

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Colne Road, Halstead, Essex CO9 2HR. T: 01787 472481 F: 01787 474267
E: office@ramseyacademy.com W: www.ramseyacademy.com

Headteacher: Mr C Appleford



Weekly family communication. Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful to complete our first full week back and to see the school buzzing with energy, enthusiasm and purpose. Across the school, students have settled completely now into their routines and classrooms have been filled with focused learning and excellent engagement.

Our GCSE students have already begun working on key projects and coursework that will support their success this academic year. It has been particularly pleasing to see the determination and commitment they are showing as they prepare for important milestones ahead. We look forward to seeing our year 11 families next week on the 17th for the first revision evening.



Meanwhile, our Year 7 students are continuing to make a fantastic start to secondary school life. They have embraced their new Maths and English lessons with confidence and curiosity, building strong foundations for future learning and becoming increasingly familiar with the high expectations and opportunities available to them.

Alongside the excellent work of our students, staff have continued their professional development through focused training on teaching and learning, specifically 'modelling' techniques to embed student understanding of knowledge. As a school, we remain committed to our journey of continuous improvement, ensuring that every lesson provides the highest quality learning experience and supports all students to achieve their very best.

Today we completed a fire drill practice. This provided an important opportunity to reinforce our established routines, strengthen our culture of safety, and allow our Year 7 students to experience this essential practice for the first time as members of our school community. I was incredibly proud of the maturity, precision and calm manner shown by students and staff alike.



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Everyone responded with the clarity, care and professionalism needed, ensuring the drill was completed efficiently and safely.

I have included some photos of our English area following the RAAC works. The transformation has been remarkable, creating a bright, welcoming and inspiring environment for our students. We are delighted with the finished space and know it will support excellent learning for years to come.

Year 11 revision evening

We have been really pleased with the mature and focused attitude Year 11 students have returned with following the summer break. We are, of course, all conscious of how important this year is for these students, and I know that all members of the school community are actively seeking ways of providing additional support, no matter the student or need. With this in mind, can I remind families of our Year 11 Revision Evening on Thursday 17th September, beginning at 5.30pm. We will be looking at effective revision habits, with Mr Dare (English) and Mrs Hemmings (Maths) also set to talk about how to build stamina ahead of what will be a busy year. We look forward to seeing all students and parents at this event.

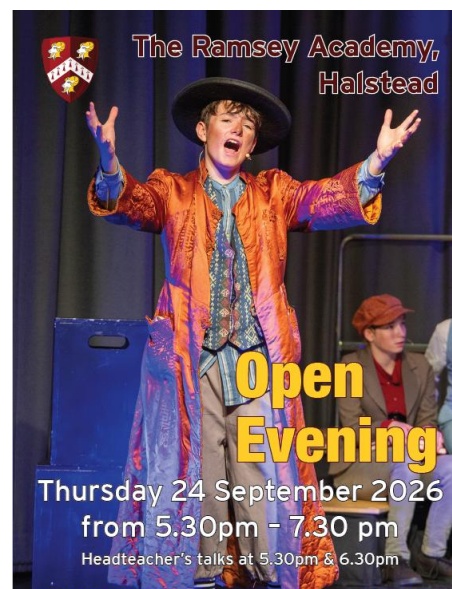
-Mr Mallard & Mrs Blunkell

The Ramsey Academy Open Evening - Thursday 24 October, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective students and their families to **The Ramsey Academy Open Evening on Thursday 24 October, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity for visitors to experience life at Ramsey, meet our staff, and discover the many opportunities available to our students.

To help make the evening a success, we are looking for student helpers to support departments and welcome visitors around the school. Student helpers are fantastic ambassadors for our community and play an important role in showcasing our values and school spirit.

If your child would like to take part, please return the reply slip to the relevant member of staff by **Friday 18 September**. Further information regarding timings and arrangements will be provided to participating students.



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Open Evening – families with children at Richard de Clare

We have been made aware this week that Year 6 students at Richard de Clare School will be away on their residential visit on the date of our Open Evening.

We would still warmly invite parents and carers to attend so they can view the school, meet staff, and listen to the Headteacher's presentation and key information about life at the school.

Details of our Open Morning tours will be released on the evening, and families will be able to book and attend these visits. We will also be arranging additional Open Morning opportunities specifically for Year 6 students who are unable to attend the Open Evening due to the residential visit.

We will coordinate these arrangements with Richard de Clare School and share further details as soon as they are confirmed. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our school.

Free School Meals

Please refer to email communications regarding the important change to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility which came into effect on the 1st September 2026. Thank you to those who have already submitted your application. Where eligibility is confirmed, the school has been notified, and our systems have been updated.

If your child received Free School Meals last academic year and you have not yet re-applied, their eligibility will now have ended. We therefore strongly encourage all families in receipt of Universal Credit (that have not done so already) to check eligibility online as soon as possible. Navigate to the - The Ramsey Academy - Pupil Premium webpage and scroll to the bottom of this page to find the link to check your eligibility (graphic below to support).

If you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our data manager kaskew@ramseyacademy.com.

<https://www.ramseyacademy.com/Pupil-Premium/>

Apply For Free School Meals

 [Free School Meals Application](#)



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Enrichment at The Ramsey Academy

Enrichment opportunities at **The Ramsey Academy** are now beginning, and we are excited to offer students a range of activities beyond the classroom. This week, all students attended an assembly designed to inspire them to take advantage of the excellent extra-curricular opportunities available throughout the year. A variety of



clubs will launch on **Monday 14 September** (see timetable), and students are welcome to attend any club on site that is available to



their age group. We are continually reviewing and developing our enrichment programme to ensure it meets the interests and needs of our students. Currently students can enter an exciting photograph competition, see below. Looking ahead, there will be a range of exciting competitions, charity events, leadership opportunities and enrichment experiences for all students to get involved in, helping

them to develop new skills, build confidence and make the most of their time at The Ramsey Academy.

Clubs in **bold** are for all year groups

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
Before School 8.00-8.25	Breakfast Club Pathway									
Break 11.00-11.25	Pathway (Invitation only)									
Lunch Time 1.25-1.50	Year 7 Table Tennis	Gym	Year 8 Table Tennis	Gym	Year 9 Table Tennis	Gym	Year 10 Table Tennis	Gym	Year 11 Table Tennis	Gym
	Year 11 Football	Astro	Year 10 Football	Astro	Year 8 Football	Astro	Year 7 Football	Astro	Year 9 Football	Astro
	Young Carers	BF2	Guitar and Ukelele Club	MD2	Film Club (age 12+)	NF1	Choir	MD2	MFL Scrabble	FF1
	Chess	BG3			Chess	BG3	Chess	BG3	School Council (monthly)	BG6
					Scribble and Switch off	FF4	Rummikub	TT4		
										
Pathway Club (Invitation only)										
After School 3.00-4.00			KS4 Football	Astro			KS3 Football	Astro	GCSE Golf	Essex Golf Club
			Dance Club	Gym			Netball	Courts		
			Dungeons & Dragons	TS3			Dungeons & Dragons	Drams Studio		
						Drama Club				



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INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING



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Year 11 Careers Fair Visit to Chelmsford Racecourse - Wednesday 23rd September 9.50-12.30

As part of our commitment to developing students' aspirations and future pathways, all Year 11 students will be attending the Careers Fair at Chelmsford Racecourse. This exciting event provides a valuable opportunity



for students to meet employers, training providers, colleges, universities, and apprenticeship organisations, helping them to explore the wide range of options available after Year 11 and beyond.

Students will leave The Ramsey Academy at 9.50am and will return by 12.30pm, allowing them to continue with their normal lessons for the remainder of the school day.

Students are expected to attend in full school uniform and to represent The Ramsey Academy positively throughout the visit.

We encourage students to make the most of this opportunity by speaking to exhibitors, asking questions, and gathering information that will support them in making informed decisions about their future education and career choices.

If you have any questions regarding the visit, please contact Mrs Price at hprice@ramseyacademy.com.

We look forward to what promises to be an informative and inspiring experience for our Year 11 students.

Form Captains

Form Captains have now been selected and will play an important role in supporting both their form groups and the wider school community. They will act as role models, supporting the work of the tutor. Responsibilities may include leading form discussions, welcoming new students, helping to organise charity and house events, gathering feedback from their peers, and working alongside the Student Council on key initiatives. We look forward to seeing our Form Captains grow in confidence and leadership as they take on these important responsibilities throughout the year. Here you can see Jo in year 8, who has just been nominated to undertake this important role.



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Bus update

We have received the following update from the bus company following recent changes we had not been made aware of.

- Students should take seats at all available opportunities and not stand.
- There are now two buses on the Earls Colne route. The first bus runs earlier than previously in the mornings, and students may be unaware of this and therefore there are more students waiting for the second bus. If a bus is full it is likely to go past students waiting at a bus stop so students should ensure they do not just wait for the second bus and arrive to their stops punctually and get on the first bus at every opportunity.
- Pick up times for schools can no longer directly be changed as the buses are now general public service buses and have to run to timetabled times (this is in respect of open evening and final days of term)
- Students who have bus passes are able to travel home on an alternative service bus free of charge in the event of school timing changes for calendared events.

Additionally, we have also had an update today from Essex Transport in relation to the bus service changes, please see below.

We understand the concerns raised regarding services 818 and 817. We have been advised that the 818 service is now operating as an open public service and that the former 817 service has been incorporated into route 89. Further information regarding the Ramsey school services can be found on Central Connects website:

 <https://www.central-connect.co.uk/schools/ramsey>

Integrated Passenger Transport Unit



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RAF Air Cadets

Interested in joining 1163 (Colne Valley) Squadron RAF Air Cadets? As they prepare to reopen this September, they are now inviting prospective cadets to register their interest. Their Open Evening will take place at 1930 hrs on Wednesday 23 September 2026, at the Squadron. Please do go along, meet the team, see the Squadron and find out more about the opportunities available as an RAF Air Cadet if your child has an interest in this area. You can register your interest using the link <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/JqzQWmJEvs?origin=lprLink>

Halstead Guy Fawkes event



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CrossFit Teens Crossfit Braintree

Back to school offer – free 2 week trial throughout September

Local Parent Support Hub

Team Dandelion is a local parent support hub offering support to parents and carers of neurodivergent, fostered, and adopted children. They provide free coffee afternoons where parents can come together to access support, advice, a listening ear, and a sense of community.

A range of local professionals and organisations also attend these sessions, including Essex Family Forum, Families in Focus, and the MAZE Group.

The **Halstead Coffee Hub** takes place on the second Tuesday of every month, and the **Braintree Coffee Hub** is held on the third Tuesday of each month. Both sessions run from **1.00–2.30pm**.

HALSTEAD

St Andrews Church Hall, Parsonage Street, Halstead, CO9 2LD

- Tuesday 13 October
- Tuesday 10th November
- Tuesday 8th December

BRAINTREE - Braintree Baptist Church, Swan Side, Braintree, CM7 3DA

- Tuesday 15th September
- Tuesday 20th October
- Tuesday 17th November
- Tuesday 15th December



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Mid Essex Summer Activities 2026

Earlier this summer Mid Essex Summer Activities helped families access a wide range of free and low-cost activities throughout the summer holiday. The organisations involved would like to understand how useful the resource was for local families and whether it helped people access activities over the summer holidays. They would be grateful if parents could complete this short survey, which should take no more than 2 minutes:

[Click the link below](#)

- [Tell Us What You Thought About the Mid Essex Summer Activities Resource](#)

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Careers

Labour Market Information: Does your child's career ambition link with employment opportunities?

Labour Market Information (LMI) is information about jobs, employment trends, skills, salaries and future workforce needs. It is important for both students and parents because it helps families make informed choices about subjects, qualifications and next steps, linking education to real career opportunities and future employment prospects. Understanding LMI helps students plan realistically and confidently, and enables you as parents to better support and guide your child's career decisions.

- **Local – Braintree and Halstead:** For example, strong opportunities in construction, health and social care, logistics, retail, and local apprenticeships with employers in and around the district.
- **Regional – East Anglia:** Growing sectors such as agriculture and agri-tech, renewable energy, digital technologies, engineering and healthcare, reflecting the wider regional economy.
- **National – UK:** National trends including increasing demand for digital and IT skills, healthcare professionals, green energy jobs, engineering, and roles requiring flexibility and transferable skills across sectors.

Using LMI allows students to see how today's learning connects to tomorrow's careers and helps families understand where opportunities are growing both locally and beyond. We will be using this information to tailor our careers provision to meet the needs of our young people.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mr. C Appleford - Headteacher



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