by HEFCE.

Alongside local employers such as Maycast-Nokes and Milbank, local law, accountancy and care firms, students were able to talk directly to representatives from industries and institutions as wide ranging as the chemical oil and gas industry, football and rugby academies, the armed forces, the Royal Horticultural Society, hair and beauty salons, recording studios, construction and mechanical engineers and 6th Form colleges.

Yr 11 students are currently facing the difficult choices that will shape the next few years of their lives and, potentially, the education, training and career paths they may take for the rest of their lives. They certainly made the most of this opportunity to research and confidently ask questions about the options open to them post 16. Back at Ramsey, the students will now take advantage of visiting speakers and personal development lessons to support them in their decisions and help them to build CVs, and prepare personal statements and professional covering letters. Whether they choose apprenticeships, A Levels, vocational programmes or employment with training, we certainly wish them the very best of luck with their application process this Autumn! Mrs Barnes

College & Sixth Form Open Days/Evenings 2019-2020

<p><u>Chelmsford College</u> www.chelmsford.ac.uk</p> <p>Monday 14th October 2019 – 6.00pm to 8.30pm Monday 25th November 2019 – 6.00pm to 8.30pm Monday 10th February 2020 – 6.00pm to 8.30pm Monday 27th April 2020 – 6.00pm to 8.30pm Monday 22nd June 2020 – 6.00pm to 8.30pm</p>	<p><u>Writtle University College</u> www.writtle.ac.uk</p> <p>Saturday 7th September 2019 – 10.00am to 1.00pm Saturday 9th November 2019 – 10.00am to 1.00pm Saturday 11th January 2020 – 10.00am to 1.00pm</p>
<p><u>Colchester Institute</u> www.colchester.ac.uk</p> <p>Saturday 12th October 2019 - 10.00am to 1.00pm Wednesday 16th October 2019 - 5.00pm to 8.00pm Thursday 17th October 2019 - 5.00pm to 8.00pm Wednesday 22nd January 2020 – 5.00pm to 8.00pm <i>Apprenticeship Information Evenings – Tuesday 4th February & Wednesday 27th May 2020 from 5.00pm till 7.00pm</i></p>	<p><u>The Sixth Form College, Colchester</u> www.colchsfc.ac.uk</p> <p>A Level Open Evening Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th October 2019 from 6.00pm to 9.00pm International Baccalaureate Information Evening Monday 18th November 2019 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm <i>Applications open online from Friday 25th October and close on Friday 31st January 2020</i></p>
<p><u>The College at Braintree</u> www.colchester.ac.uk</p> <p>Monday 14th October 2019 - 5.00pm to 8.00pm Saturday 19th October 2019 - 10.00am to 1.00pm Monday 20th January 2020 – 5.00pm to 7.00pm <i>Apprenticeship Information Evening – Thursday 13th February 2020 from 4.00pm till 7.00pm</i></p>	
<p><u>Stansted Airport College</u> www.stanstedairportcollege.ac.uk</p> <p>Saturday 19th October 2019 – 10.00am to 2.00pm Wednesday 12th February 2020 - 5.30pm to 8.30pm</p>	<p><u>Braintree Sixth Form</u> www.braintreesixthform.com</p> <p>Wednesday 6th November 2019 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm <i>Applications open online from Thursday 7th November and close on Friday 13th December 2019</i></p>
<p><u>Hedingham Sixth Form</u> www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk Tel: 01787 460470</p> <p>Wednesday 13th November 5pm- 6.30pm Advised to contact to check before travelling.</p>	<p><u>Ormiston Sudbury Academy</u> www.ormistonsudburyacademy.co.uk Tel: 01787 375131</p> <p>Thursday 17th October Times to be confirmed</p>

Please check dates and times on the College/Sixth Form website before you travel in case of any changes, and register to attend the event online in advance.

Information for Parents, Carers and Students

Halstead Town Under 12s (Year 7) Football Team (Blues) - recruiting new players

Halstead Town under 12s Football Team are recruiting new players this year. We have 10 in the team now (the majority attend Ramsey Academy or local schools in the area) but we need a few more boys as next year we play 11 aside rather than the 9 this year.

The boys train on Saturday morning 9.00 to 10.30am at a pitch near Ramsey Academy and have league football matches on Sunday mornings/early afternoon at home (at Ramsey Academy) or away in the Colchester area.

If anyone is interested in joining, they would be more than welcome to come along to one of our the training sessions for a trial to see if they liked it.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, but should you want to chat/discuss this my phone number is 07717772995.

Thanks

Jane Lewis



Live Apprenticeship Updates

National Apprenticeship Service Live search. Search <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> and enter your post code and radius, this will show all apprenticeships available within the perimeter.

Education & Skills Funding Agency

National Apprenticeship Service

Tel: 0800 015 0400



Web: [Visit our pages on GOV.UK](#)

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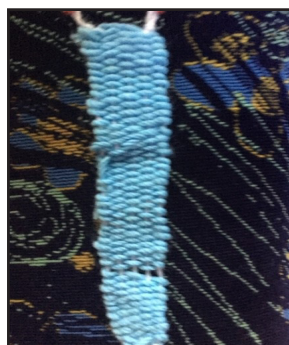
Follow [@Apprenticeships](#) on Twitter and National Apprenticeship Service on LinkedIn.

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Year 7 Activities Day Sutton Hoo Trip

On a very warm July 24th 2019, a group of about 50 Year 7 students visited Sutton Hoo, the world famous Anglo Saxon Burial Site and National Trust Exhibition.



The fascinating visit included a guided tour of the burial mounds, a session learning to weave as Anglo Saxons would have done and talks about some of the artefacts found at Sutton Hoo in 1939.

Students enjoyed the day and learned a great deal about Anglo Saxon life and beliefs.
Mrs Gibbs



Dates For your Diary

Friday 25th October - End of Half- Term

Monday 4th November
- Start of new Half- Term

Friday 29th November - Non-student day

Friday 20th December - Last day of term

Monday 6th January 2020 - Non-student day

Tuesday 7th January- First day of Spring term

