



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

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Note From The Head

Welcome to the final edition of *The Ramsey Voice* for this academic year. Again this is a 'bumper edition' as we have so many stories to share. We hope you have enjoyed reading about the experiences of the students and staff, which gives an overview of the work we do at The Ramsey Academy. It has been an incredibly busy year, with more challenges and opportunities than ever before.

The Academy has gone from strength to strength, and we cannot thank our Community Partners enough for supporting us in our attempt to fulfil our aim of 'being an outstanding school in the heart of the community'. The time numerous organisations have provided to support the students has made a significant impact on the lives of the young people. Engagement in community activities such as the Poppy Display, showcases our work with Halstead Town Council, and particular thanks must be extended to various businesses and organisations who visit us to discuss careers opportunities, conduct mock job interviews and offer work experience placements.

Especial thanks must be given to Mr Bacon, of NCF Architectural Ironmongery and Fixings Limited. He attended the First Give Charity Final as a member of the audience and felt that as all the presentations were of such high quality and the selected charities such worthy causes, that he would kindly donate £375 to be divided equally between the runners-up.

For the second successive year we are admitting students in excess of our Published Admission Number and look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in September. They have already completed two induction days, allowing them to meet new friends, staff and familiarise themselves with the Academy. We would like to thank the parents and the young people for putting their trust in us to provide a good education during the next five years.

As part of our commitment to providing a broad range of experiences both in and out of the classroom, this year we introduced The Ramsey Charter. The concept of the Charter is to ensure students have access to a variety of social, cultural and historical experiences in order to broaden their knowledge and appreciation of the local, national and international community. Many of the activities reported in this edition have happened because of our belief in the need to challenge students' thinking and encourage them to develop an appreciation of the world around them.

The recent Football World Cup not only allowed spectators to see different cultures, but also to see how effective teamwork can lead to being successful in achieving a common goal. In many ways this mirrors our aims as an Academy: we want people to 'be the best they can be', to work together, rise to new challenges and learn from experiences, including failure. Even though England did not win the World Cup, they helped to bring people together, to unite communities and make supporters believe that success in the future may be possible. The words of Gareth Southgate, the England Manager, summarises the attitude we are attempting to develop in our students:

"Sometimes you have to go through difficult times as a team, and failures, to learn and to improve"

- Mr R James

Performance at The Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge Grand Final



On Monday 2 July, I performed at The Cambridge Theatre in London's West End at The Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge Grand Final.

After performing at the Regional Final held at The Ramsey Academy, I was selected by the director of the event to be considered as part of the performance for the final. I was very excited to hear this and just to be considered was a huge honour. After a couple of weeks I got a phone call to say that I had been selected to sing at the final. I was so excited but of course a little apprehensive. The director of the event asked me to sing 'On My Own' from Les Misérables.

This was my second performance on a West End stage, after performing at The Shaftsbury Theatre in a one night musical performance last year.

The whole event ran smoothly and the speeches from the fifteen finalists were incredible and very inspiring. The themes of the speeches were very mature and equally justified. It was a memorable experience, one that I will never forget.

- Maisie Smith (Year 10)



Ex-Student Training With U.S. Air Force



Ex-student Alex Reid, has just graduated in the U.S. Air Force after completing an eight week basic training course in Texas. She has now started her Technology School Training for a medical based role. After this she will be deployed to her military base which could be located anywhere in the world.

The Ramsey Academy are very proud of Alex and her achievements. We wish her good luck in her career and hope to follow her progress in the U.S. Air Force.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Ramsey Reaches The Royal Institution

During six weekends of the Spring Term, I attended six Mathematics Masterclasses at KEGS in Chelmsford, for which I received a certificate for my participation. However, a month or so later, I received an invitation from Samantha Durbin, one of the members of staff in charge of the set-up of the Masterclasses, inviting me to attend a celebration event at the Royal Institution in London itself, hence why I found myself there on Saturday 30 June.

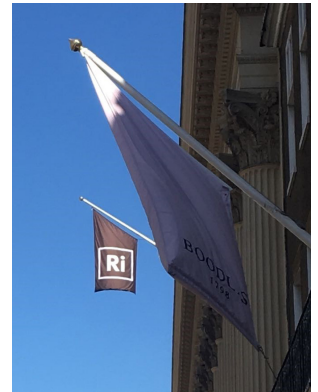
The day started promptly at 11:15 a.m, where I and around four hundred other students attended a lecture on the subject of Biology and Maths - discussing whether Maths could be used to fight against, and prevent the occurrence of, epidemics of horrible diseases. The answer is yes, provided that all calculations are correct and that governments have the money to spend on prevention tactics, such as vaccinations.

After this first lecture, I then had lunch, which I shared with a long list of puzzling questions - some answers of which were quite easy, provided you knew the Maths behind it, others were a lot harder, as they required several types of Maths or a higher-level understanding of topics to be able to answer the question properly.

Then we were herded back into the lecture theatre for our second lecture, which was about Maths and Physics - more precisely, it was about paradoxes, and the different types of paradoxes. Veridical paradoxes are ones that sound ridiculous but are in fact true, falsidical paradoxes are ones that sound absurd and are false, due to a fallacy in the theory, and an antimony is a paradox that uses valid reasoning to create an impossible solution. This lecture was a lot more difficult to understand but was the easiest to interact with, as the lecture was full of jokes, references and interactive demonstrations.

The day then ended at 3:00 p.m, from which I then had to make my way home again. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was incredible, and I am so glad that I overcame my fears and made it to the Institution. I would highly recommend taking the opportunity to take part in the Masterclasses and going to the Royal Institution if you ever offered it - you will not regret it!

- Tazmin Sloat (Year 9)



First Give Final 2018



On Tuesday 12 June, The Ramsey Academy hosted the First Give Final. This charity event was the culmination of a lot of hard work by Year 7 students in their PSHE lessons. The project involves each PSHE class researching social issues in their community, and then deciding on a local charity to support. The charities which were chosen were all very worthwhile. 7A chose Essex Air Ambulance; 7B supported the Halstead/Braintree Foodbank; 7C chose TAPS (Transport for Parents of Sick Children); 7D chose Essex Dementia Care; 7E also chose to represent Essex Air Ambulance, and 7F supported the Colchester Homeless Shelter. This class support has seen them carry out social action at the Academy, by raising awareness of the social issue and raising money. The winning groups from each class then represented the class at the final, with a presentation and video. The final was exceptional, with incredibly powerful and creative presentations from all groups. Every group was deserving of the prize. The judges of the competition, who were Ms. Williams, Mr Pittuck, Mr James, and our guest judge Carol Hill, Unit Welfare Assistant for The British Army, chose the 7A representatives to win. They were Amy George, Ella Moon, Kiana Edwards and Katie Higgins (and Zara Cattermole whilst absent, had contributed hugely to the presentation). This meant

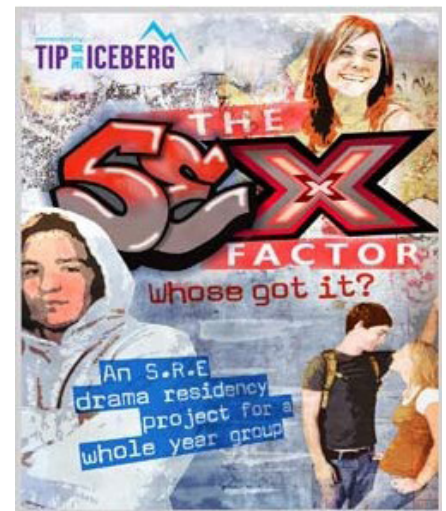
that they won £1000 for Essex Air Ambulance. We were fortunate enough to be joined by representatives from most of the charities, and it was an excellent event. Special thanks to all the competitors for some stunning presentations, and to class teachers for helping to prepare the students: Mrs Perrins, Miss Hibble and Miss Crabtree.

- Mrs H Price

The Sex Factor

Following on from previous years' success, this year Year 9 had "Tip of the Iceberg Theatre Company" in all day. This has proved a very popular and thought provoking workshop for the students, which is a PSHE initiative based on healthy relationships. Students start the day with a play about three school friends who all have difficult decisions to make as they grow up. Many of their decisions are irresponsible and have long lasting consequences for the characters, and their families. The students then work in smaller groups, exploring issues raised in the play such as consent, male and female stereotypes, healthy relationships, and substance use. The day concludes with another play which shows a range of endings for the characters and further discussions. Students really enjoyed the day, as it gave them an opportunity to discuss and ask questions about issues which they do not always get the chance to.

- Mrs H Price



Year 10 Mock Interviews



Year 10 students from The Ramsey Academy have had the opportunity to take part in professional "mock interviews" with some of our local businesses. So far, students have interviewed for a range of job roles at Braintree District Council, Milbank Concrete Engineering firm, Halstead Leisure Centre and Sainsbury's. They were each expected to prepare for the interview, dress professionally for the day and independently cope with the rigours of the process of applying for a job. The interviews took place at the company's premises just as in a real, adult situation.

The students have risen to the task with maturity and professionalism and it has given them a real taste of the expectations of the world of employment. We are really grateful for the support from our local businesses; they have given their time and expertise to help students understand the skills and requirements of the world beyond school including aspects such as dress code, body language and how to present themselves and their experience to an employer.

Feedback from the companies has been really positive and, although this has been a nerve-racking experience at first for our Year 10 students, they have really risen to the challenge of facing adult professionals in interview situations.

- Mrs A Barnes

Employer Visits at The 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 a web design company, veterinary practice, childcare providers and the construction industry. Students have been asking for employers for particular industries to attend.

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

We would like to thank the employers who have been involved in this project. We hope to continue with this next year and invite any interested employers to attend. We would like to thank:

Mayne Vets

Anderson Construction Group

Cheeky Monkeys Day Nursery

Greenfields housing

RAF



ANDERSON



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. Please contact Laura Eaves: leaves@ramseyacademy.com

- Mrs A Barnes and Mrs L Eaves

Year 10 Product Design - STEM Activity Day

Twenty eight Year 10 Product Design students took part in an all-day STEM activity day. (Science Technology Engineering and Maths). A visiting speaker, Jon Bowmer of 'The Smallpeice Trust', guided us through an intensive programme.

Students were given a warmup session. Teams were given ten sheets of A4 paper, which had to be formed into a structure stable and strong enough to support a metal weight. The tallest construction would win - no tape, glue, string or staples! All our teams managed towers higher than the average for other schools.

Design skills were tested as each group was instructed to make a speaker by the end of the day. Five very different devices were fabricated out of balsa wood, corrugated plastic sheet, plastic and masking tape (oops!). There was much industrious hot gluing, soldering, sawing and cutting throughout the day.

Each team produced a short viral advert using iPads, followed by a brief presentation of their speaker. The speakers were tested for volume and clarity. Judged on design, construction, function and presentation the winning team each received a set of head phones.

This was an excellent day supporting Year 10 in their GCSE course.

- Mr S Pittuck



Year 9 Marine Engineer Visit

On Thursday 5 July, Year 9 were visited by a Science Engineer who delivered a workshop and an insight into the large variety of sea-based careers, which was very beneficial. After talking about what a Marine Engineer actually is, we got to try to build a boat.

After the engineer gave us our instructions to build a boat that would float, we were given some card and wire. We did have some restrictions for size and the time to build our boat, we then later we got time to coat our boats in tin foil to make them water proof and to show off any design flaws.

At the end of the session we had to see which boat could hold the most marbles without sinking. Unfortunately, my group came second from last but one of the groups from Ramsey got the most marbles ever seen in this competition before.

It was so interesting to hear about potential careers in engineering, especially whilst having fun at the same time!

- William Birch (Year 9)

The focus of the workshop was to look at the different design challenges involved in constructing a boat and how these can be solved using Science and Maths.

Over the course of the session, the groups were divided up into smaller teams and given limited resources and challenged to design a cargo ship to hold the greatest amount of marbles.

Once again our students were a credit to the Academy and the local community with the winning craft holding an impressive 347 marbles

On the whole, the students felt that this was a very positive experience, giving them an insight into careers that they may have never previously considered.

"I think it taught us more about Marine Engineering and that it wasn't just being stuck working on engines at the bottom of a boat and it was more about how you can work on luxury yachts and cruises and those massive carrier ships" - Liberty Bugbee (Year 9)

- Mr S Hendry



Aspiration Charity Week Update



Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who worked so hard to make Aspiration Charity Week such a success. Alison Tosh, mother of Arran, was absolutely delighted and overwhelmed by our support when she attended our 'Aspiration - Our Year' assembly to receive the cheque for £1,300! Mr James; School Captain Lily Gidden, who deputised for House Captain Maisie Smith; Deputy House Captains Roman Watkins and Kadie-Jay Heaney are seen presenting the cheque to Mrs Tosh. Please visit the www.smileofarran.co.uk if you would like to find out more about their inspiring work to support families whose child has been diagnosed with a brain tumour.

- Mrs R Sims

Gardening Club - Summer 2018

This term has seen great changes in our club. All the Year 11s have gone on to pastures (allotments) new. Their contribution over the years is greatly valued. A new group of students from Years 7 and 8 are now weeding on an industrial scale. The site is looking a lot tidier and we are making plans for the next year.

Six months of work making wooden poppies in our greenhouse has contributed to the marvellous display in the Holy Trinity churchyard. We can all be proud of our participation in this community project.

- Mr S Pittuck



Armed Services Day - Poppy Memorial



At the beginning of the year the Academy was approached by 'Halstead In Bloom' and The Royal British Legion, and asked to make poppies for a display on Armed Services Day. Since the Tower of London poppy installation in 2014, I have been wanting to create something similar at Ramsey. The Gardening Club, Art Department and Textiles Department were all up for the challenge. Everyone worked from February to June in a variety of media.

Textiles students, with the support of family and friends crocheted and knitted over two hundred poppies which were mounted on netting measuring six metres by two metres. Two long stretches of handmade bunting were made with the message of 'Lest We Forget' applied on the flags.

Ceramics students used the design from the Tower of London display to create over a hundred clay poppies. Dozens of students were involved in their fabrication

The gardening Club pulled out all the stops for this project. Members even took home scrap wood to cut out the poppy shapes ready for painting. Noah Parkinson has the record for nearly one hundred, cut out in his shed. A painting production line was set up in our greenhouse, and many students not in our club came to assist with the painting.

Photographs of the poppies in production can be seen on the school website under 'Galleries'. This has been an excellent project with our Academy community joining with the town to celebrate and commemorate the armed forces who have sacrificed for us. - Mr S Pittuck

Product Design Students Trip To Westover Woodlands

Ten students from next year's GCSE class went on a trip with Miss Jarvinen and Mr Pittuck to Westover Woodlands near Gosfield. Students learnt about different types of trees the woodland has, recognise that different tree species have different characteristics that govern how they could be best used, and how different tree species grow at different rates therefore respond in differing ways to a variety of management techniques to ensure sustainability.

Westover Woodlands use mainly traditional techniques to produce a range of rustic fencing, arbours, furniture and other garden products. Because of the unique characteristics of each individual piece of wood, no two products will ever be identical. The students had an opportunity to undertake many of the different methods used such as using a drawknife to remove the bark, cleaving: the process of splitting wood along its grain, using the froe as well as larger pieces of timber with wedges and a maul. The weather was perfect for this fantastic outdoor event which was thoroughly enjoyed by the students. The Ramsey Academy are truly grateful for the valuable opportunity Becky and Stephen Westover provided to the students, who will benefit from it when embarking their GCSE studies in September.

- Miss P Jarvinen



Ramsey's Archaeology Trip



On Wednesday 6 June, a small number of Year 9 students began their three-day trip with Independent Learning Archaeology Field School to learn more about Archaeology and the University of Cambridge. The first two days were based in Foxearth, a small village on the border between Essex and Suffolk, not too far from Sudbury, where we carried out excavations of small one metre x one metre test pits in different locations around the village. We were located in some of the most peculiar but interesting places, such as in the surrounding area of an old brewery and the back garden of a farmer's cottage.

On the first day, after arrival and registration, we were introduced to the work of ILAFS and Access Cambridge Archaeology – these organisations aim to reach as many young people as possible and educate them about the work of communities and universities. We were then given basic instructions of how to excavate a test pit, before being split into groups of four, each group had members from each of the three different schools that took part in the event. Then, either via minibus or by walking, we made our way to our test pit sites and set to work on uncovering any archaeological finds we could. The excavation process is time-consuming and requires absolute concentration and caution, as it involves recording everything in a booklet, as well as the use of potentially harmful equipment, such as shovels, spades and mattocks.

The second day was very much the same – we returned to our excavation sites and continued to do as much work as possible. The weather made this difficult – the heat meant we had frequent breaks to sit in the shade, and the ground was so dry that in some cases, we had to wet it in order to be able to dig it up properly. Around 2.30 p.m. we all had to back-fill our test pits – this is when any soil that has been removed from the area is placed back and the turf is layered back on top carefully, ideally so the ground looks almost untouched.

Finally, on Friday 8 June, we travelled all the way to Cambridge so we could have a tour of the Archaeology and Anthropology campus at the University. While we were at the University, we were lucky enough to have a taster lecture that related to the work we had been doing previously, and a tour of a small museum/display area nearby. Before heading home, we also had a talk with the School Liaison Officer about potentially applying for university and the benefits of doing so.

The trip was absolutely excellent, and despite the fact that the majority of us don't think that we will pursue archaeology in the future, the skills we have learnt from completing the exercise can be transferred anywhere. Also, the day at the university was a really useful insight to anyone who is considering that pathway in life. If this trip is offered again, and it is offered to you, please do take up the offer – it is an amazing, worthwhile opportunity. - Tazmin Sloat (Year 9)



Year 7 Tower of London Trip

Early on Thursday 21 June the Year 7 students left the Academy to visit The Tower of London. The weather was glorious and the students had a fantastic view of some London's most famous landmarks. We arrived at the Tower at 10 a.m. and split into groups to tour the site. The students visited the Medieval Palace, the site of the Royal Zoo, the Crown Jewels, the execution block memorial and the White Tower. They were able to see how the Tower played a leading role in the history they have studied in Academy this year, in particular the exhibition about the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 and the armour worn by Henry VIII. The students were immaculately well behaved and were a credit to the Academy throughout.

- Mrs A Perrins

Students' comments-

'I found most interesting the graffiti left by the prisoners, it showed they had been stuck in their cells for a long time as it was so detailed' - Mia-Grace Street

'I really enjoyed seeing the world's tallest set of armour and the smallest. The tallest had a world record plaque next to it, it is known as the giant's armour. I also found it interesting to learn that if you were royal you were allowed to be executed privately in the Tower and were not taken to Tower Hill.' - Ella Moon

'The most interesting bit for me was the actual building because in History lessons there has always been a link to the Tower, especially people being imprisoned there. When you are there you can imagine what it was like to be there.' - Yasmin Hague

'I learnt a lot from the trip. I learnt that people believe if the ravens leave, the Tower will fall. To add to this I learnt about the ways they tortured people using machines to stretch and squash people. However, the most interesting thing I learnt from the day was the fact that Henry III used to keep a polar bear at the Tower and it was taken on a rope to fish in the River Thames.' - Holly Sedgwick



Braintree Mosque and Islamic Centre Visit



GCSE Religious Education students had the opportunity to visit Braintree Mosque and Islamic Centre, as part of their GCSE unit on Islamic Beliefs and Practices. This was a fantastic chance for students to experience religious worship in their local community. The students were treated to a talk from the Imam about the mosque; how it compares to purpose built mosques in other countries, and about the history of Islam. Then the students were able to hear the Adhan (call to prayer) and to watch local Muslims come in to pray, led by the Imam. The visit also featured a tour of the wudu room (wash rooms) and further discussions about Islamic practices, as well as common misconceptions about Islam. The students behaved respectfully and impeccably, and asked some very thoughtful and pertinent questions.

- Mrs H Price

The Crystal

Exaggeration is very much something I use, however when I say that visiting The Crystal was one of the best days ever- I honestly mean it.

My Geography interest was taken to new limits as I considered how sustainable various resources are, how they could be more sustainable, and ultimately what we could do individually. We watched videos, took part in a creative workshop, met interesting species from Madagascar and North America, tried new technology and pretended we were making energy through various movements.

If you weren't aware of information, The Crystal educated you, yet if you wanted to extend your knowledge it was also effective. The building itself is an inspiration we should all follow; with a sloped roof, shaded bottom building, specific glass for particular areas, geothermal energy structure, numerous green spaces and solar panels just to name a few, The Crystal was awesome to anyone interested in sustainability. I'd recommend a visit there to everyone, as I had the best day and already want to go back! Thank you so much to Miss Hilton, Miss Crabtree and Mrs Woods for a day that we'll never forget! - Hannah Birch (Year 10)



Year 8 Newmarket Race Course Trip



This term the Year 8 Maths students visited Newmarket Race Track and the National Race Horse Museum.

The trip was very successful and enjoyed by both students and staff. The students were able to experience Maths being used practically and outside the classroom. In addition to measurements and estimation, they were able to explore statistical techniques. The students applied Maths to the horse's physiology, the physical race track, safety aspects of managing the races on the day, as well as the rules of the competition and compound measures like speed. - Mrs M Messenger

Quotes from the students

'Riding the horse simulator was tricky, but I want to do it again'

'I was amazed at how many different types of clothes the jockey might wear'

'Four of us got to weigh ourselves on the big scales which was fun'

GCSE Year 10 Geography Field Trip

On Thursday 21 June, sixty GCSE Geography students travelled to Tollgate Retail Centre in Colchester and the River Colne in Halstead in order to complete their fieldwork in preparation for their Paper Three exam next year.

They started the day counting traffic and pedestrians, looking at the land use of the retail park, and asking members of the public their opinions on the ever-growing retail area at Tollgate. They did this at four sites and gathered lots of information which will help them consider whether we can accept or reject their hypothesis. As they all got used to the data collection techniques, they managed to finish quickly and were able to have a quick stop in McDonalds where they were praised by the staff for their manners and general behaviour around the restaurant: well done all!

In the afternoon, they headed back to Halstead ready to don their wellies and complete the physical aspect of their fieldwork: river measurements. At two locations along the course of the river, the students measured the river's velocity, gradient and pebble size as well as completing field sketches to help jog their memory of the day when revision begins. At the start of next year, we will recap the fieldwork and figure out whether or not we can accept both of our hypotheses. The group were a credit to the Academy and worked incredibly hard to complete the work. With this continued effort, they will all be in a good position when the end of Year 11 finally arrives! - Miss K Hilton



Author Visit

On Thursday 5 July, Year 9 boys were visited for two hours by author James Campbell and his friend Ben.

The session began with James and Ben talking about their experiences. Following this we then had an ice breaker activity, when Ben spoke about himself and his past for a while. Later we were told to draw a map of where we lived and to think of some significant moments in our lives. The author then got us to put the location on our piece of paper where we then got told to put down some things we would like to be near us and why; so, for example, I recall someone saying they'd like a 'McDonalds'. After this, we were told to turn over our sheets and it suddenly became clear in my mind that we were planning for a story. The author gave us the option towards the end of this to either plan more or write our story- personally I went right ahead and wrote mine. I don't usually take an interest in writing, ironic I know, but this I most definitely did. - William Birch (Year 9)



Music at The Ramsey Academy



It's been a busy Summer Term for the Music Department; taking part in a variety of performances both in and out of the Academy. On Wednesday 25 April Tom Winter, Kadie-Jay Heaney and Maisie Smith performed solos at the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge hosted at the Academy. During Aspiration Charity Week students and staff performed at a 'Busk Stop' to raise money for the Smile of Arran Fund. During the Arts Festival The Academy Band performed a flash-mob version of the TV theme 'Friends', a patio concert and a visit to the Colne View Care Home. Dom Hunt, Faith Bird and Lily McKean joined the soloist's roster at these performances. A week later we then performed in the House assemblies with our soloists being joined by Edward Williams, Mathew James and Samantha Smith. Both Edward and Matthew earned their silver music awards for these performances. Following her performance in April Maisie Smith was invited to sing at The Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge Grand Final at The Cambridge Theatre in London. What a fantastic experience and opportunity! Congratulations to Lily McKean on passing ABRSM grade six flute with merit, Edward Williams for passing ABRSM grade two guitar with merit and Edward Williams for passing Grade two Rock School guitar. - Mr G Lewis-James

Summer Arts Festival

On Monday 25 June, The Ramsey Academy took part in its first ever Summer Arts Festival. The week began at break with Drama monologues taking centre stage; the modern 'Bernice' angered by her budget holiday in Spain crossed with Shakespeare pieces, the audience were in for a treat! At lunchtime came the Romeo and Juliet Shakespearean Schools Festival rehearsal, which allowed the audience to watch the cast rehearse live. Also meditation session run by Mrs Price which various Year 10 students described as 'so beneficial' and 'insanely relaxing'. Maths showed that it can be fun with their 'Topology' session based on how many sides one strip of paper has. With all this going on, a flashmob from Music travelled around the Academy lighting up some usually quiet spots getting everyone in the mood for an amazing week ahead! To end an activity-packed day came History's contribution to the week- a film session! One student who watched the film claimed 'he hadn't enjoyed anything so much in ages' despite the reality of the storyline.

Monday set the standards high for the week but Tuesday proved just as interesting with Chaucer's 'The Pardoner's Tales' performed by Year 7s at break time enthralling an audience. More Drama monologues and 'The Black-Hearted Villain' kept students occupied at lunch whilst visitors from Halstead Library brought out the inquisitive side of students as they debated how they could make the library space 'their own'. After school came an impressive Geography Sustainability Project display where students had prepared a project displaying the situation regarding Halstead's current sustainability management and what we could do to improve it. Parents visited, while teachers popped their heads in and watched the Year 8 boys amazing project in the form of a video. The quality of the projects was phenomenal and I was quite ashamed to say that I wouldn't have even thought of some of the incredible ideas that younger students had!

The enthusiastic Year 7s took the standards even higher on Wednesday with yet more Chaucer performances. Maths lunchtime with Fractals and the art of repetition, whilst a Music concert also took some students' fancy in the courtyard sunshine. Some of the performances included Maisie Smith singing 'On my own' making everyone feel very reflective, following this came 'Mr Blue Sky'- this was very fitting for the day!

Thursday proved the busiest day of the week. Drama monologues were performed at break time, Maths provided entertainment at lunch time in the form of 'Nets'- creating 3D shapes, along with more Chaucer performances, a fresh piece called 'Let 'im Have It' by Year 9 students and a visit to Colne View Care Home. The care home visit consisted of music played by students to the residents which one particular student described as: 'so rewarding, it literally made my day'. That evening, we had the Art Exhibition where visitors were welcomed to view some of the students' Art, Textiles and Product Design work and enjoy food provided by the catering department.

To end what had been an incredible week, came Sports Day- another celebration of the dedication and skills we as a Academy are proud to present. This year proved an amazing success, fingers crossed we'll be able to welcome an event like this again next year! - Hannah Birch (Year 10)



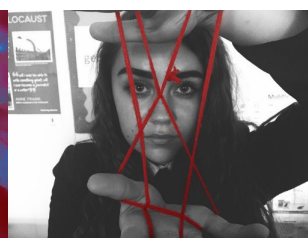
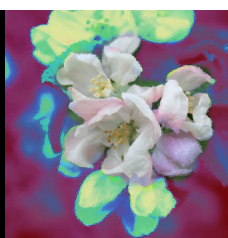
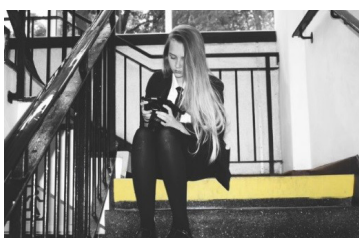
GCSE Art and Technology Exhibition

On Thursday 28 June, The Ramsey Academy held their GCSE Art and Technology Exhibition to celebrate the effort and achievements of the Year 11 students. The exhibits included works of Art in a wide range of media; Fashion and Textiles; Product Design and photos of GCSE Food dishes. There were also displays sharing work from the new Photography Club and Year 10 Textiles group. Refreshments were prepared and served by Year 8 students Megan Ho and Charlotte Norris. It was a lovely evening, we are all very proud of what the students have achieved. - Mrs J Gerrard



Photography club

Students from the Photography Club proudly presented some of their work in the recent Art and Design Exhibition at The Ramsey Academy. Below are some of their examples of original and edited work. The club will continue in September and is open for all students. - Miss P Jarvinen



Online Safety Advice

It has always been very clear that there is a risk to our children when online. Often, we put it down to new apps that are invented and people working out vulnerabilities on how to exploit our children. Most of the time these apps are fixed or removed due to the risk. However, a recent study from the NSPCC linked with Yorkshire Police, has suggested one major networking site contributes to over thirty percent of online sex grooming cases: Facebook.

NSPCC

Interestingly, both SnapChat and Instagram had much lower figures comparatively, and I believe there is a strong reason for this. Facebook today has become a household name with over 1.45 billion people logging on daily. It is become such a significant part of our lives that sometimes the risk associated with it can be overlooked for younger children, as adults do not see the same content young people see. It is this apparent safety that lures people looking to exploit children back to it, as children feel safe.

The report suggests:

- Girls aged 12 to 15 were most commonly targeted - three-fifths of the total.
- These numbers are far higher than we had predicted, and every single sexual message from an adult to a child can have a huge impact for years to come.
- Social networks have been self-regulated for a decade and it's absolutely clear that children have been harmed as a result.

New legislation last year has held social networking sites accountable for protection of children and they are making changes to help protect vulnerable groups. However, these changes are not always happening quickly enough and young people can still be at risk.

To help support these changes and keep your children safe, as a parent you can:

- Check your son's/daughter's accounts weekly to make sure there is nothing inappropriate on there.
- Help your son/daughter report any concerns and suspicions directly to CEOP and the police.
- Make sure all accounts are set to private, and that no personal details such as phone numbers and school uniforms in pictures are available.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer. - Mr A Lugton.

Handy holiday tip: Make sure your young people do not post on their Facebook accounts that they are going on holiday or check into places such as airports before travelling. This can make your home an easy target whilst there is nobody there to protect it. Why not let everyone know when you are back and share the pictures then, giving you more time away to enjoy yourselves?

French Play 'Le Château'

The French play was very interesting and it had a lot of new vocabulary. We could understand the new vocabulary because of the actions. We liked the audience participation and the funny acting. We thought it was really funny when they were dancing while changing the scenes. We would really like to watch something like this again, but maybe in a different language. We like how they changed their parts/characters and that they used a small amount of scenery to show a completely different scene. Before the play started we thought that it was all going to be in French but the play was in both, French and English which made it easier to follow. We found it really amusing when the man had to explain to the French lady that he was not the king. He was an English man speaking English with some French and the setting was in France. The year was 1540 and the costumes matched the historical background. It felt really rewarding to pick out words we learnt in lessons and it brought the French language alive. - Courtney Sloat and Megan Sheppard (Year 7)

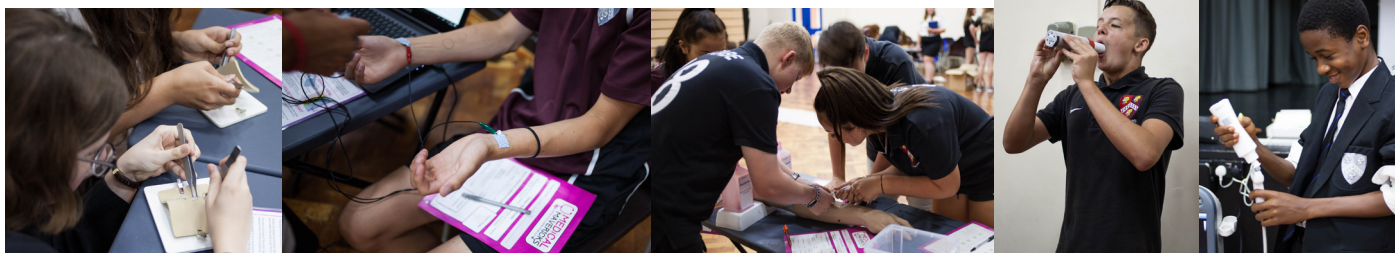


Medical Mavericks Visit Ramsey

Initially it was hard to know what to expect from the two ladies from 'Medical Mavericks' as we walked in the hall surrounded by medical equipment. Within minutes though, the lady introduced herself and her colleague and started demonstrating how each of the workshops had to be used. After a brief explanation we were allowed to explore the workshops, here the fun really started!

With things as simple as measuring our height, to doing an ultrasound to check our 'growth gap', we were educated on the diversity of the potential NHS careers available and what the varied roles include. A personal highlight had to be taking blood from 'Andy the Arm' but there were lots of other activities available such as: trying different goggles including double vision; using a stethoscope; testing our reflexes; practising keyhole surgery; taking photos of the back of our eyes; taking an ECG and using the really cool infra-red vein scanner.

Overall the session was very interesting, informative and also extremely good fun, I'd highly recommend it to anyone!
- Hannah Birch (Year 10)



My Golf

My name is Abigail March and I'm in Year 9. I have been playing golf for just over three years at the Colne Valley Golf Club. I enjoy playing golf for many reasons, one being because I enjoy overcoming the challenges of playing the game itself, I also enjoy meeting new people and I have made a lot of great friends. I am quite addicted to the game as when I'm not playing so well I want to improve and when I'm playing well I want to play as much as possible to improve my handicap. One of the greatest things I have done is being an ambassador, because I get to help out and encourage young girls to get into golf. I also get to teach them alongside my pro every Tuesday. I have played for Essex twice, the first time I played for Essex I was extremely nervous but when it came to play for the second time around it wasn't as bad, as I had learnt experiences such as having to give speeches for the Youth Shield Team so I had learnt how to deal with the nerves. I have worked really hard over the past two years especially. I have worked to improve my golf and become the best I can be, and during this time I have had a lot of opportunities in golf including being on the County Development Squad; being the Captain of the Youth Shield Handicap Team this year and we are through to the quarter finals for the first time ever: being through to the semi-finals in the Hunter Foursomes and many more great things.



Year 6 Induction Days

On Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 June we welcomed all the students who will join us in Year 7 in September. They found out which House they are in, met their Tutor and had the opportunity to sample lessons and food. On Wednesday evening parents came in and met Tutors and heard from Mr James about what to expect in the years ahead. The days were a great success with lots of smiling faces and new friendships forged. We are all looking forward to the new term in September when all these students become fully fledged members of The Ramsey Academy.

Year 5 Day

On Thursday 5 July The Ramsey Academy became home to nearly two hundred and fifty Year 5 students from local primary schools who had the opportunity to have a taste of what to expect from secondary school. The children were ably assisted by our current Year 9 students who did a fantastic job as helpers and guides for the day. All children harvested their own DNA in science and went away with their sample around their necks, and also took part in lessons in PE, Languages, Maths, English, Humanities, Art and ICT. An excellent day was had by all with many children and parents asking if they could come back again the next day! We hope all these families will join us for our Open Evening on Thursday 27 September to see more of our Academy. - Mr C Leys

Sports Day 2018

Endeavour

We are very happy with Endeavour's win on Sports Day. All years performed very well, especially in football and netball. Endeavour won all the football events and the majority of the netball with convincing performances from a range of competitors from different year groups. The atmosphere during the relays at the end of the day was incredible in the Endeavour House and even those who didn't participate in sports day certainly still enjoyed themselves.

Endeavour are the 2018 Sports Day Champions.

- Molly Gerrard and Jake Miller (Year 10)

Diversity

First of all we would like to say congratulations to Endeavour, and then to all the people that took part over the course of the day. I would also like to thank all the teachers who helped on the day.

Now to Diversity's achievements over the day. I would like to thank all the Year 7s for stepping up to play tennis when we were short of a team and well done for handling your first sports day with us so well: hope it was an amazing day for you. Year 8 showed amazing sportsmanship and teamwork while playing rounder's games or just sitting on the sides. The Year 9s had an amazing day from winning rounders at the start of the day then to winning the boys' relay in the afternoon. We would like to thank every Year 10 for taking part in their last Sports Day. The Year 10 football team beat Endeavour for the first time and congratulations to the tennis teams', two girls said that they would play even though they were very nervous because they don't play often.

The points in all the sports were very close and we just missed out on winning but we will come back fighting next year to take the title, so good luck: we hope you all had an amazing time in whatever sport you did.

- Callum Field-Mullings and Larissa Smith (Year 10)

Aspiration

If you think the Olympics is a big event, then you definitely missed The Ramsey Academy's 2018 Sports Day where all three Houses went head to head to become this year's champions!

Despite winning 2017 Sports Day, unfortunately this year Aspiration came third with a total of one hundred and forty points despite our teamwork and amazing support.

Although we lost overall, there were some teams in Aspiration who came first in their sports event, such as our Year 8 tennis team, Year 9 boys' football, Year 10 girls' netball and the Year 10 rounders team. In the afternoon everyone went onto the field to take part in the relays or to support their House and the Year 7 girls', Year 8 boys', Year 10 girls' and the boys' mixed relays. Aspiration won all their races.

- Ellie Hood and Reece McCallum (Year 10)



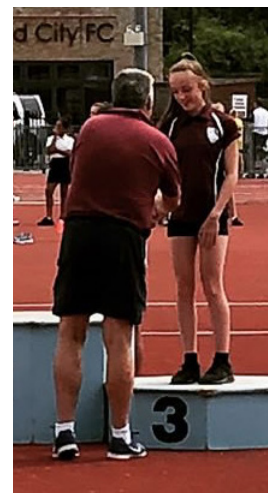
Athletics County Championships

Four students from the Year 7 District Athletics Team made it to the semi-finals. Although it was difficult we had a great team, Evie Wilson came first in hurdles, Josh Brackley come first in discus, Jamie Taylor come second in the 100 metre sprints and I come second in long jump. Due to these massive achievements on Wednesday 4 July, we all got to compete head to head with other teams from all over Essex.

After doing extremely well in the first round, we were all up against harder and better schools, making it more challenging. We were supporting North West Essex and competed in our own special events. We had Evie Wilson hurdling, I was doing the long jumping, Jamie Taylor the 100 metre sprint and finally Joshua Brackley throwing the discus. Although making it to the end of her race coming seventh, Evie Wilson suffered from a knee injury which was carefully bandaged by the medical team. On the other hand, we had Jamie Taylor coming seventh in his 100 metre sprint, I come third in the long jumping with a jump off 3.95 metres and finally Joshua Brackley come twenty seventh in discus throwing a 3kg shotput just over 5 metres. As I came third I was awarded a bronze medal which I received whilst standing on a podium in front of the crowd, it was an exciting experience achieving such a huge thing.

Once we had finished our events and had eaten lunch, we set off back to the Academy to tell everyone the good news. We all had an amazing time, and all improved on what we love to do. We all hope to be able to do it next year, in Year 8, and maybe even get further than we did on this time. Finally thank you to Mr Child for supporting us whilst we were there, it was amazing.

- Maisie Clark (Year 7)



On Tuesday 19 June, a group of students went to Tabor Academy to take part in this year's District Sports where we competed in a variety of field and track events. Overall the boys' placed fourth and the girls' placed fifth, which was a good achievement because of how small our Academy is compared to some of the other competing schools. In our field events we had Katie Rudling Year 10, place third in long jump. In our track events we had Evie Wilson Year 7 who won her 100 metre hurdle race and Maisy Clark who placed third in the 800 metre race. Out of the Year 10 participants we had Rufus Enabulele who came third in his 200 metre race, Jake Miller who came third in his 800 metre race and Ellie Hood who came second in her 100 metre race. Everyone who participated in this year's District Sports performed very well and showed good sportsmanship throughout the day. - Ellie Hood and Becky Howard (Year 10)

Rounders Club at Ramsey

Rounders Club is after school on a Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday is for Year 7 and 8 and Thursday is for Year 8, 9 and 10. It is for all genders and is fully recommended for students to have fun, keep fit and still learn. Many students already attend this club as it is very popular. We play a few matches against each other and have a good time whilst practising for matches and tournaments that we take part in. This club also helps you to learn from your mistakes and improve your skills ready for the matches. Team and fixtures results for Year 7, 8 and 10 are below.

- Ellie Cairns (Year 8)

Fixtures and Results

Year 7

District tournament - 5th place

Ramsey Vs Honywood - Ramsey Won 14-13

Ramsey Vs Notley - Ramsey Won 10-9.5

Ramsey Vs Hedingham - Ramsey lost 14-10

Ramsey Vs HRS - Ramsey won 5.5-2.5



Year 8

Ramsey VS Hedingham - Hedingham won 11-4.5

Ramsey VS HRS - Draw 8-8



Year 10

District tournament - 5th place

Ramsey VS Hedingham - Ramsey won 5.5-5

Dates For your Diary

Friday 20 July - Last Day of Term

Thursday 23 August - GCSE Results Day

Monday 3 September - Non Student Day

Tuesday 4 September - Non Student day

Wednesday 5 September - First Day of Term

Tuesday 18 September - Student School Photos

Thursday 27 September - Open Evening

Monday 15 - Friday 19 October - Diversity Charity Week

Monday 22 - Friday 26 October - Half Term

