



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

"Aspiring to be the best you can be"



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Notes From The Head

Welcome to the third edition of the year's Ramsey Voice. As usual the half term has been busy, with Christmas and New Year celebrations a distant memory.

Despite the half term being short we have packed a considerable amount into a few weeks, as you will see by the numerous articles in the following pages. Year 11 students have started their 'Countdown to GCSE' programme and are finalising their future plans for when they leave The Ramsey Academy in the summer.

They are being encouraged to plan thoroughly, become independent learners and take responsibility for their own preparation, which will stand them in good stead for the future. All students would be well advised to consider the words of Benjamin Franklin, the American author; scientist; inventor; statesman and diplomat:

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

Our 'Growth Mindset' approach to learning recognises that failure is an important part of learning. Through challenge and being prepared to move outside our 'comfort zone', we not only learn, but develop self-confidence and a realisation that we can succeed if we persevere.

Both our taught curriculum and enrichment programme are focused on preparing young people for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead of them. The various reports in this newsletter highlight the range of skills being developed by the young people who have often been prepared to take a risk outside their comfort zone, taken time to prepare, and improved their life chances as a result of taking the opportunities offered to them.

Particular note should be given to all the students and staff who were invited to the annual Jack Petchey Achievement Award's Presentation Evening. All those who received their award have made a significant contribution to the development of opportunities for others, either in school or within the local community.

We are grateful for the continued support of our Community Partners who support the students in many ways. Recently a number of local employers have generously given their time to meet with students as part of the 'Employer Drop-in Workshop' programme. These sessions have allowed direct access to a range of experts who have given an insight into their world of work and offered advice on what it takes to be successful.

It is not only the students who learn from being at The Ramsey Academy. We are delighted to be a strategic partner in the Mid Essex Initial Teacher Training (MEITT) provider, which supports trainee teachers on their route into the teaching profession. Recently MEITT received an Ofsted inspection to evaluate the quality of the provision and we were delighted to be recognised as an 'Outstanding' provider.

As this introduction started with a quotation from Benjamin Franklin it is fitting that the final words, which summarise an approach to learning we could all follow in our aim 'to the best you can be, should also be from him:

"Energy and persistence conquer all things."

Essex Schools Boccia Tournament

On Thursday 11 January, we travelled to Basildon Sporting Village to take part in the Essex Schools Boccia Tournament. Boccia is a disability version of bowls where all the players have to sit down to make it fair.

We had never played together as a team before, so thought we would go along and try our best. There were about ten schools there and we played about twelve games. It felt like a lot of pressure to do well representing the Academy, but we worked well as a team.

We made it to the final and came home with silver medals, which we are very proud of. We had a great day and we would like to thank Mr Dwayne Street for chauffeuring and coaching us on the day, and for Ms Payne for coming with us. We cannot wait for the next competition.

- Rebecca Ford (Year 7), Lyncoln Street (Year 8), Ivan Street (Year 9) and Jake Allocca-Bradley (Year 9).



Teacher Training Provision At The Ramsey Academy, Halstead is "Outstanding"

Long-established teacher training provider, Mid-Essex Initial Teacher Training, has been recognised as 'outstanding' in all categories by Ofsted.

Mid-Essex Initial Teacher Training (ITT) has been providing highly skilled teachers for local secondary schools for 20 years.

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead is one of 20 schools in the Mid-Essex ITT partnership which spans the county, including Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Rochford and Thundersley.

Following a detailed two stage inspection process taking place in June and October, Mid-Essex ITT was awarded the coveted 'outstanding' status in all categories including leadership, quality of training and outcomes.

The inspectors supported Mid-Essex ITT's judgement that most of its trainee teachers are outstanding in relation to what could reasonably be expected from them at the end of their training. The inspection found the partnership is highly effective in training teachers to meet the needs of local schools.

The report also highlighted that pupils respond eagerly and work cooperatively in classes.

Other key findings of the Ofsted report are:

- Consistently high employment rates because trainees from the partnership are keenly sought by local schools.
- Mid-Essex produces confident classroom practitioners who are ready, as one headteacher put it, 'to enter the profession as naturally inquisitive and reflective teachers'.
- Trainees' and newly qualified teachers' effective management of pupils' behaviour.
- The strategic leadership provided by local headteachers which ensures the programme meets the needs of local schools.
- The excellent pastoral support for trainees.

Programme Manager, Martin Higgon, said: "Given the teacher recruitment shortage the education sector is facing, Mid-Essex Initial Teacher Training is proud to continue to provide teachers who demonstrate skills that have been officially recognised as outstanding.

"Parents who send their youngsters to our partnership schools can be confident that our trainee and newly-qualified teachers are delivering the highest quality teaching and learning experience."

Further information about Mid Essex Initial Teacher Training is available at: www.midessexteachertraining.com

Full details of the Ofsted report are available at: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/70086>

Picture caption: The Mid-Essex ITT leadership team (Mr Ferguson, Mrs Lane, Mr Higgon, Mrs Mee & Ms Allchin) with this year's cohort of trainee teachers.



Year 9 Ypres Photography Competition

First: Weronika Janiak



Second: William Birch



Third: Ellie White



Holocaust Testimony Report

On Friday 26 January, all of Year 9 and some of Year 10 were able to participate in a webinar organised by the Holocaust Education Trust to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2018. The students joined over 40,000 other students across Britain to listen to Holocaust survivor Janine Webber recall her experience of being a Jewish child growing up in Poland during the Nazi occupation.

Janine had led a normal life prior to the Nazi invasion and was able to explain how her life unravelled after 1941. Janine and her family had found themselves forcibly herded into the ghetto in Lvov where conditions were truly horrific. Typhus rampaged through the half-starved population, and her mother gave what little food she came across to Janine and her brother, surviving on only boiled potato peelings herself. Janine's mother fell victim to typhus and her passing still haunts Janine.

Janine and her brother eventually managed to crawl under a gap in the ghetto wall and were taken in by a Polish family. Unfortunately, the family betrayed them to a SS officer who then executed Janine's brother. Janine escaped and again found herself hiding from the Gestapo, spending a whole year of her life underground in a hole dug under some stables which she shared with fourteen other Jews in hiding. False papers were eventually obtained for Janine and she was smuggled into a Catholic Convent and was later selected to work as a maid to a well off family where she managed to hide her Jewish identity.

At the end of the war Janine was reunited with her one surviving aunt and cousin who moved to France after suffering further anti-Semitism in her hometown.

Janine explained that she had only been able to talk to audiences in the last twelve years as prior to this she had found it too painful. She said she was motivated by a desire to remember those who suffered during the Holocaust. She finished her talk by telling the audience that we all have a duty to challenge racism and persecution to prevent such atrocities repeating themselves in the future.

The students listened intently throughout and it was an eye opening experience for them.

Keira Herbert- "I was surprised at how hard it was for the Jewish children under Nazi occupation and I had never thought about how it affected them. Her story was very interesting and emotional."

Mia Charles- "I thought she was very brave to tell her story and to tell it in such vivid detail."

- Mrs A Perrins



Photo to the left - Janine and her brother with their mum before the war

Below - Janine and her family before the war (she was the only one in this photograph to survive)



Ramsey students joining webinar across Britain to listen to Holocaust survivor Janine Webber.

Holocaust Memorial Day
Saturday 27 January 2018



Jack Petchey Award

Award winner: Reece Smith (Year 8) - Reece joined the Academy in September, extremely shy and with a slight speech impediment (stutter). As form captain, he has been great! He reads out the quiz on a weekly basis and is getting much louder! After meetings, he will debrief the form group clearly. He is actively overcoming his fears, especially when he stood up in front of all three assemblies and spoke about Activities Week. We know he finds this very difficult to do and his nervousness can be heard but he never gives up or says no. He has been an excellent role model to his peers. We are proud to see him blossom into the young man he is becoming.

Award winner: Jasmin Selby (Year 9) - Jasmin has been a committed Librarian Assistant and has shown a very mature attitude and work ethic. Jasmin is responsible for not only the usual aspects of being a librarian, but also the role of working out the rota for the other three librarians. If there are any problems that arise between them she will arrange a team meeting to sort things out; she always deals with them professionally and courteously. Jasmin is very reliable and proactive about the smooth running of the library, is always pleasant, and has a smile when dealing with her peers and staff.

Award winner: Amelia Slack (Year 9) - Amelia has been nominated for her commitment and contribution to the Shakespeare Festival Performance Project. She took charge of overseeing lighting and sound design and regularly ran rehearsal workshops for her peers and other students. She was incredibly independent throughout and ran much of the lighting at the theatre on the night. Her commitment and effort helped to ensure the performances were successful as well helping develop other students' technical skills. She has been an excellent role model and ambassador for the Academy.

Award winner: Tazmin Sloat (Year 9) - Tazmin gained the award for her positive effort and attitude to learning and her commitment to endless clubs. Tazmin attends The Ramsey Ram, Rocket Club and Drama numerous times a week. Her hard work allows other people to succeed and she is always helping and supporting younger students. She never fails in trying her best.

Award winner: Ellie White (Year 9) - Ellie has committed herself to a vast number of extra curricular activities within the Academy. Whilst attending the clubs she has volunteered to lead, coach and officiate for younger students from both The Ramsey Academy and local primary schools. Her commitment and effort have really helped younger students to both enjoy and develop their skills. On top of all this her own effort levels and attendance have been excellent. She has been an excellent role model and ambassador for the Academy and we are proud of her efforts.

Award winner: Joshua Burr (Year 10) - Joshua has volunteered at, and been extremely committed to, supporting a local primary school sports club. He has attended every week and helps coach younger students to develop their sporting skills as well as being an excellent role model. His commitment has allowed the club to grow to a point where he now leads small groups of students. Joshua has been an excellent ambassador for the school and we are proud of his efforts.

Award winner: Lauren-Mae Cooke (Year 11) - Lauren has been committed and worked extremely hard as a literacy leader within the Academy. She has spent her own time organising the team of leaders and arranged activities for her younger peers that engage them and help with their reading and comprehension. Lauren's work has had a real impact on the progress of her peers.

Award winner: James Tarbin, Head Boy (Year 11) - James has been an outstanding student and form captain. He is involved in a wide range of clubs and activities within the Academy and is an excellent role model and leader for his peers. James always steps up and helps with community events and supports his fellow peers and teaching staff.

Award winner: Gianna Galvez, Head Girl (Year 11) - Gianna is a worthy winner of the Jack Petchey award as she is a committed participant in every aspect of her school life. As well as excelling academically, Gianna is always the first student to volunteer. She has helped as a volunteer for the Halstead Marathon, and has been involved in Endeavour Charity Week, leading the house into raising money for PARC. Gianna works very well with other students; for example, she has worked as a literacy leader and is also a peer mentor with young students. Gianna deploys leadership skills and compassion in every scenario.

Award winner: Steve Pittuck - Students in the Gardening Club nominated Steve due to his commitment as the Gardening Club leader. He spends hours of his own time and puts in vast amounts of effort managing and arranging the students' Gardening Club. He collaborates with Halstead in Bloom to improve the presence of the Academy in the community. He organises the Ramsey's presence at events, improving the image and educating people about the work we do at the greenhouse and in the community. This has led us to gain multiple Royal Horticultural Society School Gardening Awards, been recognised by Halstead in Bloom as well as being visited by Anglia in Bloom. We believe that this work has helped improve the image of the Academy and inspire current students, as well as students who have left, some of whom have gone on to study horticulture.





Reece Smith - Year 8



Jasmin Selby - Year 9



Amelia Slack - Year 9



Tazmin Sloat - Year 9



Ellie White - Year 9



Lolly-Mae Cooke - Year 11



James Tarbin - Year 11



Gianna Galvez - Year 11



Mr Steve Pittuck

Geography Field Trip

In November, the GCSE Geographers went on their fieldtrip, an important part of their course as their third paper focuses on geographical skills, including planning and undertaking fieldwork.

The group set off to Tollgate first, where we looked at the human environment. This work involved traffic surveys, land-use mapping, environmental quality surveys and questionnaires. Many students were concerned about this last task, but they went out of their comfort zone and by the end of the morning were all confident enough to ask members of the public for their opinion. It was lovely to hear how polite our students are! As a reward for all their hard work we found time for a trip to McDonalds before moving to our second location.



After an early lunch we moved to the River Walk in Halstead to complete the physical geography element of the trip, and out came the wellies! The students got straight in and worked well in groups to measure the river's flow and gradient, do field sketches and measure bedload size. The conditions were cold but dry, and thankfully the rain held off; unfortunately some students (and staff) found their wellies were not as waterproof (or tall) as they thought, so there were a few damp feet by the end of the day. Thankfully Mary Berry would be happy; everyone stayed upright in the river so there were no soggy bottoms.

As the fieldwork element of the GCSE exam is crucial to success it has been necessary to develop these skills further down the school. In the Geography Department we have adapted the schemes of learning to include an element of fieldwork in each year group, be it on the school site or further afield. Some students may be asked to complete some fieldwork tasks as homework, looking their local area. This will ensure that students are clear of expectations and can be independent when it comes to their GCSE work.

- Mrs K Crabtree

Year 5 Primary Art And Technology Club

A group of Year 5 students from St Andrew's Primary school has been taking part in the Art and Technology Club after school run by Mrs Gerrard, Mrs Tyler, Mrs Smith, Mr Pittuck and Mrs Pittuck. They have taken part in creating ceramics animal looms, and glazing after firing. Then building and decorating their own bird boxes.

Here are two students' thoughts;

I have really enjoyed going to Ramsey Art Club the teachers were very nice and I think everyone enjoyed the things we did. My favourite was building the birdhouse and painting it, I was very proud of mine and I think everyone else was proud of theirs too. I also really liked painting our clay animals and was really happy when I found out that mine had not broken! (Some people's did). Anyway, I enjoyed it all! It was definitely not like anything I have done before IT WAS INCREDIBLE!

- Rosie Bell Age 9

I've really enjoyed going to Ramsey, because it's exciting and I have learned loads of new things! It's all to do with Art and that was good, because I really enjoy Art! The people who work there really help you with everything especially, if you are struggling. I met someone from a different school and we became friends, so it's brilliant for making new friends too. I can't wait to show people what I have made! Thank you for the opportunity, Ramsey Academy.

- Poppy Newton Age 10



Employer Visits At Ramsey Academy

We have been continuing with our exciting employer drop-ins which take place every Wednesday lunchtime. Many students have continued to attend the sessions, and have found them thought provoking and motivating. Our recent visits have included professionals from the Armed Forces, Engineering, Aviation, Sports Coaching and Media careers.

Students were able to ask questions and learn about the various industries from a working professional. These are invaluable sessions and we welcome students signing up for any session that captures their interest.

We look forward to welcoming speakers from Nursing, Performing Arts, Hairdressing, Housing and Construction trades, The Royal Navy and Marines, and Construction and Development companies, which are all booked for the coming weeks.

We would like to thank the employers who gave up their free time and spoke very honestly with the students.

Wendy Martin from Stansted Airport College

Rupert Sexton from Maycast Nokes

Jason Thomas from UCFB Football and Sports University.

We have been gaining feedback from the students who have attended. All students have said they found the sessions very useful. They have learned about local jobs and jobs of the future, and have been inspired to consider growing industries and new ideas:

"They have all been interesting. I have been to three and they have helped me" Year 10 student

"It was really informal and has made me want to reconsider where perhaps I'd like to go next from Ramsey" Year 10 student

If you would like to visit and speak to students about your own career, we are keen to welcome more local employers! We hold the sessions every Wednesday during lunch (1.10pm). Please contact Laura Eaves: leaves@ramseyacademy.com

- Mrs A Barnes and Mrs L Eaves



Year 11 Positively Mad Sessions

On Tuesday 2 January, the Year 11 students welcomed Jay from Positively Mad into the Academy. He delivered two sessions based on revision techniques and motivation.



The aims of the sessions were:

- To provide students with a range of revision techniques
- To encourage students to take personal responsibility for their future
- To encourage students to develop self-motivation

The students responded well to the workshops and have been able to make use of the techniques shown.

'We learned different memory techniques that we can apply to our revision' Charlotte Roche

'Made me want to revise' Jack Edwards

'It has helped me learn different ways to revise and remember, whilst wanting to revise and feeling positive about my revision' Madeline Press

'After and during the Positively Mad Day, I learned how to revise in a new and fun way. This makes me want to revise more and be prepared.' Hannah Peters

'It was very useful and I learned lots of new revision techniques.' Rebecca Crouchman

- Mrs C Sterland

Gardening Club - January

The year has started with cold, windy and wet weather. Undaunted, we soldier on with the springtime tasks. Leaves have been collected, compost added to, and the allotment tidied up. The one hundred and fifty geraniums we potted up last term have come through the winter and should flourish in the next couple of months.

I would like to thank the club members for nominating me for the Jack Petchey Leadership Award. I attended the Awards Evening and was blown away by the atmosphere and enthusiasm.

There will be much more to report as we get into full growing mode.

- Mr S Pittuck - Gardening Club Leader



Girls Football Team

On Thursday 25 January, the Year 7 and 8 girls Football Team took part in a football friendly against Hedingham. The girls practise every Thursday lunchtime; it was the Academy's first ever girls' football fixture and our first one as a team. It was also the first time a lot of us played on a 3G 11-a-side pitch. Unfortunately we lost, but Kenza Chieowit-Munns scored a great goal and Izzy Willsher had some great defending play.

- Katie Higgins (Year 7) - Girls' Football Captain



One Hundred And Eighty!



The Maths Department is always looking for ways to make the practising of mental arithmetic fun. They use puzzles, games, and competitions routinely in lessons because the students fluency with numbers is not just important in tests and exams, but also so that they develop into adults who can meet the numerical daily challenges of modern life.

The latest development in this has been the purchase of a darts board. At lunchtimes, students can enjoy the game and practise mental Maths without even realising it. They double and treble numbers, add and subtract, and problem solve. What is the best route to finish from 121?

The numerical skills of students will improve, and who knows, we might even produce the next Phil "The Power" Taylor. - Mr M Everett

Apprenticeships

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

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

General Information on Apprenticeships:

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

Students Need to:

- Visit the National Apprenticeship Service website www.apprenticeships.gov.uk. Click on 'How to Apply' to search and apply for local & national apprenticeship vacancies.
- Check websites of large organisations for information about the companies and recruitment of school leavers.
- Put together a CV and covering letter templates in preparation for applying to local businesses.

For more information or advice please contact Laura Eaves in school: Leaves@ramseyacademy.com



Year 11 College And Sixth Form Applications

This is a reminder to all Year 11 students that College and Sixth Form applications need to be completed. You still have time to meet some of the application deadlines, but please make sure you complete your forms as soon as you can.



Help is available in school. Please come to see Laura Eaves, the Careers Advisor if you need any help discussing your options or completing your application. Call in to see Laura on a Wednesday or email: Leaves@ramseyacademy.com.

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 12 - Friday 16 February - Half Term

Thursday 22 February - Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 4 March - Year 9 Parents Evening

Thursday 22 March - Year 10 Parents Evening

Friday 30 March - Bank Holiday

Monday 2 - Friday 13 April - Easter Holiday

Monday 16 April - Term Starts

