

16 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We can definitely say it has been a year like no other and we must hope that next year provides us with the opportunity to return to a more 'normal' way of life. Please take the time to read the Ramsey Voice which is a celebration of the achievements of the students. Whilst many of the extra-curricular activities, trips and visits have had to be put on hold for the time being, we still have much to celebrate.

During the first week of the Christmas holidays we have been asked to collaborate with Essex Test and Trace. If any student receives a positive covid-19 test we will inform parents about the students who are identified in the 'close contact' group and the dates for self-isolation. If your child is tested and receives a positive result please email the school immediately (office@ramseyacademy.com, rjames@ramseyacademy.com and cleys@ramseyacademy.com). Messages will be checked daily until 24 December.

The Year 11 Leavers attended their 'live virtual' Awards Evening. Despite not being able to see everyone in person, the awards were presented and in this most difficult of years, where so many of the normal 'leaving' activities were cancelled it was fantastic to celebrate their achievements.

At the end of this exceptionally challenging year we would also like to celebrate the staff: particularly their contribution to supporting students and their families. The messages of thanks parents have sent to the whole staff or specific individuals have been greatly appreciated. Recognition of the provision to support Young Carers, the continuous work of the Pastoral Team and the collective efforts to raise donations for the food bank are just a few of the examples of how our staff always put the best interests of the children at the centre of everything we do.

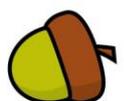
The Ramsey Voice also contains information of how families and individuals can access additional support during the holiday period. There is also information attached to this letter from Essex County Council of specific support.

At times, we know not everyone has agreed with the decisions we have made, but we are attempting to ensure all members of our community stay safe, as we deliver the best possible educational experience.

We hope to gradually reintroduce many of the activities that are such an important part of the overall school experience, that contribute to developing a broader understanding of the world in which we live. This will be done when it is safe and in line with government guidance.

A key factor in our decision making is allowing opportunities to be created to engage and excite which allow the students to become curious. Staff have been creative in their use of online technology. Parents have told us the students have had positive experiences when they have taken part in the lessons delivered via remote learning. Apart from a few technical issues the online Parent-Teacher Consultations have also been well received by the majority of parents.

As normal at the end of term there are staff changes a variety of reasons. This term we say goodbye to Mrs Robins (English) and Mr Evans (MFL). On behalf of the students, staff and Governors we would like to offer them our best wishes for the future.



We have a number of new colleagues who will join us in January. Mrs Livermore joins the English Department and Mr Tudorean joins the MFL team.

The final day of this term is Friday 18 December with students being dismissed at 3.00 p.m. A reminder that the first day back for students is Tuesday 5 January 2021.

We would also like to remind everyone that we are working hard to encourage our students to have high aspirations and pride in themselves as well as the school. Please support us by ensuring they attend school on time, are fully equipped for lessons and wear the correct uniform.

No doubt next year will be just as challenging as 2020, but in different ways. The promise of several new covid-19 vaccines and mass testing will take time to take effect. During that time, we will still have to implement control measures in school and ask for your continued support.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year'.

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully



R James
Executive Headteacher



C Leys
Head of School