



# Ramsey Voice

## Updates Newsletter

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### Notes From the Head

Welcome to Edition 9 of the Ramsey Voice. Again this has been a short half term packed with a wide range of activities, both in school and within the local community. When reading the articles, the names of our Houses, 'Aspiration, Diversity and Endeavour' seemed to reflect the nature of the activities and the success of our students. Throughout this newsletter there are examples of each of these qualities we try to develop.

The students have applied themselves positively, not only for personal gain, but to support others. They have risen to the challenge of new activities and excelled. Particular congratulations should be passed onto former student Ben Morris for his selection to the England under 17 Football Squad for the European Championships.

We were delighted to welcome Simon Watt, on several occasions to deliver informative talks about a range of science topics to Ramsey students and visiting students from local primary schools. His talk was one of a number from outside speakers to inspire and raise the aspiration of young people. Further reports about these speakers will appear in the next edition.

As part of our aim of developing 'Growth Mindset', students have been challenged in lessons, where they have been expected to demonstrate 'endeavour'. The use of Ipads and novel challenges such as completing a Rubik cube; all help to promote our ethos of 'be the best you can be.'

Student Voice is an important element for the continual improvement of the Academy. As such a number of changes have recently taken place, including a review of the catering provision, introduction of a one-way system in some areas and next term we will be reviewing the use and content of 'planners' or 'school diaries'.

Finally we are delighted to announce our involvement in a new pilot project launched by the Tennis Foundation. With the recent success of the Great Britain Team in the Davis Cup, the sport is receiving a large amount of publicity. We are one of only 21 schools nationally to be involved. This provides us with an excellent spring-board to improve our facilities, increase the range of opportunities for students and enhance our community links, including more chances for primary school pupils to experience the game of tennis.

The following quotation by John F Kennedy, when he discussed pushing the boundaries of space exploration in 1962, summarises our approach to challenge and learning: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." - Mr R James

### Charity Week Fun!

Endeavour House again chose to support PARC (Essex) for their charity week. PARC is a registered children's charity based in Great Notley Country Park, near Braintree in Essex.

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

We held daily cake sales every break time in the hall. A big thank you to all staff and students that donated cakes especially Miss Ralph who baked daily, they all went down really well. Also on offer every break time was hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows superbly run by Miss Perrins and Mrs Woods. On the sports front we held a rugby 7 match which attracted a good crowd of supporters. Some very brave staff completed the bleep test in front of a very large audience. Mr Child reached a massive level 15, just beating Mr McClelland.

The parent and staff raffle created a lot of interest with fantastic prizes donated such as a haircut, spa day and chocolate. Mrs Price and the students of 9E1 held an Easter egg raffle which was a great success with many students walking away with a stash of large eggs.

Students crowded in at lunchtimes to take advantage of the sales of thick shakes which went down really well.

Students could also complete personal sponsorship with some fantastic efforts. An amazing well done to Chelsea Ackroyd Blight who raised over £100 doing a sponsored silence and to Casey Bacon who has raised over £100 completing a four mile run in 40 minutes. Special praise also to Charlie Holdaway, Holly Taylor and Charlie Ford who also raised substantial amounts.

We still have the Ramsey cook book to follow to raise even more : details to follow.

Endeavour would like to thank all students, staff and parents for their generous contributions and help throughout a non-stop week, which enabled us to exceed our target and raise in excess of £1100! - Miss L Tyler



# House Photography Competition

January 2016 saw the launch of the Design Faculty House competition. This year students and staff were asked to present their House name using photographs from their surrounding area or community. Students and staff from all three houses (Endeavour, Diversity and Aspiration) made entries.

The winning photos can be seen displayed in the main entrance. Congratulations to the following students: David Mead 9A2, Dawn Ryder 8D1 and John-Glenn Gatus 9E2. Some very creative entries also on display are from Miss Ralph and Mrs Pittuck. Well done all! - Mrs J Gerrard



David Mead 9A2



Dawn Ryder 8D1



John-Glenn Gatus 9E2

## Fashion Show

I really enjoyed it when the Colchester Institute came into my textiles lesson a couple of weeks ago. The tutor, Sarah, showed us easy ways to create weird and wonderful clothing out of paper.

Firstly they gave us three pieces of paper and asked us to fold them in different ways. We then stuck them onto pictures of models making a few adjustments to make them look like clothes. The best part was when we got into groups of three and had to make a dress by pinning, folding and manipulating paper onto a mannequin.

I really enjoyed this and it has made me want to look more into the textiles courses at different colleges. - Charlotte Sweeney (Year 10)



## Dracula Stage Scenery and Props Crew



With the school play re-scheduled for October, we have even more time to fabricate weird and wonderful props and sets. Last term saw the construction of 14 stage blocks, 20 candlesticks, 3 rolling grave stones and 2 stakes!

Our main lunch-time project this term is to complete a usable trapdoor. Not so easy, when there is no hole in the stage to drop through! So we are making a four foot square cube, with a sloping front to hold the doors and an open back to creep out of.

There is still much to do! A bridge, a mad scientist's lab, an altar, a painted backdrop, plenty of signs and other small bits and pieces.

Anyone with a creative and practical attitude is welcome to join our crew. We meet in the M1 workshop on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes. - Mr S Pittuck

## Gardening Club Update

The weather has been alternately cold and wet so far this year. Most of our time has been spent in the greenhouse and the workshop. Our seedlings are doing well, so we will sow more into trays before the end of term.

The major project of the last couple of months has been the fabrication of raised beds for the inside of our poly-tunnel. Growing crops directly into soil should give us better results and bigger crops. Once again we have used recycled wooden pallets. Give us time and there will be a whole new generation of ex-gardening clubbers enhancing their gardens with pallet wood!

The RHS Rocket seeds have returned to Earth, and are back in this country. Our portion of seeds will be with us mid-April. Watch this space!

For the second year running, we have been invited to join the May Day celebrations in the town park. We aim to present a photographic display of what we have done on our plot and maybe sell some plants and seed trays. Look out for us on Monday 2 May in Halstead town park. - Mr S Pittuck



## Let There Be Light

The Drama Studio at Ramsey Academy is about to be transformed by brand new theatrical lighting. After a successful bid to the Halstead and Earls Colne Educational Trust, the Drama Department has been given a grant of £1,200 and the new spotlights and par cans purchased with the money will be installed any day.

Mrs Barnes, Head of Drama, is thrilled with the successful grant:

"It will be a wonderful opportunity for students to learn how to set up and programme lights using the new desk and lanterns. This equipment also gives the school and community groups a facility for intimate performances in music, dance and drama."

Expressive Arts have also received more wonderfully positive support from the surrounding community in the form of radio microphones and sound equipment. These technical theatre items have been donated by the church of St Peter ad Vincula in Coggeshall and will be a welcome enhancement to our growing drama and music facilities. - Mrs A Barnes

## Sudbury Festival Merit

Congratulations to Imogen Dockrell 7E2 who was awarded a merit for her performance on the piano at the Sudbury Festival of Performing Arts on Thursday 25 February 2016. - Mr G Lewis-James

'The piano was the first thing that I noticed, it was a stunning shiny black, Grand Piano. It was at this point that the nerves kicked in slightly! I sat and listened to players the same age as me and they were amazing. My piano teacher said some of them had been playing since they were as young as two or three! It was finally my turn and I took my place, handing my two pieces 'The Man on the Moon and The Party' to the Adjudicator. I loved the feeling of playing on such an amazing piano and it was so different to my rather elderly Bentley. I finished playing and took a bow with a smile, before returning to my seat to await the results of a merit and very good feedback! A great result for my first recital. I loved it and I am hoping to play in public again very soon.' - Imogen Dockrell (Year 7)



## Inside Nature's Giants

In this talk we were learning about the Bafta award winning show 'Inside Nature's Giants'. We had our speaker, Simon, informing us about his time on the show and how he enjoyed being there and learning a lot about other animals.

First we were watching how to prepare a whale for dissection and how it could go wrong if it isn't prepared properly, I found this funny because the whales were exploding on people after a build-up of gas in them. We also learnt that not all hybrids are infertile as a grizzly bear and a polar bear can breed together and produce fertile offspring, I find this interesting as we have previously been taught that hybrids are infertile. We learnt that Simon's favourite animals are snakes and he told us some interesting facts about snakes, for example snakes can't dislocate their jaws but they have bones in their jaws which help them open their mouths further to swallow bigger meals. - Siân Adams



## The Ugly Animal Road Show

On Monday 22nd February we had the first of two visits from BAFTA Award winning biologist Simon Watt to deliver a fun and interactive presentation about many of the Earth's unknown endangered species.

The sessions enabled our students and also students from our local primary schools to learn about what causes a species to become extinct and also the various adaption and survival techniques applied by some others, these include producing copious amounts of mucus and spraying blood from their eyes.

Mr Watt also drew attention to our local environment, highlighting the plight of bats and how simple it is to build a bat box to help our native species survive. Instructions on how to build these can be easily found on the internet.

Overall this was a very positive and rewarding session for all the students that took part.

- Mr S Hendry

## BAE Systems Roadshow

On Tuesday 22 March the BAE systems roadshow visited the school. Students in Years 7 and 8 attended the session which examined how engineers and scientists use their understanding of different kinds of waves to create sophisticated communications systems, optical devices and how ships and submarines can withstand the crushing pressures of the waves in the seas. Students were involved with some of the experiments which included making some strange sounds, discovering how light waves can make objects disappear and creating water waves without touching the water. - Miss C Sterland



## Rubik's Cube Challenge!

For the rest of this year students will be taking up the Rubik's cube challenge during registration time. Tutor groups will be challenged to use the Rubik's cube app to try to complete the 1980s puzzle. Each student will receive a cube and get 20 minutes a day for a week to try and get the cube completed.

Tutor groups will then nominate other tutor groups to take up the challenge.

The puzzle itself requires a great deal of resilience and perseverance to complete as well as learning from the mistakes that have been made. Students will then be asked to evaluate the skills and characteristics that they can transfer to their learning.

Students who complete the challenge will be regularly updated on the website. Our first student to complete the cube is Owen Smith in 7E2. His quickest time is 4 minutes. - Mr P Taylor

# Revamp of Catering Facilities

Following extensive and wide ranging feedback from students, parents and staff members, catering facilities at The Ramsey Academy have recently been updated. We now provide more salads and fresh fruit for our customers and have dedicated menu days as follows:

Monday - Deli day, Tuesday - Spice day, Wednesday - Roast day, Thursday - Pie day, Friday - Fish day

In addition, every term we are running a themed week. Our first successful themed week featured 'Great British Classics' and we are planning a European themed week to coincide with the referendum.

The new hot drinks machine has proved a great success and children have been very sensible and respectful when using it. Nutritional information related to this machine is as follows:

The hot drinks vending machine uses 100% freeze dried milk. Unlike normal vending whitener used by most vending companies, this product contains NO trans-fatty acids or hydrogenated vegetable oils and is virtually fat free.

Commenting specifically on the points made regarding increased sugar and caffeine intake, NHS studies estimate that average daily sugar consumption in the UK is 84 grams or 21 spoonfuls, examples of which are given below;

- Coca Cola, 330ml can - 8.75 spoonfuls of sugar
  - Red Bull, 250ml can - 6.75 spoonfuls of sugar
  - Kelloggs Coco Pops with milk, 50ml bowl - 6.6 spoonfuls of sugar
  - Vending machine coffee with 1 sugar - 1 spoonful of sugar
  - Vending machine tea with 1 sugar - 1 spoonful of sugar
- Ms K Holroyd

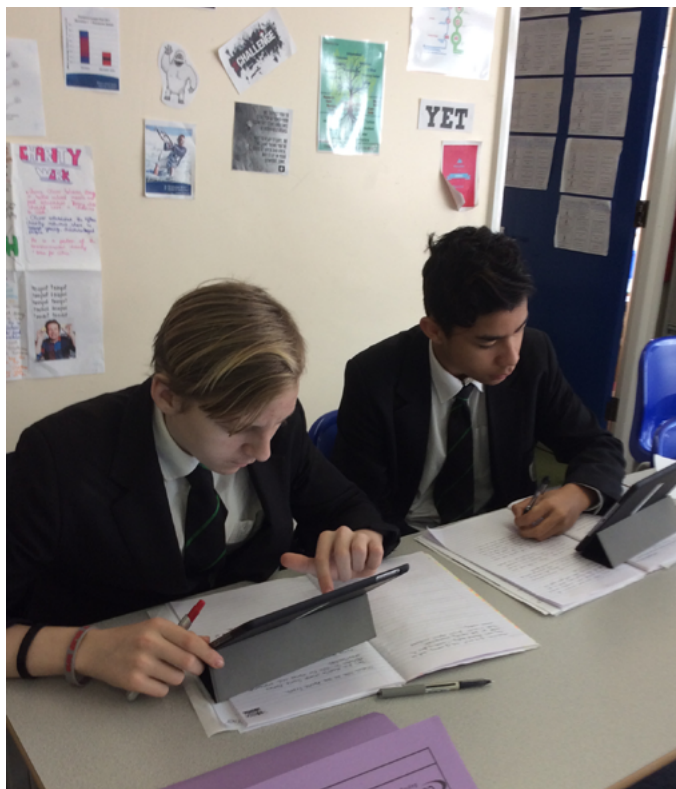


# Use of technology to engage in learning

The introduction of 32 iPads that can be booked by teaching staff and used in all subjects has been extremely successful so far throughout 2015/16. Using a number of educational apps, the filming/photography elements and the flexibility of having the internet on your desk has proved valuable to the learning process and helped develop student independence and motivation. Through the Expressive Arts subjects students are encouraged to record themselves in performance and reflect on their work, then use this to make improvements and developments. Through the music curriculum, students have used Cubasis and Garage Band apps to record coursework, to research topics and create and record musical performances.

Year 7 students have been asked to create videos explaining the BIDMAS topic. The students had to create a script and give examples of how to tackle questions requiring BIDMAS.

The Global Faculty have used the technology to develop students' independent thinking and responsibility for learning. This may take the form of independently watching Historical video clips and answering exam style questions, researching topics for controlled assessments (KS4) or topics such as volcanoes, earthquakes, the environment, women in the war and the Battle of Waterloo so students can produce hot writing in KS3.



Technology have used a number of apps such as the Autodesk123D and a variety of camera lenses for visual stimulus in Art.

Josh King in Year 9 stated that "using the iPads gives us more up to date information than text books and it just seems more interesting"

Lauren-Mae Cooke also in Year 9 highlighted that "it's a good way for us to be able to discuss our work and collaborate especially in music"

We are looking forward to developing the use of the technology further throughout the year and give the students a good variety of stimuli to keep them motivated, engaged and to maximise their learning. - Mr P Taylor

# Growth Mindset - Ramsey Staff

Year 8 students asked The Ramsey Academy Staff to reflect on a personal goal or achievement they are proud of and to capture the 'how' of their achievement in a single word or short phrase. The display below reflects the outcomes of this work. - Mr P Taylor



## PSHE

In PSHE lessons, we have been lucky enough to have received invaluable visits from external agencies (that have really brought PSHE to life for many of our classes). Our speakers have been working with one-class at a time to allow for questions, group work, and a much more hands on experience. In Year 7 and 8, we have had visits from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, giving advice about fires and hoax calls. In Year 8 we got advice on Home Fire Safety. In Year 9 we have welcomed visits from Alison McNair, the School Nurse, who has been delivering talks on Sexual Health. All classes have responded positively and maturely to these sessions and our outside visitors have all commented on the polite and enthusiastic conduct of our students. All classes will complete this training next term. - Mrs H Price

## Tennis Foundation

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead is delighted to announce that they have been chosen as one of 21 schools across the country to take part in the pilot of the Tennis Foundation's new School of Tennis programme. The first national training day took place in Loughborough and equipped us with the skills and knowledge to roll out the School of Tennis Programme in our school.

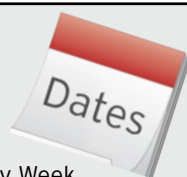
The programme, run by Britain's leading tennis charity the Tennis Foundation, aims to radically change the way tennis is delivered in secondary schools to make it more relevant and engaging for teenagers. There is a sharp dip in tennis participation as young people reach their mid-teens. The School of Tennis programme aims to reverse this decline by giving secondary schools the support and funding they need.

Schools have been clustered in threes in order to support, motivate and share best practice with one another. Each school is eligible to receive up to £3,000 of support over for the pilot and will work across key themes of Teaching and Learning, Student Leadership, Facilities and Equipment and Community Links.

Paul Williams, Schools Tennis Manager at the Tennis Foundation said: "We're delighted to be in Loughborough today to welcome coaches, teachers and students from our 21 Schools of Tennis. Today will officially 'kick off' the programme which is hugely exciting. The pilot programme, which will be evaluated by the Sports Industry Research Centre, will run from now until November ahead of a wider roll out in 2017. - Miss S Patching



### Dates For your Diary...



- 25-29 April - Aspiration Charity Week
- 28 April - Year 7 Parents Evening
- 1 May - Bank Holiday
- 5 May - Year 7 Tower of London Trip
- 30 May - 3 June - Half Term



## School Games

The School Games programme for the Braintree District is based at The Ramsey Academy and its organiser is Howard Nicholls. The aims are to increase the level of sports competition in and between schools, to increase leadership opportunities for students to promote inclusion the National Change 4 Life initiative.

Recently, The Ramsey Academy hosted the Halstead area cross country event which involved five schools and over one hundred and eighty boys and girls from Years 3 to 6 with winning schools and individuals in each category invited to the Braintree District Finals to be held on 23 March at the Discovery Centre. St Andrew's Halstead won five of the team races with Earls Colne winning two and St Peter's Coggeshall winning one. The Ramsey Academy Year 8 students provided the marshalling for the event and were widely praised for their encouragement and attitude.

Earls Colne also triumphed in the indoor Sportshall Athletics Halstead Area Competition, coming out top

against St Andrew's Halstead, St Peter's and St Andrew's Great Yeldham. Competitors raised the roof in the sportshall with their vocal support and Ramsey Academy students again providing excellent support by acting as officials in both the track and field events. In the District Final Earls Colne came a creditable third place with Howbridge Junior School Witham winning and so representing the district at the Essex Final against thirteen other schools.

The Ramsey Academy students also helped organise the New Age Kurling Festival for SEN pupils. Ultimately this led to a competition that Beckers Green from Braintree won, thus securing their place at the Essex Final.

As an introduction to the later indoor mini red competition, The Ramsey Academy was the venue for the Year 3 and 4 Tennis Festival with thirty two children taking part with a tennis coach helping at the event. The competition scheduled for June prior to the County Competition will be keenly contested.

The tennis provision and the raising of standards will also be helped by The Ramsey Academy being a successful applicant for the which will provide resources, coaching and equipment.

Other School Games events that have been hosted by Ramsey Academy for local primary schools include 7-a-side football - won by St Andrew's Halstead and mixed tag Rugby won by St Peter's Coggeshall.

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## Congratulations for England call up

Ben Morris, who left The Ramsey Academy last year to follow a scholarship at Ipswich Town FC, has once again been named in the England Under 17 squad for the Euro 2016 tournament.

Ben has been at the Ipswich Town Academy since under 9s and throughout that time he has had to show a great deal of determination, resilience and hard work to make it through to represent Ipswich Town in the under 18s and 21s where he has already scored 17 goals this season.

During his time at the Club he has had to balance the pressures of meeting the standards of a professional football academy alongside the normal everyday pressures of homework and qualifications. This has meant that Ben has had lots of highs and lows throughout his schoolboy career and has had to adjust to playing in lots of different, and at times unfamiliar, positions as well as having to make a number of sacrifices throughout his youth in order to succeed.

These additional England caps to the three Ben has already achieved are testament to his effort and determination and really highlights a lesson to our students that challenging yourself, being resilient and putting in the required effort, can lead to the rewards you desire.

Throughout his time at The Ramsey Academy Ben was a level headed about his progress and achievements. He always represented the school from Year 7 through to Year 11 even if it meant he then had to shoot off to his sessions at Ipswich.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate Ben on his achievements and wish him all the best in the competition as well as for his future career in the game. - Mr P Taylor



## Chelsea Football Trip

Students were given the opportunity to watch Chelsea U19's v Valencia U19s in the European Youth Cup.

As a reward for their commitment to the Ramsey/Chelsea Foundation Table Tennis Club, 10 students travelled to Cobham (Chelsea FC training ground) and received premiership hospitality as they sat amongst the media, UEFA officials and coaches from both clubs.

The students had a great time as they received free food and drink throughout the day and watched a high quality match that Chelsea eventually won 5-3 in a controversial penalty shoot-out.

The trip was organised in recognition of the students' hard work and commitment to the school club. We would once again like to thank Chelsea for all their investment in the table tennis club and our students. The club continues to run throughout the year on Mondays 3pm - 4.30pm. All students of all standards are welcome. - Mr P Taylor



## Under 14 Futsal Tournament

On Friday 5 February, Mr Child took a team of 7 boys to an Essex U14 Futsal tournament at The Braintree College.

The team consisted of: Josh Blunkell; Josh Burr; Jake Miller; James Potter; Bradley Sparks and Amir Rahim. The boys finished 3rd overall and were the only Year 8 team at the tournament. They won 3 games, drew 1 game and lost 2 games. The boys played 6 other schools in 8 minute matches with no stoppages.

They all said they had a great time and are hopefully looking toward to it next year. Jake Miller was the only player who scored legitimate goals with assists from James Potter with the rest of the goals being own goals. Josh Blunkell kept the boys in the game many times with some top saves. Everyone put in a good performance! - Jake Miller (Year 8)

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We can't wait to see you there!  
- Wardale Williams Team

For more information please contact your local Youth and Community Commissioner's.

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