



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

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Notes From the Head

Welcome to the second edition of this year's Ramsey Voice. There is so much going on that we have had to include additional pages.

As normal it has been a busy term, with new opportunities being introduced to ensure our students develop an awareness of issues in both the local community and further afield. The visit to the World War I battlefields helped students bring their studies in the classroom to reality as they visited the graves of men from Halstead who lost their lives in the conflict.

This term we have extended links with local businesses and thank them for their support. If you think you can support us in any way please contact us, we would like to engage with as many local partners as possible.

It was fantastic to see our former students return to collect well-earned GCSE certificates and celebrate their success. Many have progressed to Sixth Form Colleges to study academic or vocational courses, gained places on apprenticeship schemes or entered the world of employment. We wish them good luck for the future.

Record breaking exam results, involvement in community activities and raising the profile of the Academy is contributing to our aim of becoming an "outstanding school in the heart of the community". We are delighted to state that we are oversubscribed with first choice Year 7 September 2017 admissions; the first time this situation has occurred that anyone at the school can remember.

As this term draws to a close various events linked to Christmas have taken place which will be reported in the next issue. Whilst students have been involved with preparing for the festive season, they have also been reminded that not everyone is fortunate enough to celebrate as they might wish. Various collections for local organisations have taken place and we thank everyone who has supported these worthwhile causes.

We always encourage our students to be aware of other people, but at this time of year especially, it may be a good time to reflect on the simple words of the Dalai Lama: "Our prime purpose in life is to help others".

I would like to thank all the students, parents, staff and Governors for their support during the year, and their contribution to The Ramsey Academy's continued development. - Mr R James

Ramsey Ram Opinions

I like being a part of the Ramsey Ram because we get to be creative with what we write and sometimes get to interview teachers or even other people! There are sometimes challenges when people disagree with one another on what a title for a new article should be, so in the end it goes to a vote. I asked some other people in the Ramsey Ram what they thought about it:

Amber Selby, 7D2, said- 'It's for anyone to join and can be fun to do! New challenges

Tazmin Sloat, 8D2, said- 'I enjoy that each issue brings a new challenge and that everyone can get involved.'

The Ramsey Ram is definitely a fun project to be a part of. - Jasmin Selby (Year 8)



Endeavour Charity Week

Endeavour House again chose to support PARC (Essex) for their charity week. PARC is a registered children's charity based in Great Notley Country Park, near Braintree in Essex.

All students were encouraged to join in and help raise as much as possible towards this worthy cause.

This year we had a Harry Potter themed week. We held daily cake and sweet sales, selling all the Harry Potter favourites such as Every Flavour Beans, Chocolate Frogs and Jelly Slugs. A big thank you to all staff and students that donated cakes, they all went down really well. The students were also able to enjoy a creamy butter beer.

There was a staff House Quidditch Competition which was keenly watched by a vast number of students who enjoyed watching members of staff running around on broomsticks!

Non-uniform day topped our week off with staff and students attending school dressed as either a muggle or a wizard. There was some fantastic efforts with costumes including Dumbledore, Snape, Harry, Narcis, Dobby and many witches and wizards. At lunchtime the students could attend the Great Hall for lunch. With candlelit tables, enchanted ceiling, Have You Seen This Wizard photo booth and a film. It was a fantastic atmosphere enjoyed by all.

Endeavour would like to thank all students, staff and parents for their generous contributions and help throughout a non-stop week, which enabled us to exceed our target and raise in excess of £1200. - Mrs L Tyler



Gardening Club Update

As the term ends we can reflect on a very successful and productive year. I attended the AGM of the Halstead Conservation Group and as a result represented the school in National Tree Planting Week by planting trees at Coggeshall Pieces. At the Halstead In Bloom Awards Evening I was delighted to be presented with an RHS certificate for our club's entry to their 'In Your Neighbourhood' campaign. We look forward to supporting HIB in 2017 with their entry to Britain In Bloom.

Our now traditional Halloween fundraising project was well received. We made bats on shields out of scrap wood and made £50 towards seeds and compost for next year.

We supported the Town Council by making pallet wood trees to decorate around the Christmas Tree in Holy Trinity Church for the Halstead Christmas Fayre weekend.

Congratulations to Joshua Lingley on receiving a Jack Petchey Award. This was given for his work and enthusiasm in the Gardening Club. Josh has put the £250 award towards new tool storage units for our greenhouse. This has prompted a radical redesign of our workspace. We will report back next term on the new look and how it will increase efficiency and production for our allotment.

- Mr S Pittuck

Awards Evening 2016

On Thursday 24 November we welcomed back our recently departed Year 11 students to collect their GCSE certificates, subject awards and a range of special prizes. It was wonderful to catch up with so many students and parents and many said they are missing us already! Mr James reminded the audience that they are always Ramsey Students and welcome at any time.

Special awards were presented to:

Lewis Brennan - Outstanding Contribution to Sport

Emma Gooden (Awarded in memory of a former student who cared deeply about the school community) - Lucy Jordan Plate

George Hughes (Outstanding Creative Writing) - David Fielding Award

Jack Preston (Most improvement in Maths) - Alan Dyer Award

Connor Bugbee (Most improvement in Science) - Stewart Billson Award

Lucy Edwards (Student who made a significant contribution to the School) - Halstead Grammar School Old Girls Association

Sam Hawes (Student with best all-round performance throughout their school career) - Christopher Holmes Prize

Lewis Crow (Student who obtained the highest average points score in their GCSE results) - Newell Shield

Lewis Crow (Student who made best progress in Languages) - Old Colonians Association Prize for Languages

Jack Hawes - The Milburn Drama Plate



Tower Block Update

Phase 2 of the tower block renovations are now complete. I think I can safely say that the refurbishment has made a considerable improvement not only to the aesthetics of the building, but also to energy efficiency; there is a noticeable difference in the temperature in the classrooms and stairwells which has become more apparent as the cold weather has set in. We would like to thank Archer Building Consultancy for their impeccable management of the project and also Anglia Fixing Ltd. for the timely and scrupulous way in which they conducted the works. The Ramsey Academy would highly recommend their services to any organisation looking at embarking on a building project. - Ms K Holroyd

Life after Ramsey

People always say to you, grab every opportunity you can, and I can say that is the best piece of advice anyone can give you.

I moved on from Ramsey to go to Writtle University College to do Animal Management. Although it is a lot of hard work, it is fantastic. I spend one day a week on their animal unit (which is on site), and it is not just rabbits and horses; they have emus, alpacas, many reptiles, a skunk, Japanese raccoon dogs and so much more! Tuesdays I do work experience in an animal based environment and three days a week I am in the classroom learning everything from biology and nutrition, to welfare and training. We also do practicals in some lessons such as behaviour, health and training. Not only do I get the experience of working with the animals, I also get the opportunity to go to Egypt on a scuba diving trip and I get to go to Africa to experience the animals out there.

You don't have to go to Sixth Form and do A levels, because it doesn't suit everyone and the most important thing is that you do something you enjoy; you will not do well in something you don't enjoy or are forced into. And yes, I did do well in my GCSEs, however that doesn't mean I have to go on to be a historian or something, because frankly I wouldn't enjoy it- do what you want to do not what others want you to do. - Emma Gooden



RAF Roadshow

The roadshow was all about the Royal Air Force. The beginning started with the team flying a drone, it filmed us through tiny cameras showing a live video projected on the board. The drone represented the planes in the RAF force. They explained the four forces which evenly balance out an aircraft during flight; lift, drag, thrust and weight, the team resembled these forces by humourously explaining what they are, separately. They showed us a video of someone witnessing a virtual reality game, the video showing someone wearing the VR headset and the section on the right showed what the person was seeing. - Sarah Taylor (Year 9)



Ypres Trip

From Thursday 3 - Friday 4 November 39 pupils from The Ramsey Academy, Halstead travelled to the Ypres Salient to pay their respects to the fallen of WW1. The group visited sites in and around Ypres, paying particular attention to sites connected to the fallen from Halstead.

At Lijssenthoek cemetery, a former casualty clearing station with 10,755 graves, the group visited the grave of Frank Maurice Copsey who was only 19 at the time of his death and lived on Parsonage Street before he enlisted.

The group went on to visit the Menin Gate and placed a wreath in memory of John Cook (of Tidings Hill), S Dring and William Fincham whom are listed on the walls and are amongst the 54,399 soldiers with no known grave. The Last Post Ceremony was a powerful experience for the pupils and included a recital from a bagpiper in addition to the normal sounding of the bugle. Hannah Birch, who took part in the ceremony commented; "You can't explain it, but in that moment at The Last Post ceremony, you're all there for similar reasons and just want to pay your respects personally. I will admit that I did get slightly upset when it was all over because it was so powerful. The huge respect which we all held for the band playing was phenomenal too; you could honestly have heard a pin drop at one point."

On Friday the group visited Tyne Cot Memorial where a staggering 33,783 casualties are listed on the back panels, as they were unable to fit all of the names of the soldiers without graves on to the walls of the Menin Gate. Amongst the names is James Thomas Chaplin who died at age 25 and was from Plaistow Green Farm. The group laid a cross in memory of James and many were struck by the sheer size of the site.

The trip has definitely helped pupils to understand the scale of the horror during the Great War, and many were visibly shocked by the young age of many of the fallen soldiers. The conduct of the whole group was a credit to The Ramsey Academy. - Mrs A Perrins





Ypres Trip

I haven't even been back from Belgium for 24 hours yet and I feel so strongly about getting others to want to go for next year! It was honestly one of the most wonderful experiences I've ever had and it has thoroughly changed my outlook on life.

After an early start, we travelled by coach to Belgium. Our first visit was to Lijssethoek Cemetery which is the second largest British and Commonwealth Cemetery in Belgium and holds 10,755 heroes from The Great War.

I found this cemetery emotional not just because of the sheer amount of dead heroes lying in front of me but because I spotted an isolated grave alone, which turned out after I asked, to be one of three from America. The soldier's name was Harry and he was from New York, I just kept thinking of how far he was from home. I realised the brutality of war.

Not long after we left this cemetery we arrived at Essex Farm Cemetery; this intrigued me specifically because it was around that area that John McCrae wrote his touchingly famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

There were 8 graves that had casualties that had all died on the same day, and another set with 5 that had died together. Another one was also a young lad called Valentine that was 14 when he signed up and 15 when he died. That would be like me joining up now and dying in less than a year: I've barely lived my life.

That evening we all boarded the coach to the Menin Gate. Much to my delight and disbelief, earlier in the day my name had been picked out of a hat to lay the wreath along with Mr Walker and Lauren Marshall. I've never felt more honoured in my life as I was to be representing the school in front of those people and laying that wreath in memory of our heroes. I will never be able to thank Miss Perrins and the other teachers who helped organise the trip enough for enabling to have been given that incredible opportunity.

The Last Post ceremony was an incredibly moving experience. The huge respect which we all held for the band playing was phenomenal too; you could honestly have heard a pin drop at one point.

The next day we visited Landmek Cemetery. I was so shocked at the contrast of the German cemetery in comparison to the other countries'. The German graves must have been made of such poor quality as some of them I couldn't read. Saying that though, every single cemetery we visited was kept impeccably neat and tidy, which shows just how much respect the Belgians have for our troops.

We then made our way to Tyne Cot which is literally the largest cemetery in Belgium dedicated to 11, 962 British and Commonwealth soldiers. It was emotional once you were inside as all you could see were graves, literally there is nothing like it. You can't help just wanting a minute to absorb what you are looking at. I had no words, still don't, to describe the emotions going through my head regarding my feelings at that Cemetery.

The size of the trenches had me in shock. Obviously I was aware that they weren't exactly mansions but you had to bend right over, virtually crawling to move along.

After spending some time imagining how awful life must have been for those soldiers we then walked back to the coach. As we embarked on our journey back home we went past a cemetery and the very informative driver told us that 62 out of 64 of the men within that cemetery were killed on the same day during a battle within part of the trench area that we got to visit.

We made our way back to Calais, arriving back in Halstead just after 7.30pm.

This trip has honestly made me realise that life is far too short and we should make the most of every second, I would go back in a heartbeat. - Hannah Birch (Year 9)

Able and Talented

The Ramsey Academy is now involved with a programme called TANGO. This programme organises and provides extension and enrichment activities for able and talented pupils in the Braintree district area. Four sessions were run on Saturday 19 November at Notley High School. Congratulations to the 13 pupils from the Ramsey Academy who were selected and attended the sessions. An outline of each session is shown below accompanied by some photographs of pupils taking part and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Masterclass: Food Technology

Have you ever wondered how they do it on The Great British Bake-off? Now's your chance to have a go at creating your own 3D gingerbread construction!

Ramsey pupils: Hana Scillitoe, Becky Howard, Rosie Shackell, Phoebe Warren.

Masterclass: Technology/Electronics

Students will be making a 'steady hand' game.

Ramsey pupils: Luke Moore.

Masterclass: Art and Design

Mixed Media: giving the opportunity to students to experiment with a variety of techniques, such as wax resist, collage, sewing and more and express themselves by adding quotes that represent them in their collage and final outcome. At the end they will all take away a small canvas with their outcome.

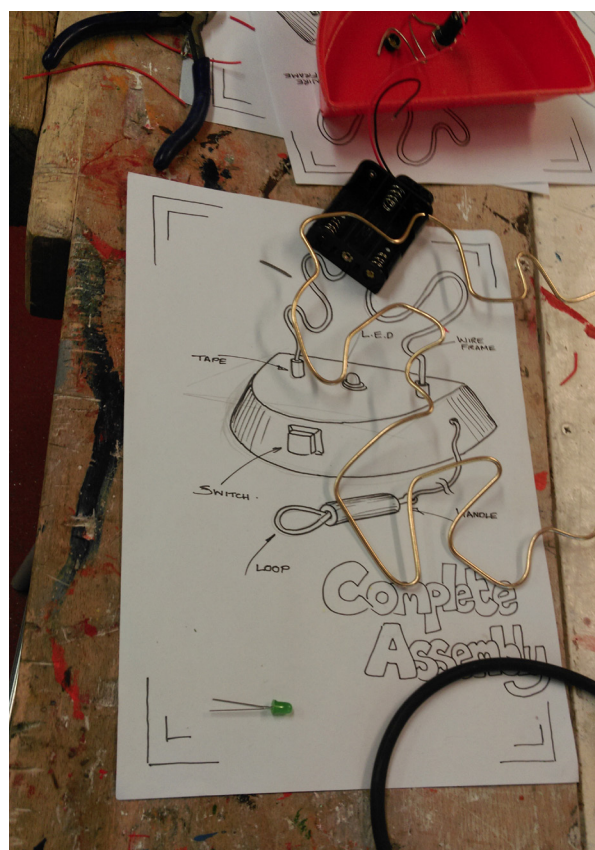
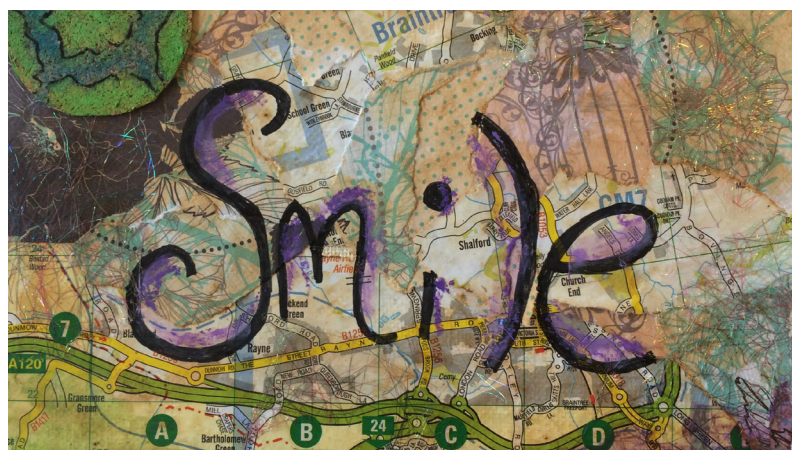
Ramsey pupils: Louis George, Olivia Vinter.

Masterclass: Graphic Design

Students will be given a geometric shape, from which they will be asked to produce a series of drawings and prints. They will draw onto black paper using a stencil method, with oil pastels. They will produce a cut-out either with lino or polystyrene, from which they will print, using the press, onto different papers, and finally, they can produce a Pop Art version using heavy black outline and flat colour. The prints will be theirs to take away. The challenge for them will be to focus on accuracy and to make versions they can reproduce.

Ramsey pupils: Brooke Gray, Maximus Felton, Ellie White, Amelia Bell, Maisie Richardson, Billy Jamieson.

- Mr G Charlton



Transporter interviews

Most of us remember our first job interview: carefully putting together a CV and letter, deciding what to wear, finding out about the company and arriving hopefully (and possibly nervously) at the employer's premises for our meeting. Year 11 students at The Ramsey Academy have this term been offered the opportunity to try out their skills in a mock interview process with Transporter at Gosfield. The company supported the whole process from start to finish, producing job descriptions for students to use as they wrote their CVs and covering letters to apply for the different roles. The interviews were set up to take place on Transporter's premises and students dressed appropriately and prepared themselves for the experience by researching the company's website and rehearsing answers to possible questions. The interviews were conducted in the same way as real interviews and gave students a valuable and realistic experience of the interview process.



Although nervous before going in, all those who participated spoke very highly of the experience and spoke of their increased confidence in going for real jobs and college places. Transporter staff who conducted the interviews gave very detailed feedback that enabled students to reflect on their interview skills and performance. They will now be able to build on these for future interviews. Transporter also took students on a tour of their business, offering an insight into the workings of a diverse local employer. One of the most interesting aspects was the feedback from Transporter about who amongst the students would have been taken on by the company if it had been a real interview situation. These students were delighted to find that they would have been successful and have been encouraged and motivated as a result.

Great thanks go to everyone at Transporter who made staff and students so welcome and especially to Isla Gill, Sales and Project Manager, who organised the visits with great enthusiasm and efficiency. - Mrs M Gibbs



Butcher Visit

Catering had a visit from our local butcher Andrew Callaghan. Andrew very kindly gave up a couple of hours one morning in October to demonstrate knife skills to a group of Catering students. They were shown how to fillet and bone various joints of chicken.

Students have since practised these skills in readiness for their final practical exam in January where they will be preparing a two course international meal.

- Mrs K Bushell

Anam Cara

Religious Education took a new turn at Ramsey from 17 to 21 October, with a whole week of spiritual and reflective activities available for students. This was a project run jointly with the CYO (Christian Youth Organisation) and is called Anam Cara, which is Celtic for soul friend. The project involved a takeover of FF4, which was transformed into a spiritual and reflective zone. Many RE classes were fortunate enough to take part in this activity, and enjoyed the huge range of initiatives on offer. Activities ranged from a tent for silent reflection, to a tree where students had to let something go that had been bothering them, and then write it on a leaf and hang it on the tree. Other popular activities involved students making bracelets with beads of significance, and undergoing a journey through a hall of mirrors where they were required to look at themselves both aesthetically and spiritually. We also had a wailing wall for students to write prayers and messages, and a waste paper bin for them to write down something they were sorry about then throw it away. All students responded fantastically well to these activities, with many commenting that they wish they had more opportunities to think and reflect about their lives and the lives of others. This was a worthwhile and enriching week, and one that we would definitely like to offer again in the future. - Mrs H Price



Road Safety Play

On Monday 3 October, Year 7 students watched a drama performance about the importance of road safety. The performance was incredibly entertaining but had a very important underlying message which grasped the attention of our students. Students took part in a workshop after the performance to educate them further on road safety and students had the opportunity to ask questions.

Essex County Council funded the road safety play for schools to try to reduce the number of road traffic accidents involving children. Unfortunately, the number of accidents in Essex recently has doubled from the same time last year. Most of these could have been avoided if children had taken more care.

The Academy organises a number of road safety events each year to help raise awareness of common dangers and the importance of staying safe on our roads. - Miss S Patching



Colchester Institute Catering Trip

The Year 11 Catering students had the pleasure of going to Colchester Institute, and seeing the fantastic Catering Department. We also got to try out a meal that was followed on by a trio of desserts. When we arrived at the Institute we were welcomed by the students at Reception and offered a drink, then we were escorted to our tables. The table was presented beautifully, with cutlery and table mats.

The College students had freshly baked mini rolls, one was sun dried tomato and the other was a plain roll, both of which were fresh and delicious. When we were sitting down at our tables we had the pleasure of seeing our food being cooked on a TV screen, all of the College students that were cooking for us used coloured boards and followed HASAWA and HACCP. It was very interesting seeing the food being cooked in the kitchens. This also gave us a real insight of what we would be doing if we took on the Catering course.

Our first course was brought out, the Ramsey students either had Guinea fowl, Plaice or Mullet. All of which were served with new potatoes and broccoli. Five minutes into the meal, the College students asked us "Is everything okay with your meal?" All of the College students made us feel welcome and were very polite. The Ramsey Catering students were very happy with their meal!

Once we had finished our main course, our plates were taken away. Then the College students brought out our desserts, it was a trio of mini deserts that were presented beautifully. There was cheesecake, with mini pieces of strawberry and blueberry. Then there was an apple tart, the pastry was buttery and had a crispy texture then had a layer of caramelised apple. Then there was a dessert, that had a thin layer of sponge topped with cream and had a thin layer of jelly. These deserts were served with a fruit cocktail and whipped cream quenelle.

After the Ramsey Catering students had eaten these divine desserts, we were shown around the Catering Department by the Head of the Department. We were accompanied to all the rooms that involved hospitality and Catering. We were shown in the kitchens, all of which had very expensive equipment. Most of these rooms had speakers and a TV, this would allow the students to hear and see the teacher if they were doing a demonstration.

There was a special room that just allowed students to do bake pastries and rolls. This kitchen had special equipment to make the bread and pastries. The teacher showed us around and explained to us what each room was for and what we would do in it. This was very useful because it gave us knowledge and an insight of what we would be doing on the hospitality and Catering course.

We were also shown the front of house jobs like being in Reception or being a waitress. On the way to this, the teacher showed us a very interesting sculpture that was made out of sugar. This was then followed by pictures of famous celebrities like Jamie Oliver! We were told that many celebrities would come to the Institute and show us how to cook different dishes. We were also shown pictures and were told that people on this course would be able to go on interesting trips in Europe or even America to explore the different cuisines.

After being shown around the department, we were taken up to the restaurant where we first in, we sat down and any questions we had were answered. Then we were escorted to the car park feeling satisfied and full! All of the Year 11 Catering students certainly enjoyed their meal and their experience at the Catering and Hospitality Department.

- Alicia Tunwell (Year 11)



Armistice Day

On Friday 11 November the whole school stood and paused for 2 minutes at 11.00am as a mark of remembrance for those that fell in battle. Jody Clements from Year 11 came to school dressed in her Army Cadet uniform and spoke to many younger students about why the act of remembrance is so important.

Jody is aiming to pursue a career in the armed forces and the whole Ramsey community wish her every success.

- Mr C Leys



PSHE Conference

On Thursday 13 October, 11 Year 9's had the opportunity to attend Earls Colne Golf and Country club for a 'Teenage Years' PSHE conference. It taught us so much and really put in to perspective that everyone suffers teenage problems worldwide, some bigger than others. We started off the day watching a Drama group perform some role play, within this role play issues including; Sexting, Exam Stress, Self-harm, Depression, Body Image, Anxiety/Panic Attacks, Rejection, Bereavement and meeting with someone you met online were portrayed. I think every single teenager who went to this conference, could relate to at least one of these issues whether it is to them or to a friend. The man who ran the Drama group then showed us about bricks and sometimes we can go round carrying lots of bricks and sometimes we slowly need to take one off one by one, because if they take one off too fast they could all fall down and showed us how our bricks can also put bricks on other peoples pile so it is easier if we deal with our bricks instead of getting a handful.

After the role play that all the schools watched together, we then went off in our individual school groups to look at various workshops; workshops included Drugs and Alcohol, Self-Esteem, Online safety. The most though provoking was the Rape and Abuse workshop because they showed us lots of different scenarios then asked us to discuss them which we all found really effective because the situation is easier to comprehend then and she also showed us the 'Cup of Tea' video. It showed us all a very clear analogy between making a cup of tea and sexual consent.

Lastly there was an opportunity to visit various stalls including: Road Safety to make us aware of the consequences of using phones whilst driving, Colchester Institute making us aware of what career choices will be available to us, Witham Police Cadets, a mental health adviser and another company that showed young people their rights when it comes to confidentiality between them and their doctor. It was a very educational day, all of the people who turned up were there specifically for our benefit and they put great effort in to answer our questions, I came away feeling more aware of problems out there and definitely more clued up on how to deal with them. This type of day should be shown to more youngsters so that they know that they are not alone and that it is perfectly normal to be feeling the way that they do. No one should have to bottle up their problems! - Hannah Birch (Year 9)

PSHE Training

On Wednesday 29 November Heather and Anita from NHS (PROVIDE) came to train a group from Year 9 to become Youth Health Champions. They taught us about stress and anxiety and Anita did some de-stress exercises with the group and it made us all relaxed! Also they taught us how to deal with stress and panic attacks. They taught us about body image and how media can affect our views of our bodies and how they should look, we had to draw what we thought a perfect female and male should look like, this helps us to understand there is no such thing as the perfect body and it was interesting to see what Heather and Anita thought of our drawings. We were taught about the importance of resilience and was showed a moving video about a girl who had real resilience. We talked about self-esteem and how it can change us as a person. We are all very thankful for this opportunity, it was a great day for all of us. We look forward to sharing our ideas and expertise through assemblies, tutor time and poster campaigns. - Phoebe Pearse and Hope Hamilton (Year 9)



Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Wednesday 16 November, four trainers from Speakers bank were introduced to Year 10 as part of a public speaking training day the trainers company is based around Essex and London. Excitement, enthusiasm and embarrassment were all encouraged.

The day began with a warm welcome from trainer Elaine, who was running my group of 23, which made me feel very relaxed about making mistakes and trying new things in front of her. She was animated and supportive towards people with different levels of confidence, which helped us all to realise that we had no need to panic about speaking in front of each other.

We were off time-table for the whole day so we had plenty of time for exercises and games to help gain and improve skills. Elaine made us take part in funny yet beneficial speaking challenges and interactive games which helped prepare us for the afternoon.

After each task we would be given feedback; two things that were wonderful; improvements, and two nice things about it. From this we could focus on how to get better and become more comfortable about speaking with energy in public. They helped to hone in on skills like making eye contact and using hand gestures.

The afternoon caused a lot of distress for some people. The task was to write and readout a speech of your choice to the group. Two people would then be chosen to go into another competition against the other six chosen speakers to decide who is going to the regional finals. The speech topics ranged from hard hitting subjects such as child abuse, eating disorders and mental health, to light-hearted, comical ones for example 'Being the Middle Child' by Daniel Wheeler.

Nerves were hard to overcome for most of us, but with support from Elaine and the group, everyone managed to 'give it a go'.

I really enjoyed the day and I have gained new speaking techniques that I can use for interviews in the future. I would recommend the day for other pupils as you might find you have a talent!

- Bridget Clegg (Year 10)



F1 Williams Trip

On Friday the 14 of October we had a Product Design trip to the Williams F1 museum. On the trip we got to see the different cars from when they started making F1 cars to the present day; this allowed us to see the evolution of racing and how they are still working to make the best possible F1 car. Even the smallest change can make a difference.

It helped us to see how we would have to develop our products to make them better and that our initial ideas were just one of the many stepping stones to a great product. It was also educational as we got to see examples of different materials such as carbon fibre and how they are used to enhance the product. - Chloe Phillips-Taylor (Year 11)



British Heart Foundation

Teacher trainee Lauren Vint, who is training with MEITT here at The Ramsey Academy, has managed to secure funding from the British Heart Foundation. This is excellent news.

Lauren's ambitions are to become a Science teacher and she is very enthusiastic and excited about entering the new profession. - Mrs C Starke

In some cases CPR can double the chances of survival from cardiac arrest. It is therefore vital that people have the skills, ability and confidence to step in and help. As part of 'Restart a Heart' day in October, The British Heart Foundation advertised the opportunity for schools to apply for a grant to get free CPR training kits and resources. Having previously owned a first aid training business and having been part of the emergency services, seeing first-hand the difference having these life-saving skills can make, I knew it was something I wanted to get involved in. With the support of Mr James, I applied for a grant which fortunately was accepted. We now have 35 brand new CPR kits ready to train students of Ramsey, giving them the opportunity to become potential life-savers in the community of Halstead and beyond. - Miss L Vint



Orienteering Team News

20 November students ventured off to Sutton Park in the West Midlands to compete in the British schools Orienteering championships.

The students had a great weekend practising on the Saturday and then competing on the Sunday. The team of Hannah Peters, Beth Lucas, Thomas Turner, Thomas Leader, Izzy Peters, Amy Skeet, Jessica Thomas and Katie- May Blower performed extremely well, especially as for some this was their first time representing the school at the Nationals. The team managed to secure 5th place in the country in the small schools category and our best individual place went to Beth Lucas who managed to come 12th in Year 10 girls.

It was also great to see two of our past students in Lucy Edwards and Callum Turner still competing in the sport.

We look forward to building the team over the year and be prepared for next year's national events where we will be pushing for a top 3 place.

Thank you to all the students who competed and represented the school so well and a big thank you to Julie Edwards who organised the weekend and Simon Turner who helped with the transport. - Mr P Taylor

Year 7 Basketball Match

Ramsey Year 7 basketball team travelled to Witham to play New Rickstones Year 7s in a friendly basketball match. The boys were buzzing and couldn't wait to play the match. Some of the boys had been to Rickstones before for a match, a couple of weeks after the New Year 7s started secondary school.

We arrived at the school and went inside to have a small warm up. After which, the match began. At the end of the first quarter, the score was 8-6 to Ramsey. The final score at the end of the match was a 23-21 win! Considering the last time we played them we drew 8-8, we thought we had performed very well! Thank you to all of these boys for participating in our first win and unbeaten run: Callum Hall, Lewis Couttie, Cobi Berkane, Dylan McCallum, William Press, Thomas Leader, Josh Jennings, Jack Tyler Hubbard, Jack Buckle. Also thank you to Mr O'Gorman for taking us there and training us.

We also had a tournament at Maltings Academy (also in Witham). We had the same team as our match. In our group stage, the schools we had to play were; Forest, Alec Hunter and Maltings A. We won two games and lost one. That meant we came 2nd in our group which was a bonus because we got to play for 3rd place. In our 3rd place match, we were against Notley High. They were a tough team but we managed to win 6-4. It was a great game with Lewis Couttie scoring the winning basket. Also at the end of the tournament, Mr O'Gorman said we are now the most successful team yet at Ramsey. Thank you to all the players once again for a triumphant tournament. - Callum Hall (Year 7)





District Cross Country

On Wednesday 16 of November 2016, Year 7, 8 and 9 girls and boys attended the District Cross Country Competition at The Discovery Centre in Braintree. I marshalled and it was really exciting to witness everyone's red faces, enthusiasm and good spirit whatever they achieved. Everyone came in very respectable places and tried their best. Out of the 11 schools that competed, Year 7 boys finished 2nd in the team event and Year 7 girls finished 8th. Year 8 and 9 boys finished 4th and 8 and 9 girls finished 7th. Jake Miller did especially well and came 1st for his category and was awarded with a medal. He has now been asked to represent Essex at the cross country championships in January. It was an amazing experience to witness, despite the challenging course, everyone worked very hard to successfully finish the race and made The Ramsey Academy, Halstead very proud. Well done everyone! - Hannah Birch (Year 9)

Rugby Tournaments

The District Rugby Tournament took place this term with an unprecedented attendance of participating schools: Alec Hunter, Forest Hall, Hedingham, Helena Romaners, Honywood, Joyce Frankland, Maltings, Notley and The Ramsey Academy. The Year 7 team performed well in their Group A game against Maltings, but were beaten by Honywood who fielded a strong team. Victory for Ramsey arrived with a 20-5 win against Forest Hall and a draw of 10-10 against Joyce Frankland. Cobi Berkane proved very strong with the ball and stood out for his fearless tackles and convincing presence. Ultimately, Ramsey finished second in the group.

Year 8 participated bravely in their matches but were overwhelmed by stronger sides. Years 10/11 pitted their skills with enthusiasm against Helena Romanes and Honywood, but were, like Year 8, overcome by more powerful sides. Honourable mention goes to Tom Svensson and Johnathan Morris who both put in capable performances.

- Mrs M Gibbs

Sports Award

Being a previous member of my local primary school, I decided I would like to go back and help out with the after school sports clubs. This included archery, cricket, football, athletics and tag rugby. I also helped with other people from The Ramsey Academy at their sports day. Seeing as though the primary school is relatively small and they have no permanent PE teacher I felt as though I could help the after school sports clubs that they ran.

Dates For your Diary

3 Jan - Non Student Day
 12 Jan - Year 8 Parents' Evening
 13 Jan - Year 11 Geography Trip
 17 Jan - Year 11 Road Safety Play
 26 Jan - Year 11 Parents' Evening
 2 Feb - Year 11 Parents Support Evening
 6 Feb - Year 11 Art Trip
 8 Feb - Poetry Live



The Headteacher of the primary school (Mrs Sarti) nominated me for an active Braintree Sports Award in the Young Community Volunteer category in which I was awarded highly commended. I am grateful for the nomination and have enjoyed helping out.

- Tom Svensson (Year 11)

