

# The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

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Headteacher:  
Rob James

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Dear Parents/Carers

The adverse weather this week has meant difficult decisions have to be made regarding the opening of the Academy. When possible we will endeavour to remain open unless the safety of students and staff will be compromised.

On Monday and Tuesday, due to the diligence of the Site Team all the pathways around the school were cleared and salted, providing a safe environment. Additional staff were on duty to reinforce the expectations of behaviour, ensuring students did not walk on any areas that were untreated.

During recent years we have worked extensively with the students to develop a positive attitude to their learning and place high value on the importance of their education. Attendance at lessons is a key aspect and should be minimised. It was therefore disappointing that a high number of students did not attend despite the Academy being open. Thank you to those who ensured the young people did attend and we appreciate that for some parents it was not possible to transport them to school.

The vast majority of staff, many who travel from outside Halstead, including Sudbury, Colchester, Braintree, and Chelmsford and beyond were in school to educate your children. The absence of students from their lessons hindered their planned lesson and impacted on the learning of others.

Each school in the area has unique circumstances and the decision made by the Headteacher will be based on their individual judgement regarding the safety of the site. Therefore, it is not possible to simply say all schools should be open or closed within an area. These differing decisions can often cause upset amongst the students as they feel 'they should have a day off because the school up the road is closed.' This attitude can be difficult to manage within school as students may feel aggrieved they are being treated unfairly by being made to come into school; which is the normal expectation.

We also complete a significant amount of work with students regarding the responsible use of the internet and social media. The attitude of students towards the opening of the Academy has not been helped this week due to various posts and messages questioning the decision to remain open. Whilst we totally respect everyone's right to free speech, we would ask you to contact us directly with any concerns rather than undermine us in providing a good education for your children.

We would finally like to reiterate that if the Academy is closed for any reason, you will be contacted by School Comms and the website and our Facebook page will be updated as soon as possible to prevent unnecessary journeys and alternative supervision of the children to be arranged if required.

Thank you for your support in these matters.

Yours sincerely

Rob James  
Headteacher