

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 4th September 2026

Dear Families,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all our students and families (new and current) as we begin another exciting school year. It has been wonderful to see the school come back to life this week, with our Year 7 students already settling in brilliantly, year 8-10 being fully equipped for learning and our Year 11 students beginning the important journey towards their GCSE examinations.

As we start the new academic year, I would like to remind all students and families of our high expectations. Following the exceptionally warm weather and adapted uniform arrangements in July, we have now returned to our full school uniform expectations. ***As a reminder, henna tattoos and any other similar body markings of this nature must not be visible in school.***

Alongside this, attendance and punctuality remain fundamental to success. Every lesson matters, and we ask for your continued support in ensuring students attend school every day and arrive on time, ready to learn.

Over the summer, significant improvements have been made to our school environment. I am delighted to share that the RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) remediation area is now fully completed, reopened, and looking fantastic. This is something that will only benefit our students having such an engaging physical environment to learn in. In addition, a number of classrooms have been redecorated, new flooring has been installed, and inspiring wall displays and artwork have been added across the school. We believe our students deserve an environment that reflects their talents, aspirations and potential, and these improvements are part of our ongoing commitment to providing the very best learning environment possible.

However, while the buildings and facilities look wonderful, the greatest source of pride for our school is, and always will be, our students. This summer's examination results were a tremendous achievement and a real cause for celebration. Our students demonstrated that young people who live in our community and attend our school can achieve highly, meet ambitious targets and secure excellent outcomes. We achieved our strongest attainment outcomes since the pandemic and saw positive progress across the school. Performance across a range of key measures compared very favourably to national expectations, reflecting the hard work, resilience and determination of our students alongside the dedication and commitment of our staff. These successes reinforce an important message: all students can achieve highly with the right combination of ambition, hard work and support.



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As we move into the new school year, we will continue to maintain the same high expectations that have contributed to these successes. Equally importantly, we remain committed to providing the highest levels of care, guidance and support for every student. The outcomes our students achieved this summer demonstrate the positive impact of this approach, and we will continue to build on that success together. Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to another successful year filled with learning, achievement and opportunity for every student.

Student news

I was delighted to hear some positive student news this week that I wanted to celebrate and share from the summer holidays. One of our students, Amber, competed in a four-day national equestrian event and achieved some outstanding results. Amber finished 10th out of 44 competitors in the first round of the 60cm class and an impressive 7th overall out of 88 competitors across both rounds of the 70cm class.

Well done, Amber! These are fantastic achievements and a wonderful example of the dedication, commitment, **resilience and aspiration** demonstrated by so many of our students outside of school.



We are always keen to celebrate our students' successes, both in and out of the classroom. Please do share any positive news, achievements or accomplishments with the school, and particularly with Mrs Price, as we would love to recognise and celebrate them on our Wall of Excellence.



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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](#)

School day / term dates

Please see the links below to our website for reminders about term dates and the school day for the academic year ahead.

- <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/Term-Dates/>
- <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/School-Day/>

Mobile phone free environment & Phone pouches

All students have now received their mobile phone pouches, with Year 7 students receiving theirs for the first time. We are delighted by how seamlessly students have returned to this daily routine and would like to praise them for doing so with such maturity, responsibility and cooperation.



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As a reminder, any student who forgets their pouch or arrives at school without one will be required to leave their phone securely at Reception for the duration of the school day, in line with our Mobile Phone Policy. We would be grateful if parents and carers could remind students to bring their pouch to school each day.

Visitors to the school are also reminded that mobile phones should not be used whilst on the school site. We would like to thank all members of our school community in advance for supporting this policy and helping us to maintain a positive learning environment for all.

Bus services and updates.

1. We are aware of the ongoing roadworks currently affecting the routes to our school. Students travelling on school bus transport will not be marked as late during this period where any delay is due to the bus service.

2. We were informed yesterday that the **818 service** is now an open public service, and that the former **817 service** is now part of the **89 route**. As a school, we received no prior communication regarding these changes from either Essex County Council or the bus company before the summer break or yesterday. We have raised this matter and are currently awaiting further information. We understand that these changes mean the **818 service** may now carry members of the public alongside students. While we appreciate that some families may have concerns, many schools operate services that are shared with members of the public. If you or your child have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's Head of Year, who will be happy to help.

Communications and staff contact

Please refer to our website for contact information for the staff and teams who can support you with any queries or concerns throughout the school year.

- <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/Contact-Details/>
- <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/Staff-Contact-Information/>
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If you wish to discuss a subject-specific matter, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance, followed by the Subject Leader and then the Head of Faculty if required.

For pastoral matters, including attendance, wellbeing, and student support, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance, followed by the Pastoral Manager and then the Head of Year. Safeguarding and SEND contact information can also be found at

- <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/Safeguarding/Who-to-Contact/>



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- <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/SEND/>

As a Senior Leadership Team, we are committed to supporting our families and students. Should you feel that your query has not been resolved following contact with the appropriate member of staff, members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available to support through the school's line management processes. Over the coming weeks, we will share a simple visual guide to help families identify the most appropriate member of staff to contact for different types of enquiries, complementing the staff contact information available on our website.

Personal Development at The Ramsey Academy

We are delighted to begin the new school year with an exciting expansion of our Personal Development offer at The Ramsey Academy. This year, students will have more opportunities than ever before to get involved, develop new skills, and contribute positively to our school community. We have launched a wide range of new badges, clubs, competitions, charity events, and student leadership opportunities designed to help every student discover their interests and talents. Whether your child enjoys sport, the arts, debating, community service, or taking on positions of responsibility, there will be something for everyone.



We strongly encourage all students to make the most of these opportunities. Participation beyond the classroom helps build confidence, resilience, teamwork, leadership skills, and friendships, all of which are valuable for future success.



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Students have already noticed and commented on the striking new wall art around the school, which celebrates our core values and proudly showcases our new house system. These displays serve as a daily reminder of the high standards, ambition, and sense of community that we strive to foster across the school.

Our extra-curricular clubs will begin on **14th September**, with full details to be shared shortly. We are also looking forward to our **first competition of the academic year**, which will be launched by the English Department. We hope to see a fantastic level of participation from students across all year groups.

The new school year has started exceptionally well, with students already earning a significant number of house points for demonstrating our values through excellent attendance, outstanding effort in lessons, positive behaviour, helping others, showing kindness and respect, arriving well-prepared for learning, and making strong contributions to the wider life of the academy.

This is a truly exciting time to be a student at The Ramsey Academy. We look forward to seeing our young people embrace these opportunities, represent their houses with pride, and continue to make our school community a vibrant and inspiring place to learn.

Encourage your child to get involved, try something new, and make the most of everything The Ramsey Academy has to offer this year! - Mrs Price



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Record-Breaking Start to the Year!

We are delighted to celebrate a record-breaking first-day attendance on Thursday, which was significantly higher than at the same point last year. Thank you to all our families for supporting students in making such a positive start to the new academic year.

While this is a fantastic achievement, our ambition remains even higher. Through our **"Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow"** strategy, we know that every day in school matters. Our focus on academic excellence, powerful knowledge, enriching opportunities and strong relationships ensures that every student is equipped for success both in school and beyond.

The Department for Education's attendance guidance highlights the importance of regular school attendance, and our expectation is that every child attends school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to do so. By working together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve their very best.

As the school's Attendance Champion, I am keen to work in partnership with families to support excellent attendance. If you have any concerns or require support, please contact your child's Head of Year or me directly.



95% ATTENDANCE
About 9½ days missed

LESS THAN
2 WEEKS
OF SCHOOL MISSED



90% ATTENDANCE
About 19 days missed

NEARLY
4 WEEKS
OF SCHOOL MISSED



85% ATTENDANCE
About 28½ days missed

AROUND
6 WEEKS
OF SCHOOL MISSED



80% ATTENDANCE
About 38 days missed

AROUND
8 WEEKS
OF SCHOOL MISSED

We also encourage families to visit our updated Attendance webpage for information on reporting absences and accessing further attendance guidance and support. - Mr Hurst

<https://www.ramseyacademy.com/Attendance/>



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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.



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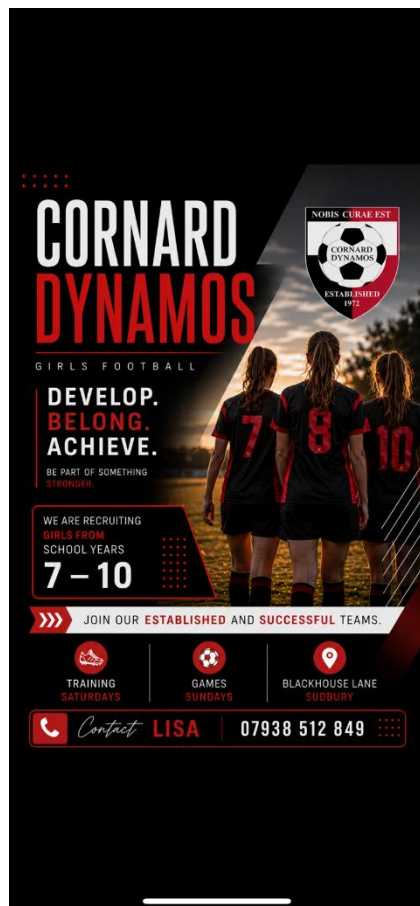
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Cornard Dynamos Girls Football

Please contact Lisa – 07938 512849 for further information.



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=IprLink>



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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 8th September
- Tuesday 13th 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



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.



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- **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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