

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

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Headteacher:
Rob James

15 September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new term. Our new Year 7 cohort have made a positive start and appear to have made a smooth transition from their Primary Schools.

A few weeks ago we celebrated with the Year 11 students who have now left us, when they received their GCSE results. Through their hard work and support of staff and parents, the school received another set of excellent results. It is difficult to make comparisons with previous years due to new GCSE courses and accountability measures.

Building on the success and continued improvement of the last few years, 61% of students achieved grades 9 – 4 in English and Maths. Particular improvements occurred in English Literature, German, Textile, Art, Catering, Computer Science, Physical Education and Health & Social care. The majority of other subjects produced results broadly in line with the previous year. We were also pleased that the number of A* and A grades nearly doubled from last year.

Another new key measure is 'Progress 8', which includes English, Maths, Science plus 5 other subjects. This indicates if students have made more progress than expected based on their ability when they joined the school. The final figure will not be available until November as it is based on national averages but we expect it to indicate students made more than expected progress. This shows students of all abilities are achieving well in a wide range of subjects.

High levels of attendance are vital to ensure students are successful in their examinations. The current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 prohibits Headteachers granting leave of absence to a pupil except where an application has been made in advance and the Headteacher considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

I must warn you that, if you do take your child out of school for this time, the absences will not be authorised and the Education Welfare Service may issue a penalty notice to each parent of £60 for each child to be paid within 21 days. If the penalty is not paid within the time scale the penalty will increase to £120. If the higher penalty is not paid within 28 days, the Education Welfare Service will then institute legal proceedings against you in the magistrate's court under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 for failing to ensure your child attends school regularly.

Our aim is to set high expectations and for students to take pride in their appearance. The majority of students wear their uniform with pride and are a credit to the school. Please continue to support us in ensuring your child attends wearing the correct uniform and footwear. The expectations are clear:

- Shoes should be black and of leather type material, canvas shoes and trainers are not acceptable
- Skirts should be black and approximately knee length. No skirts shorter than 10cm above the knee and tights must be plain black or flesh coloured

Our attention is already turning to next year and we are holding our annual 'Open Evening' for prospective new students on Thursday 28 September from 6.30 – 9.00 p.m. In order to prepare for the event, lessons will finish early at 12.10 p.m. on that day. Bus and taxi transport will be available at this time.

If you would like your son or daughter to remain in school and be supervised until 3.00 p.m. please complete the reply slip below.

As many of the students will be assisting staff during the evening until late, there will be a delayed start on Friday 29 September. Registration will be at 10.50 a.m. and lessons will start at 11.10 a.m. Bus and tax transport has been arranged to pick up students at their usual pick up points 2 hours later than normal. For example, if your child is normally picked up at 8.10 a.m. they will be picked up at 10.10 a.m.

We aim to build on the success of recent years with ever improving examination results and increasing student applications. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you to ensure the students receive the best school experience possible as we strive to fulfil our aim of being 'an outstanding school in the heart of the community'.

Yours sincerely



Rob James
Headteacher

To: Mr James, The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Student Name

Tutor Group

I confirm that I would like my child to remain in school and be supervised until 3.00 p.m. on Thursday 28 September 2017. I understand that I will be responsible for their transport home at this time.

Signed

Date

Parent/Carer