

RamseyVoice

'Achieving Excellence Together'



Issue 49
April 2025



Ski Trip
Matilda

Tower of London Trip
And much more

Easter Break

We wish all students and their families a
relaxing Easter break.

School returns on:

Tuesday 22nd of April 2025



HeadteacherUpdate

Welcome to the Spring term edition of the Ramsey Voice.

One of the many highlights of the term was the School Show - Matilda. With weeks of rehearsals, learning lines, and perfecting performances, our talented students put on incredible shows for parents, governors and some of the local primary school students. Their hard work and dedication truly paid off and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. A huge well done to everyone involved. This term has been packed with PE fixtures, with our teams representing the school in various sports competitions.

Over half term a group of our students embarked on an unforgettable ski trip. They tackled the slopes with enthusiasm, learned new skills, and created lasting memories. A big thank you to the staff who organised and supervised the trip. Our students have been making the most of the wide range of extracurricular activities on offer.

It's fantastic to see so many students engaging in activities beyond the classroom.

Year 8 experienced an exciting trip to the Tower of London, where students explored history firsthand and deepened their understanding of the past. Year 10 took part in the Sexfactor workshop, promoting important discussions on health, relationships and well-being.

This term we have continued to celebrate the joy of reading. Student have shared their favourite reads and there is a spotlight on poetry in this edition. As we continue though the school year, we look forward to more exciting events, achievements and opportunities for our students.

On behalf of all staff and governors I wish you and your family an enjoyable Easter break.

- Mrs Sterland

COULD YOU ? SPARE SOME TIME ?



Do you have some spare time each month?

School governors and trustees play a vital role in education and help shape the future of young people.

Bridge Academy Trust is seeking new members to join its board of governors at our schools in Braintree, Chelmsford, Halstead, Ongar and Witham. We are a collegiate and collaborative trust, where each school is a place of high quality learning and where our young people **ENJOY, ENRICH, ACHIEVE, ASPIRE.**

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit
www.careersatbridge.com



PEFixtures



Another busy term here in the PE Department full of lots of extra-curricular sports clubs and a vast amount of our students representing the school at a variety of fixtures. We were also delighted to welcome Mrs Duhig back from maternity leave this term. We have also had a number of our students helping at local Primary School Events and have received some positive feedback and have been a credit to our school. The girls have enjoyed some netball fixtures against Gosfield with different year groups. Ramsey Academy also reached two football semi-finals for the District, Year 8 and Year 9. Unfortunately, Year 8 narrowly avoided reaching the final against Maltings in a penalty shoot out but our Year 9 team won their game against Forest Hall and have reached the District Final and hope to reclaim

their District title for a third year in a row. We have enjoyed some friendly rugby fixtures against Hedingham which have been very educational for our students. As a department we had our GCSE PE Moderation this term and thoroughly enjoyed showcasing the excellent sporting ability of all our GCSE students. We look forward to summer term with some fantastic events for students to get involved with, District Athletics and Ramsey Sports day, along with tennis, rounders and cricket fixtures. The extra-curricular timetable for Summer Term will be sent out in the first week after we return.

- Miss Danino



Matilda

In February, students of The Ramsey Academy took the stage to deliver an unforgettable performance of the beloved musical Matilda. With captivating acting, impressive vocals, and dazzling choreography, the students brought Roald Dahl's classic story to life, showcasing their creativity and dedication. The production was a testament to the hard work and passion of the cast and crew, leaving the audience thoroughly entertained.





BookReviews

THIS TALE IS FORBIDDEN

As a member of the Ramsey book club, we collectively decided at the beginning of the term that we would read "This Tale Is Forbidden," penned by Polly Crosby. Compared to other books I have been asked to review; this young adult book has genuinely left an imprint on me. Books are a way to go on holiday on your bedroom room floor, and be transported to another world, but the authorial intention goes beyond the superficial of keeping a reader's attention from page to page and getting them to pick it up at the bookstore; it's also to change perspectives, challenge ideas, and enlighten lives.

Plot

The YA fantasy novel "This Tale Is Forbidden" is based on adolescent Nesta, the protagonist, who has known nothing other than her life in the enchanted woodlands where magic remains, a place removed from society. Against her grandmother's previous warnings, she ventures into the city in search of her grandmother, who has been kidnapped by the authorities. The authorities are the oppressors in the city. Nesta is portrayed as an outsider who has been thrust into an alien environment. Nesta knows the truth. That makes her dangerous.

This book is as if George Orwell and Hans Christian Andersen had a book child; it's a cautionary tale but has an underlying theme of supernatural, magic, and mythical fairytales. This is for any fan of feminist, supernatural dystopian books.

Course of Action

The opening of the book is very intriguing and mysterious, introducing at once the conflict and driving force of the story: the disappearance of her

grandmother. The events of the story are formed in thin strands of information that eventually become inextricably intertwined to create a stunningly crafted story.

Crosby handles time in this novel in an interesting way. Nesta experiences ancient visions called the clamouring that transport her back to memories in the past.

Role of Nesta and Patriarchy

The story is written in first person from the perspective of Nesta, a 15-year-old girl from the woods. This choice of story frame means we feel all of Nesta's emotions and are immersed in her thoughts. This choice of Crosby's is effective, as we do not have that detached or neutral perspective of another character (the indoctrinated society of the city). This means the reader feels her contrast in mindset to the standards of cultural influence and structure. We feel her flow of consciousness and rationality, and Nesta's age being in an impressionable and naive yet progressing stage of her existence means she could be seen as a very strong heroine, as she doesn't change or get tempted into coercion and submission around her. She is a role model for any person, be that boy or girl. This is a feminist tale; however, the character of Nesta can be used as a vessel to show what a powerful person really is. She has complete autonomy over herself, meaning she is not changed by what everyone expects of her and has built a fortified inner citadel. In comparison, the dictator of the city, Jack Bellwether, is a man who is insatiable and, in order to feel complete, exploits nature and forcibly controls his people.

Nesta also shows her disobedience to the status quo as well as her threat and power through her

channeling of the clamoring, as this is a part of the magic that was outlawed in the city. Nesta being bestowed this could be used as a lesson of framing and perspective as she sees it as power, but in its naked form, it can drive one mad, and her taming of it makes her unstoppable.

In juxtaposition to this power that Nesta has, we do feel sympathetic toward her, perhaps as Crosby intended. This is because she, as well as the rest of the female sex in the story, are being unjustly prosecuted throughout. Nesta is simply outspoken and believes in equality and is being punished for it, perhaps suggesting that timid, demure women are preferred and favoured. Crosby also is very focused intently on the theme of patriarchy. A disclaimer that in the UK, I would go so far as to say that we are a very tolerant country; however, in some countries around the world, women are unfortunately suppressed. Their ethos was to appeal perhaps to the men who have historically had societal strength; for example, they had the vote before women, have a significantly bigger salary than women, and they typically performed physically demanding tasks, such as plowing and hunting, thus gaining a dominant position. Women had to comply...

Nature and Setting

The settings change throughout the story from the untouched landscape of the woodland, a tranquil home for Nesta and all that she's ever known, to an industrial, contemporary, patriarchal society. Wolves are also a prevalent symbol throughout the story; they are seen as a safeguard to the forest, as the character of Nesta was told by her grandmother they were not to be feared.

In one chapter, when Nesta follows her impulse and ventures to the city hall, statues of wolves are seen with their heads bowed and their tails between their legs. This could be a motif of how humanity has abused nature and has forced nature and made them vulnerable and surrender essentially to our control... of their lives

Areas for improvement

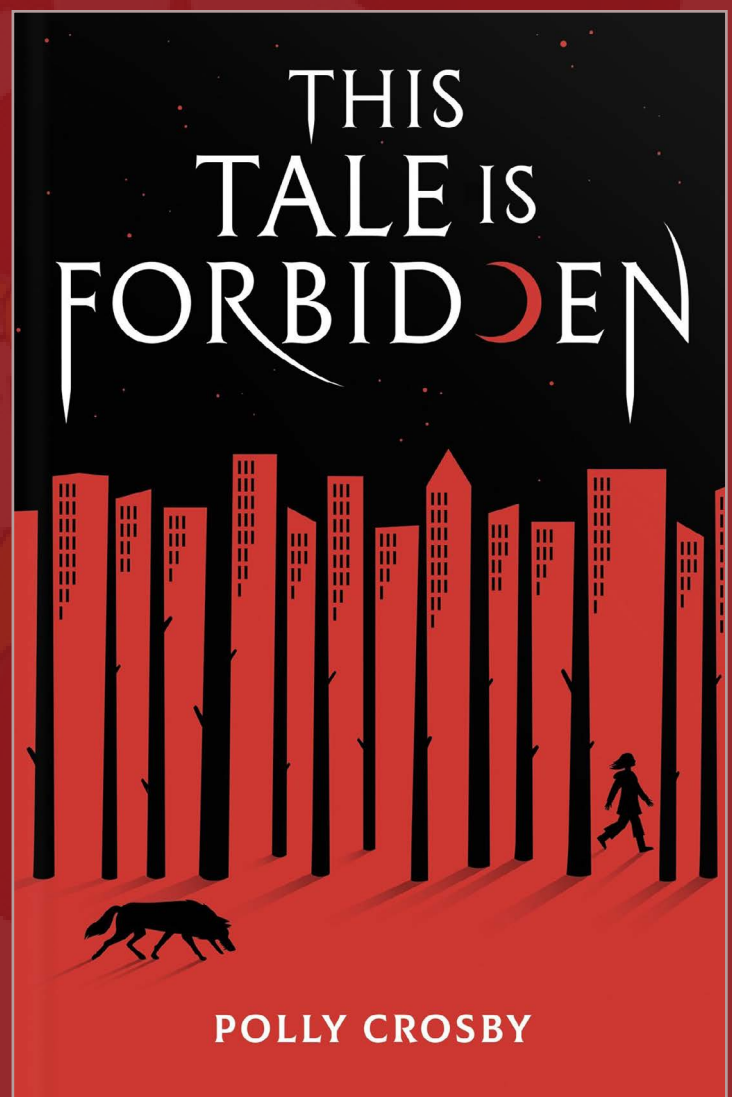
A way that Crosby would expand her novels reach as it informs on paramount issues in the world, by editing could develop more ambitious vocabulary and more vivid descriptions as the narrative should not be overshadowed by the message. Readers in general have

an affinity to beautiful language and that is what truly differentiates a classic revered on a personal bookcase that transcends through several generations, to a dusty book on a library shelf.

Closing Words

In conclusion, "This Tale Is Forbidden" is an amazing book, and I would describe it as evolved nostalgia. Companies like Disney have made films from these fairytales that are now very well known. They have made millions from these narratives; feel free to try, so many corporations have, and yet we never get tired of them. The comparison to Disney's adaptations of fairy tales highlights how Crosby's work offers a fresh, subversive take on timeless traditional fables that first connect with the reader, that flip the story, Nesta's world, and your view on its head.

- Luisa L, Year 8



THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

*Hunted. Hunter.
Destined for each other.*

POWERLESS

LAUREN ROBERTS

Powerless by Lauren Roberts

Plot

Powerless is about a powerless girl in a world where being powerless gets you killed. She lives in poverty with her best friend until she gets picked for a deadly trial televised in front of the entire kingdom.

The book covers around a month and a half from the beginning.

Characters

The main characters called Paedyn Gray and Kai Azer; one a powerless thief and another an enforcer sent to kill people without powers. Paedyn is a very observant character who can and will use anything she notices to her advantage.

There were many conflicts between the characters as Paedyn's main priority was killing the King who was Kai's father. The main conflict was in the trials as Kai's main mission was to win the trials.

Kai changes throughout the story as he had large walls built inside of him, but Paedyn manages to break down the walls easily and see beneath his mask. Paedyn changes from the start of the book.

Style

The book was written in first person which was important to the story as it shows their perspective on certain scenarios such as being in pain or having to kill someone.

Their feelings and attitudes were described in great detail, and it makes the reader feel like you are that character and in that scenario.

Overall

It was a good book as it made me feel all sorts of emotions such as anger, happiness, sadness and even fear by the end of the book. My favourite moment was when Kai let Paedyn talk for about 10 mins whilst he had a knife in his back because the sound of her voice was distracting him from the pain.

When I was reading it, it made me feel certain that there would be a happy ending for them and gave me a warm feeling inside. Even if I read it again now I would still go through the same range of emotions that I did the first time I read it.

- Kenna F, Year 8

ApprenticeshipFair



On Friday, 7th February 2025, Year 10 students attended the Apprenticeship Fair held at Colchester Institute. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for students to explore various career paths and gain insights into the world of apprenticeships across a wide range of industries.

The fair featured dozens of stalls showcasing opportunities in fields such as engineering, healthcare, construction, IT, and the creative arts. Students were able to engage directly with representatives from these industries, ask questions, and receive advice on how to pursue apprenticeship programs after completing their GCSEs. The event was not only aimed at helping students understand the potential for hands-on work but also showcased the critical skills that apprenticeships provide—skills that are highly valued by employers across sectors.

For many students, this was the first step toward making informed decisions about their futures. The event highlighted the growing importance of apprenticeships as a practical, hands-on alternative to traditional academic routes.

- Miss Pearce





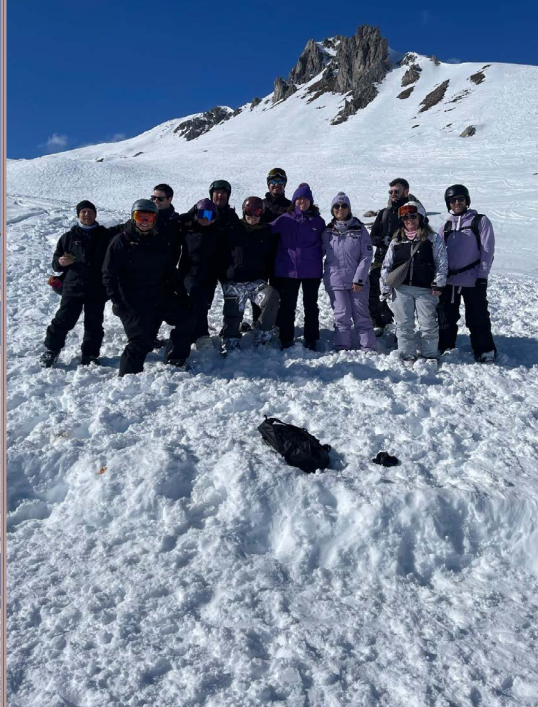
Ramsey's Annual Ski Trip: A Thrilling Adventure in Davos, Switzerland

In February, staff and students from The Ramsey Academy embarked on their much-anticipated ski trip to the picturesque town of Davos, Switzerland. Nestled in the Swiss Alps, Davos is known for its world-class skiing, stunning mountain views, and vibrant alpine atmosphere—making it the perfect destination for a winter adventure.

The trip to Davos was a massive success. It was an experience filled with adventure, fun, and unforgettable moments that will be cherished for years to come.

A great time was had by all!









You Can view the full image gallery here:

SexFactor

TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Year 10- The Sex Factor

On Friday, March 1st, Year 10 students took part in the Sex Factor workshop. The day included a powerful and thought-provoking play, followed by three interactive workshops with the actors.

The workshops prompted students to reflect on intimate and sexual relationships, the importance of consent, the effects of mental health challenges, and how their choices can shape their futures. All the students engaged actively, and the team was highly impressed with their contributions.

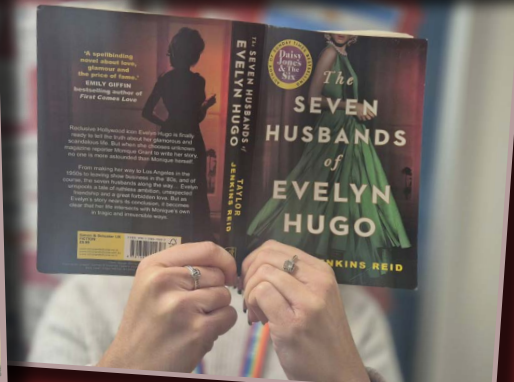
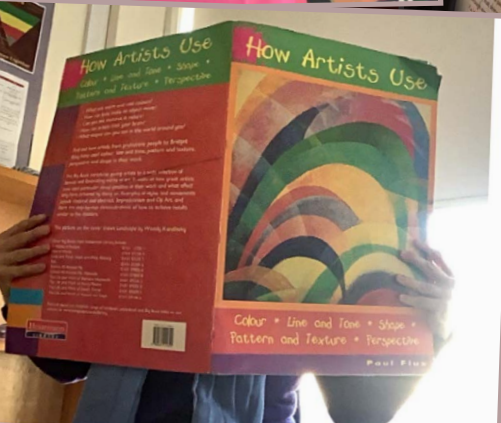
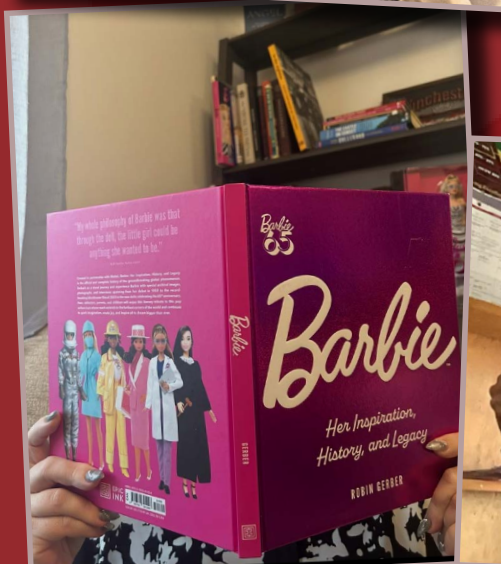
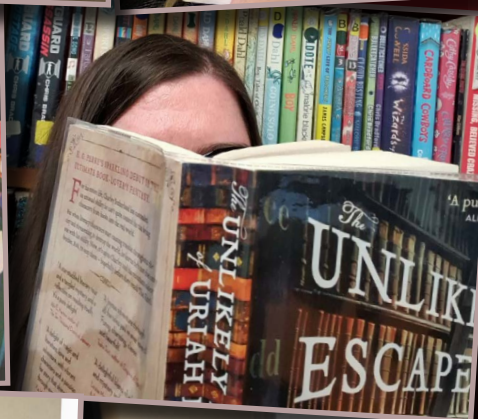
- Miss Pearce



World Book Day

Photo by Element5 Digital

Can you guess the member of staff hidden behind the book?





poem,
poet,

Photo by Nothing Ahead

Spotlight on Poetry: Celebrating World Book Day with Ramsey's school poets

This World Book Day, we shine a light on one of our very own talented poets, whose words bring stories to life in a unique and captivating way. They have crafted a poem that celebrates the magic of books—their power to transport us to new worlds, spark our imagination, and inspire lifelong learning. Let their words take you on a journey!

- Miss Ritson

Books

Books can help you cook
Books can be just for looks
Books can help you learn
They can be scary
And Romantic
Books can keep you attached to the very end
Books can you bring you peace, in a world full of chaos
Books can Keep you on the edge, but most importantly Books are fun, testing your imagination until the book is done
And now they have their own special day
Hooray for world book day

- Brooke H

Escape your reality

Reality, is the hardest tea to swallow, yet escaping from a void is a beauty unknown
The way to imagine and run away from the troubles you can't postpone
As you can't grip onto the shattered pieces of logic,
You escape through the cracks, into a new world,
One full of wonder, one full of woe,
As you open up the book, and deep into the story you fall,
Time doesn't exist here, this place you can rest
Don't think about the worries which are crawling up your neck
Let them slip down to the ground, as they fade into the void,
Here is a safe place, here there is no deadline race,
It is okay, to need a break, to escape and flea,
As here, is an imaginative reality, which is where we can stay for as long as we want.
Time can wait.
Time will wait for us to return.
Just stay here, for as long as you want.
Troubles cannot get you here, as the cover seals all,
Run away through the pages, as the book flicks freely,
As when you're ready, you can return,
Back to your reality.

- Anabelle L

Trying to re-live the memory of Christmas

Maybe it is because we grew older,
Maybe it is because there was too much on our shoulder,
Maybe we were just missing something,
To attempt to try get some fun in.
Maybe it is the tree, with traditional presents under,
There's just something about this Christmas, that just makes me ponder.
Everything is the same, there is no difference to before
But now, Christmas seems like an involuntary chore.
It doesn't feel the same, but I think I understand why,
Instead of celebrating for joys, with the blazing spirit,
we know drink a few cocktails, and sit down dazing,
The spirit we once knew , was a blazing fiery fellow,
But it is now a mere flicker of a flame on a melted candles wick,
A wick we used to lighten on the days of its upcoming,
The old foggy memory we used to celebrate,
but now, the fog has lifted and truth seeps through,
Christmas is not the same, for me and you.
As it seems that now, it will never be the same,
for we are now only celebrating,
Because of the fame of its name.

- Anabelle L

Winter's Ashes

Within the depths of the Winter's bed,
A breakthrough of something vibrant starts to seep through
As the flickers of frost start to decay,
And an orange lit field of flowers peek to stay,
As a wind-swept tray of winters ashes go,
As the flowers slowly melt underneath the snow,
A breeze not chilling, slowly fills the air,
A warm honey scent, Is around everywhere.
It is a chance, a fresh beginning,
To forget the memories, which may be haunting
Yet evens, through words which may amiss,
Spring has ended,
Winter's dark abyss.

- Anabelle L (Yr10)

Christmas

C - is for the Christmas cheer for all to hear
H - is for the happiness that is felt
R - is for showing respect to all
I - is for imagination
S - if for sharing gifts with friends and family
T - is for showing your talents
M - is for hoping it will be a magical Christmas
A - if for accepting all your mistakes in the past year
S - is for snow in the air
Christmas time is here

- Brooke H

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You can now submit positive feedback to us via this form <https://buff.ly/3FcZGZ6>. This can also be found on the contact us page of our website. We look forward to receiving all your comments.

HousePoints

14510

Aspiration

14932

Diversity

15818

Endeavour



LibraryNews

The library is well underway with preparing to host this year's BAT Book Awards. The books we have chosen are: *The Goblin's Revenge* by Andy Prentice, *Fallout* by Lesley Parr, *Signs of Survival* by Renee Hartman, and *Bite Risk* by S.J. Wills. A group of year 7s are reading each book, and in June will vote on their favourite, alongside students from Notley and Moulsham. We are very much looking forward to seeing which books comes out on top.

In the meantime, we are also looking forward to a visit from S.J. Wills, author of *Bite Risk*. She will be delivering a talk to all of year 7 and then doing a workshop with the BAT Book Award club members, where there will also be an opportunity for the students to get their book personally signed by her. Finally, if you have any overdue books - please return them! There are no late fees but if a book is lost, we do ask for a monetary contribution so that we can replace it.

- Mrs Owen-Westwood and Mrs Gilbert

Vacancies

Have you considered working at the Ramsey Academy?

Please see the vacancies section of our website for more details.

<https://www.careersatbridge.com/our-schools/item/the-ramsey-academy-halstead>

All vacancies at the school can be found on this page.

Tower of London

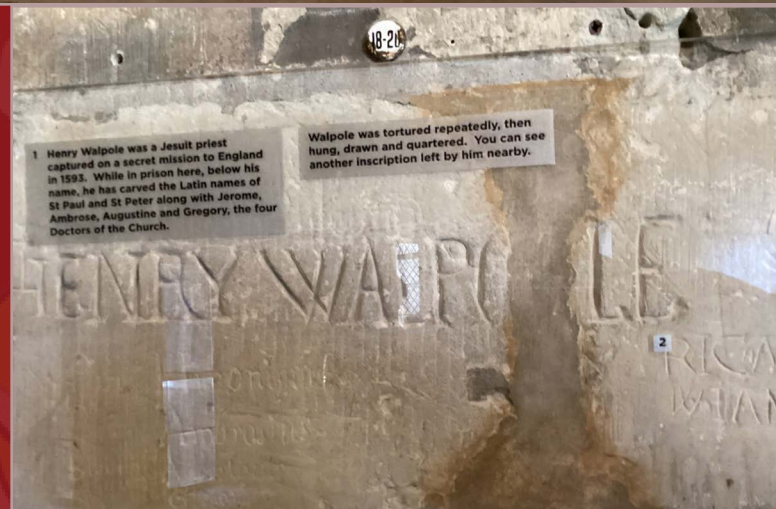


On Thursday 6th March 134 Year 8 pupils headed to London to visit the Tower of London. After an early start we arrived at the Tower to begin exploring. Pupils had the chance to visit the Medieval Palace which included the King's bedroom and personal chapel. They also explored the White Tower which houses an impressive selection of weaponry and armour and once they'd climbed well over 100 stairs to the top of the keep, they had a chance to put their sword and shooting skills to the test on a variety of interactive games. A highlight of the trip was visiting the crown jewels, pupils were amazed at the size of diamonds and quantity of gold on display.

The pupils really enjoyed the trip and were a credit to the Academy.

Thank you to all the parents who supported the trip and made sure we were able to leave school at 7:30am, the trip would not have been able to happen without you.

-Mrs Perrins





You can view the full image gallery here:





Community Award

If your child has participated in an event, volunteered, or assisted in any way, and you would like them to be acknowledged for their contributions, you can contact **office@ramseyacademy.com**.

This program is designed to help them earn a Trust Community award and badge, boosting their self-esteem and motivating them to continue making a positive impact.

RamseySocialMedia

Below are the official social media sites for The Ramsey Academy. Please be aware that, with the exception of departmental Instagram pages, other social media sites are not related to the school.

Facebook... www.facebook.com/ramseyacademy

Instagram... www.instagram.com/theramseyacademy

Twitter... www.twitter.com/ramseyacademy

GSUS



This term some pupils have had the opportunity to participate in GSUS Live sessions during their Humanities lessons. The sessions run by Matt Ager from Empower cover the themes of forgiveness, fear and rejection. Pupils have had the chance to follow different characters stories and see how a Christian would respond to their challenges.

GSUS Live has been into over 1000 schools since 2000 and offers a valuable opportunity to enrich our RE curriculum at Ramsey.

- Mrs Perrins








The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Academic Year 2024-2025

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
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	= Schooldays		= School holidays		= Bank holidays
	= Weekends		= Non-Student Days		

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 2 September 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024 <i>Half Term 28 October – 1 November</i>	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 6 January 2025 – Friday 4 April 2025 <i>Half Term 17 February - 21 February</i>	60 days
Summer Term:	Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Tuesday 22 July 2025 <i>Half Term 26 May – 30 May, and May Bank Holiday - 5 May</i>	60 days
		<u>195 days</u>

Please note:
The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.
You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.






The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Academic Year 2025-2026

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M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						

	= Schooldays		= School holidays		= Bank holidays
	= Weekends		= Non-Student days		

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 <i>Half Term 27 October – 31 October</i>	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 <i>Half Term 16 February - 20 February</i>	55 days
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 <i>Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May</i>	65 days
		<u>195 days</u>

Please note:

The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.

You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.



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