



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

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Note from The Head

Welcome to the second edition of this year's Ramsey Voice. In the last edition we outlined the Ramsey Achievement Award, which aims to recognise a student's good progress, attendance and involvement in a range of activities to develop skills and cultural awareness. The articles in this newsletter provide a brief insight into the various events that contribute to the successful completion of the Award. Many of the articles in this edition are aimed at developing respect, tolerance and consideration for others; all qualities we aim to develop within our curriculum.

We were delighted to welcome back former students to the annual Awards Evening. Mrs Sims was 'Guest of Honour' to present the well-earned GCSE and Duke of Edinburgh Award certificates, as well as the 'special awards' for outstanding achievement in specific subjects or contribution to the school life.

This year was the inaugural presentation of the Elizabeth Ward Memorial Trophy, in remembrance of our former Chair of Governors, who passed away earlier this year. The Trophy is presented to the student who has consistently displayed the qualities of aspiration, diversity and endeavour during their time at The Ramsey Academy, both academically, in their personal development and their contribution to supporting others in the school and local community. We were honoured to present and announce Dawn Ryder as the first recipient of trophy.

Recently, we were presented with the Bronze Award for Young Carers in School. Many of our young people are responsible for the emotional, practical or physical care of a parent, sibling or family member. The Award recognises the support and help we provide to these young people, to ensure their education is not affected by the additional responsibilities they have.

Our aim is to be an 'outstanding school in the heart of the community'. Our engagement with the community is vital to develop those values of respect, tolerance and consideration for others. It not only ensures students appreciate the importance of community life but to raise the awareness of local people to the positive involvement of the student in a wide range of events that can easily be missed. The annual visit to Ypres raises awareness of the sacrifice others gave and attendance at the annual Remembrance Parade by the School Captains and other students representing various local youth organisations ensures young people develop respect for others.

Throughout the year the school raises money for numerous charities and other less fortunate. This not only involves fund raising, but donations to the food bank and time to help others. Whilst these efforts may be particularly highlighted during the Christmas period, we aim to ensure students keep the needs of others in their mind throughout the year.

Many students will either study the novel or watch films of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. They know the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit and the three ghosts: Past, Present and Yet to Come. So, in the context of our ongoing efforts throughout the year to develop respect, tolerance and consideration, the words from the novel are highly relevant:

"I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future. The Spirits of all Three will strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."

Help and Support Available over the Christmas and New Year Period

Christmas is a happy time for many of us but it can also be testing on our mental health. If it does get too much there are a few places that can help. A lot of charities still operate during this period and have telephone numbers that can be reached throughout the holiday season. There is always someone on hand to help. These include



Childline, Samaritans, Mind, Age UK and Rethink Mental Illness, which all promise to be there for anyone who needs them during Christmas. You can also contact your local Police Service on 101. The Ramsey Academy would like to wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year holiday season.



Don't suffer in silence.

Here are a few numbers and websites which may help if you need someone to talk to.

Childline: www.childline.org.uk - 0800 1111

Samaritans: www.samaritans.org - 116 123

Mind: www.mind.org.uk - 0300 123 3393 or text 86463

Age UK: www.ageuk.org.uk - 0800 055 6112

Rethink: www.rethink.org - 0300 5000 927



The Ramsey Academy wins award for young carer support

The Ramsey Academy has been given a Bronze award for their work to make sure students don't miss out on an education because they are young carers.

The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award.

Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue. The 2011 Census statistics revealed that there are just over 166,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg. The true figure could be closer to 700,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in 12 school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.

Research carried out by Carers Trust and The Children's Society shows that, on average, young carers miss or cut short 48 school days a year and often have lower levels of self-confidence, mental wellbeing and significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, because of their caring role. Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework states that inspectors will look at how well schools support young carers. While some schools are doing this really well, others struggle and this causes real problems for young carers.

To help schools support young carers, the programme offers a step-by-step guide for leaders, teachers and non-teaching staff, with practical tools designed to make it as easy as possible for schools. Staff can also receive training through webinars and events and the programme also features a newsletter each term highlighting relevant policy developments, spotlighting good practice and giving updates on the programme's successes.

"To achieve their Bronze Award, The Ramsey Academy has demonstrated that it supports young carers in many ways, including homework clubs and drop-in sessions with a member of staff who is responsible for this vulnerable group of pupils. Vital information about how to identify young carers is made available to all school staff, and noticeboards and the school webpage let students and their families know where to go for help".

The programme is open to all schools in England and to sign up schools just need to visit www.youngcarersinschools.com

Giles Meyer, Chief Executive of Carers Trust, today congratulated Award-winning schools, saying: "The Young Carers in Schools programme is helping to transform schools and support staff across England. Schools play a vital role in a young carer's life, as many care for relatives without their teachers even knowing what they do. On average young carers will miss a day of school each month as a result of their caring role, so the steps schools take to identify and support them can have a huge impact on their learning, wellbeing and life chances."

Helen Leadbitter, national young carers lead at The Children's Society, is delighted that the Young Carers in Schools Programme is bringing about national change.

"Hundreds of schools across England are participating in the Young Carers in Schools programme, using the tools and resources to improve their support systems, and ensuring that no child need miss out on educational opportunities because they are a carer. 74% of schools who have achieved a Young Carers in Schools Award have noticed improved attendance among their young carers, and 94% have noticed improvements in their wellbeing and confidence.

Mrs Speechley quoted "I cannot understate the amazing support that Ramsey Staff provide for our students. This award reinforces our belief that Young Carers need to be recognised for their hard work over and above the normal day to day lives of teenagers. It is so important that Young Carers are aware that support is out there for them and their families. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or The House office if you feel you are a Young Carer (information is available on our website or on the information board in the Canteen Corridor)."

Carers Trust is the UK's largest charity providing services to unpaid carers, young carers and young adult carers. We work to make sure that carers of all ages are not overlooked or deprived of services they need, and this is underpinned in our vision - a world where the role and contribution of unpaid carers is recognised, and where they have access to the quality support services they need to live their own lives. We support over 465,000 carers across the UK, including over 30,000 young carers.

Through its network of carers services, Carers Trust supports thousands of young and young adult carers.

We do this with a UK wide network of quality assured independent partners, through our unique online services and through the provision of grants to help carers get the extra help they need to live their own lives.

There are seven million carers in the UK.

Please visit our website www.carers.org for further information about your nearest service.



Year 7 History Project

On 15 and 16 October 7H1 took part in a joint project with the History Department, Halstead Library and Halstead Heritage Museum. The pupils were tasked with telling the story of Halstead in 10 objects selected from the Museum archive.

On the first day pupils undertook a History Walk of Halstead looking at the High Street and how it has changed through time. They learnt about the various coaching houses and where the old forge was. They also stopped to look at the site of the first school in Halstead. Pupils then spent time in the Library using the reference books to discover the significant aspects of the town's past. The remainder of the morning was spent exploring the archives at the Museum. By the end of the first day the students had selected their objects and were ready to conduct further research on the second day.

On the second day pupils worked on how to tell the story of their objects and developed two presentations- one to be displayed in the Library and one to be taken to Gosfield Community School.

The display was placed in the Library and many members of the public were able to view and learn from the students' work.

On Monday 4th November the pupils travelled to Gosfield to deliver their presentation in front of the whole school as the conclusion to the School's History Day. The pupils told the pupils about their items and even shared some role plays and songs to engage the younger members of the audience.

All members of the group were a real credit to the school. Not only have they built valuable research skills, they have also developed their public speaking skills. If anyone is interested in the history of Halstead, the museum is open each Wednesday and Sunday 1:30-4pm. The museum can also assist with family tree research.

Mrs Perrins



Remembrance Day in Pictures



SPORTS NEWS: SPORTS NEWS: SPORTS NEWS: SPORTS NEWS:

Table Tennis Competition

On 7 October 2019 The Ramsey Academy hosted a Table Tennis Tournament. The Under 16 boys team made up of Bleu M, Billy J, Josh D and Callum W went on to finish 2nd out of the five teams that took part. The visiting teams were Honeywood (A and B Team), Hedingham and Alec Hunter. The girls Under 16 team made up of Mia C, Ellie W, Ellie P and Isobel P came first against opposition from Alec Hunter. Congratulations to all who played. Mr Child



District Cross Country

On Thursday 12 December 2019 The Ramsey Academy took part in the District Cross Country Event. The weather was shocking, very wet, muddy and awful to run in but the team did us proud producing some impressive finishing positions. The team was made up of Jonathan S, Blue F, Sunny P, Hayden VB, Lewis G, Bella T, Isabelle T, Phebe T, Livie H, Rosie B, Harry C, Lewis D, Kellum, Sam F, Natalie P, Ruby S, Holly VB, Katie R, Jamie H, James R, Holly S, Maisie C. Well done to all who took part. Miss Danino



District Basketball Competition

On the Thursday 28 November 2019, Year 9 girls basketball team went to The Maltings Academy to play in the District Competition. They went on to win two matches and drew a match and also lost a match making a final position of 2nd place overall. Teams that attended were The Maltings Academy, New Rickstones Academy, Alec Hunter and Tabor Academy. The team was Nina P, Katie H, Amelia G, Sienna I, Olu F, Yasmin H and Rosie - Mr Child



Tony Lee Author Visit

On 5 November an author called Tony Lee came into our school and talked to the Year 8s about how to become an author. Many students enjoyed his assembly and his workshop. Tony Lee was telling us how he grew up not liking books and how he enjoys reading and writing books now.

He said what he wants us to remember is, if you're reading a book and you're not liking it, he said 'just change the channel to something else'.

In the workshop we had to be careful of what we said because there was a punishment if we said something stupid. Firstly, he told us that all the Year 8s are in the English area trapped and surrounding this building are some blood-thirsty vampires. But they can't get in the building unless you invite them in, so you could not trust anyone because someone might invite them in. We all came up with some ideas. Like running out there with a hydro flask or fire extinguisher. It's not going to work.



All we needed to do was get to the canteen and that would provide us with garlic and the vampires won't go near you with garlic. However, we just needed to get there without getting killed, but when you go outside they will instantly get you. We really struggled to think of some sensible ideas that meant we would survive.

Thankfully we found out that the punishment was not real, so no one actually got put in the hub in the end.

This was a really nice day and everyone enjoyed it. Preston B



Pathways Activities

We have been really busy in Pathway making salt dough ornaments to either hang on Christmas trees or gift to relatives and friends. We had to measure, and mix, all of the ingredients together with the rest of our group. We got a little bit messy! We then worked together to cut out, mould and then paint our final pieces. All the different stages are in the photos, and there are even some on our Pathway Christmas tree! Mrs Owens



Message from the School Captains

This past half-term we have been even more busy than ever whilst managing revision for our mocks with other responsibilities but they are finally over and we remain hopeful for our results in the New Year. Aside from the usual schoolwork however, we've both been kept quite busy as School Captains recently.

On Sunday 10 November we both represented the school at the Remembrance Sunday Service in Halstead and paid our respects to those who fell fighting for our country. It was both an honour and incredibly humbling to be able to take part in such a significant ceremony, and we are both so grateful to have been able to place the crosses as representatives of the Academy. It is crucial that we remember the great people who served our country during conflicts both past and present - without them it is possible that we wouldn't be where we are today.

Speaking of public appearances, we both took part in the annual Torchlight Precession on Wednesday 4 December, before attending the reception with the Mayor afterwards. This was another great privilege - speaking to different members that help to make up this town's fantastic community was an eye-opener, and we were extremely lucky to receive an invitation!

We are now looking forward to making more progress in the New Year in regards to both our academic studies and fulfilling the targets set by the Student Management Team - we are working towards becoming a more eco-friendly school, improving the rewards/awards system in school and boosting what students can access and how they access support services/information/advice. But for now, we are going to enjoy a relatively quieter Christmas - we hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and an even better start to 2020! - Tazmin Sloat and Will Birch



Diversity Charity Week - Supporting The Breck Foundation

21 to 25 October was the first charity week of this school year, and who better to kick a tradition off than Diversity? The aim of the week was to raise as much money as possible for the Breck Foundation, a charity founded to promote e-safety and try to prevent children from the horrors that Breck and his family had to face as a result of someone he met online, and the school did just that.

Aside from the usual cake sales at break time from each year group and the non-uniform day on Friday, Diversity went all out on raising money for such an amazing charity. During the course of the week, there were two Year 11 vs Staff sports matches - basketball on Monday and netball on Thursday, where the staff managed to thrash the Year 11 teams on both occasions, upholding their winning streak that has lasted for at least three years. At lunchtimes there was also a FIFA tournament hosted by Mr Charlton and a film played in the hall - both of these activities were met with a lot of excited students more than willing to part with their money for such a good cause. On Friday, single-handedly organised by Peter Richardson and some of his classmates, the Lip-Sync Battle took place, where a wide variety of different songs were performed to, but the eventual winner was the large group of Year 11s who performed their own rendition of Take Me Home, Country Roads.

During the week both students and members of staff sent handwritten messages to each other, adorned with sweets, to raise money for the cause as well. Overall, the week was a great deal of fun, and in total we raised an astounding £1411 - everyone who took part and/or helped out should be very proud of themselves. Tazmin S - Year 11

THE BRECK FOUNDATION

B • **BE AWARE**
Opening files, accepting emails, IM messages, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems - they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

R • **REPORT IT**
Tell your parent, or trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied.

E • **EDUCATE**
Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check info with other websites, books or someone who knows. If you like chatting online it's best to only chat to your real friends & family.

C • **COMMUNICATE**
Meeting someone you have met online can be dangerous. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time. Never meet up with them alone and always speak to a parent or carer beforehand.

K • **KEEP SAFE**
Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you are chatting or posting online. This includes your email, phone number, password, school, college and location.

The Breck Foundation is raising awareness for playing safe whilst using the internet. Breck Bednar was a 14 year old boy, from Caterham, Surrey, who loved technology and online gaming. He was groomed via the internet and sadly murdered on February 17th 2014 by someone he met online. This Foundation has been set up in his memory to help other young people to enjoy playing online, but be aware that the friends you make online are not like your real friends. "Play Virtual / Live Real"

breckfoundation.org [@thebreckfound](https://twitter.com/thebreckfound) #playvirtuallivereal [thebreckfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/thebreckfoundation)



Diversity Charity Week - Supporting The Breck Foundation



Class of 2019 Awards Evening

On Thursday 28 November The Ramsey Academy welcomed back the class of 2019 to receive their GCSE certificates, subject and special awards. It was a wonderful evening with the opportunity to catch up with students about their continuing studies and work. Alongside families and friends we celebrated the fantastic achievements of this group of students whose results have ensured that The Ramsey Academy is recognised as one of the best schools in Essex and the Eastern Region.

Special awards were awarded to Molly Gerrard for Outstanding contribution to Sport and the Old Colonial Association Prize for languages for making the most progress in languages. Owen Tuthill received the David Fielding Award for outstanding creative writing, Owen also received the Newell Shield for obtaining the highest average points score in his GCSE results. Ruby White received the Alan Dyer Award for the most improvement in Maths and Harry Tarbin received the Stewart Billson Award for the most improvement in Science. Dawn Ryder received the Milburn Drama plate and The Elizabeth Ward Memorial Trophy. Hannah Birch was awarded the Lucy Jordan Plate which is awarded in memory of a former student who cared deeply about the Academy community. Lily Gidden was awarded the Halstead Grammar School Old Girls Association for making a significant contribution to the Academy. Becky Howard was awarded the Christopher Holmes Prize for best all-round performance throughout her academy career.

Congratulations to all these students. Mrs Sterland



Class
of
2019



London Eye and Tate Modern Visit

On Tuesday 12 November 2019 Year 7 went on a trip to London. My favourite part was going on the London Eye, because the view from the top was so cool. You could see all the London skyline. The Tate Modern was also good because we ate lunch and then looked at some cool art work by famous artists. There were some not so famous artists too. It was really fun and on the coach people were waving to people and one man in a lorry waved back: we all laughed. Callum Year 7

On Tuesday 12 November, Year 7 went on a fun-filled London trip. My favourite part was the London Eye, but it was such a fun day. I was quite nervous to go on the London Eye but once I was on, it was so fun! I saw all of London and everyone was having such a good time. When we got off, we walked along the south bank and into the Tate. Having lunch was interesting as there were so many people from different countries to come and see this. Walking around was amazing, many



famous artists art was there. On the way back, we walked over the Millennium Bridge and although it was raining a bit, it was so refreshing. Finally, on the journey home, everyone was so tired! Overall, I loved this trip, especially the London Eye. Cadence Year 7

Arriving at the London Eye was amazing, just standing underneath the London Eye. My experience was breath taking, amazing and eye widening. Livie Year 7

It was so much fun being on the London Eye. I saw boats, buildings and even the eye itself slowly edging its way towards the top and back again. Joshua Year 7

In the Tate there were some amazing pieces of art. I thought the best part of the Tate was the illusions. I thought the illusions were cool and unusual. Brooke Year 7



Ypres - History Trip

From 12-13 November, 91 Year 9s joined the annual History Department expedition to Ypres. The journey was extremely smooth and we made good time, allowing for a breakfast stop at the services in Folkestone before getting onto the train bound for Calais.

Our first stop in Belgium was the Trench of Death. The Trench of Death is a preserved section of the Belgian front line trenches where pupils could get to grips with the impact of the war on the landscape as well on the participants. There were many interactive exhibits as well as the chance to walk and sometimes crawl through 1000 metres of trenches. This network of revetments, saps and dug-outs was one of the most dangerous Belgian positions on the Western Front, situated just 50 metres from a German bunker. As a result, the trench was subjected to almost constant fire from the Germans.

Our next stop was to the military hospital cemetery of Lijssenthoek. The pupils spent some time paying their respects to the fallen soldiers and Nellie Spindler who was a nurse killed by shrapnel whilst treating the injured when the casualty clearing station had been tragically moved within range of the German artillery.

The trip then moved on to Bayernwald a preserved section of German trenches. Pupils were able to climb into the trenches and explore the various ammunition stores and dugouts. The area was strategically very important and overlooks many of the other cemeteries and battle field around Ypres.

The pupils then had a quick pit stop at the hostel to refuel before heading out to the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The Last Post Ceremony has taken place every evening at 8pm since 1928 except for a period during WW2. A group from each coach took part in the ceremony and laid a wreath on behalf of all of the staff and students from Ramsey.

On the second Friday was equally busy with both coaches following their own itineraries. Both groups visited the Essex Farm cemetery where John McCrae wrote the famous poem, 'In Flanders Fields'. The pupils were also shocked to visit the grave of Rifleman Valentine Strudwick, as he was only 15 years old when he was killed after lying to the recruitment officer. The groups also went to Tyne Cot the largest British cemetery in Belgium with over 30,000 soldiers remembered there. The visitor centre at Tyne Cot displays letters and diaries belonging to the some of the soldiers and helped pupils to understand the impact of the war.

The groups also visited the German cemetery at Langemark. Langemark has a completely different feel to the British cemeteries that we visit and the graves are much more densely packed, with no individual headstones. The pupils discovered the fact that 3000 of the Germans buried there had been taken straight from school to fight in the first battle for Ypres.

The groups also explored the Passchendaele Memorial Museum. The museum contains the expected artefacts from the war but also has a deep underground system of trenches and dugouts to explore. Pupils were able to gain an insight into the lifestyles of soldiers at the front and really enjoyed exploring all of the various areas, the art work dedicated to men that drowned in the mud at Passchendaele was especially moving.

We finally journeyed back into Ypres town square for a spot of chocolate shopping and lunch before embarking on our journey home.

The pupils' behaviour was fantastic throughout the trip and their conduct was a real highlight for the staff. They were interested in all of the sites and, although tired by the end, really embraced the opportunity to learn on location.
Mrs Perrins



Ypres - History Trip Pupil Reviews

Yakup- The trenches were interesting and intricate, and the museums were a good source of knowledge.'

Lucas- 'The trenches and the museums were really cool to explore and it helped me to learn more about WW1'

Will ' The best part of the trip was the Trench of Death'

Kieran- The main thing I learnt was how deadly the conditions and weapons were. I particularly enjoyed the Trench of Death as it was really realistic.'

Jacob 'Belgium was a very good trip. It was very moving seeing al the graves and the amount was surprising. The trenches were a great experience to see what the soldiers saw. Hill 60 was astounding to see the damage that was caused.'

Zara- 'I particularly enjoyed looking around the cemeteries as it made me realise how big of an impact it was and how grateful we should all be. I also really enjoyed our free time in Ypres and looking around the town.'

Shakespeare in Schools Festival

On Tuesday 12 November, the cast of Macbeth went to the civic theatre in Chelmsford to showcase our performance with our director and manager, Mrs Barnes.

When we arrived, we were amazed by the size of the theatre we were performing in - then the reality of the performance hit. After a while, we did our dress rehearsal and we watched the other schools too. We were very anxious as the other schools performed very well.

When we arrived at Pizza Hut for lunch we were all starving as we had been rehearsing for a few hours. When we had finished our lovely lunch, we went to Chelmsford museum and found out some interesting facts.

Finally, we took the minibus back to the theatre and had one final rehearsal. The show started at 7pm and it finished at 8:45pm. It was a great experience and we all made so many memories. Sophie T, Amelie P and Morgan N



Information for Parents, Carers and Students

Foodbank Vouchers



The Ramsey Academy Pastoral Office will be able to give food bank vouchers to qualifying families from January 2020.

Please contact Mrs Ayres or Mrs Jolly.

The Ramsey Academy would like to thank **Dales the Hair Salon** for the donation of a beautiful Christmas Tree for our Reception area.



[What](#)

[happened last half term?](#)

We enjoyed a spooky book display in October. Thank you to the students and student librarians who gave up their time to help us!

We were very lucky to have author Tony Lee come and join us at the school for the day. He was inspirational!

[What's happening now?](#)

Libraries are not just for fiction!

We have had some new **Maths** books arrive in the library. They have proved to be popular already. We have created a display and the books are ready to borrow today!

Climate change - Our fantastic display and books will inform you of this extremely relevant and newsworthy topic. We have some new copies of the latest Greta Thunberg book available in the library.

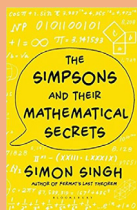
Classic reads - C.S. Lewis was born on November 29th, 1898. We have been celebrating this fact with our author display, and his classic Narnia books.

[Coming soon!](#)

January 2020 is on the horizon.....!

We have a poet coming to visit us in the new year.

We will be celebrating with our Poet-Tree and an interesting limerick competition. Roll on 2020!



Dates For your Diary

Friday 20th December - Midday finish, last day of term

Monday 6th January - Non-student day

Tuesday 7th January - Students to return to school

Thursday 16th January - Year 11 Parents Evening

Thursday 23rd January - Year 7 Parents Evening

Monday 10th until Friday 14th February - Endeavour Charity Week

Tuesday 11th February - Parent Voice

Friday 14th February - Last day of Half-term

Monday 17th until Friday 21st February - Half-term

Monday 24th February - Back to School

Tuesday 25th February - Year 11 Photo's

Thursday 27th February - Options Evening

Thursday 5th March - Year 9 Parents Evening

Monday 16th until Friday 20th March - Year 11 Photo's

Thursday 26th March - Year 10 Parents Evening

Friday 3rd April - Last day of Term

