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 13th November 2026

Dear Families



What a lovely week it has been in school, with another week of seeing our students learning, growing and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

My week actually began on Sunday, when I had the pleasure of joining some of our students at the local Remembrance Day events. It was a truly special occasion within our community, and I was incredibly proud of the way our students represented the school. They demonstrated our value of ***Mutual Respect*** so wonderfully, showing maturity, thoughtfulness and genuine respect throughout. You can read more about these events below.

Friday the 13th has certainly lived up to its reputation for some, with the Microsoft and email Outlook outages across the country. Thankfully, these issues have not impacted our school, and our students have continued with their learning and working as normal. Please do re-send any emails that you may not have had a repsonse to next week in case these have been lost as part of the nationwide outage.

I have also had the pleasure of seeing some of the early rehearsals for our upcoming production of High School Musical. Even at this stage, it is already shaping up to be a fantastic show, and one not to be missed!

Finally, a reminder for your diaries that Friday 27th November is a non-student day, as staff will be undertaking professional development. School will otherwise be open as normal throughout the week of Monday 23rd to Thursday 26th November, with students attending as usual on these days and again from Monday 30th November for the remainder of the term.

Remembrance – 11/11/26 school events and 08/11/26 Halstead Community event



Over the Remembrance weekend, **Mr Appleford** and **Mrs Price** were honoured to accompany a group of prefects to represent **The Ramsey Academy** on Remembrance Sunday. The group met in the Public Gardens before taking part in the Remembrance Service and Parade and later participated fully in the Festival of Remembrance at **St Andrew's Church**. During the service, Head Students **George** and **Esme** laid a wreath on behalf of the school. Our students represented The Ramsey Academy impeccably throughout this serious and important occasion, demonstrating maturity, respect and commitment to their community. **George** and **Gracie-May** delivered readings of wartime letters during the festival, sharing stories that were both moving and poignant. **Toby**, **Esme** and **Amber** also contributed beautifully by reading poetry and introducing performers from local schools,

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churches and the Brownies. We were incredibly proud of all the students involved and the way they conducted themselves throughout the day.

Back at school, the entire Ramsey community came together to mark Remembrance Day. Lessons paused to allow students and staff to reflect on the significance of the occasion and to honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts around the world. Each class received an explanation of why we remember, followed by the sounding of the Last Post, two minutes' silence, the Reveille and a reading of the Kohima Epitaph:

"When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today."



Following this act of remembrance, Form Captains and students who are members of the Cadet Forces gathered at 11am in our Memorial Garden to lay crosses on behalf of their tutor groups. The ceremony was expertly and respectfully led by **Mr Drakard**, (Sgt J Drakard RAFAC is a Cadet Forces Adult Volunteer with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets) with students walking forward in turn to place their crosses and bow their heads, while cadets were invited to salute. The Ramsey Academy is proud to support Remembrance because it provides an important opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by others, recognise the service of past and present members of the Armed Forces, and encourage our young people to appreciate the values of duty, courage, service and respect that continue to shape our society today.





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Manga Bookmark Competition Winners





A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Manga Bookmark Competition in the library. Well done to our winners: Joseph N, Taliyah W, Kimberly C, Beau P, Molli-Jayne A, and Kory S. They each received a certificate and a book of their choosing.

The library is stocked with lots of new manga (Japanese graphic novels) which the students have been very enthusiastic about. It's been wonderful seeing everybody so excited about the new books, as well as discussing them with their friends and giving suggestions of new books to order. Keep an eye out for more competitions in the future, as well as a Manga Club in the new year.

Mrs Owen-Westwood - Librarian







Parking – A Polite Reminder

Could we remind parents about parking safely on Colne Road when dropping off or collecting children from school. The area immediately in front of the school marked by yellow zig-zag lines states "No stopping Monday to Friday from 8.00 - 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 - 4.00 p.m." However, occasionally, cars are being parked opposite the school which sometimes causes traffic issues. We would ask that parents park in the Leisure Centre car park where possible.

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Calling All Employers: Can You Inspire the Next Generation?

At The Ramsey Academy, we are passionate about giving our students meaningful experiences that help prepare them for the world of work. We are looking for local employers and professionals who can support our careers programme and make a real difference to the aspirations of our young people.

Mock Interview Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to conduct **mock interviews on Tuesday 8th December**. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience a realistic interview environment, build confidence, and develop valuable employability skills.

Career Insight Sessions

We are also looking for employers from a wide range of industries to give up **one day during January, February or March** (dates to be confirmed) to deliver sessions about their career, profession or industry.

These sessions help students understand the variety of opportunities available to them and how classroom learning links to future careers. **All lesson materials and resources will be provided**, and teaching staff will be present throughout the day to support delivery.

Many students have limited opportunities to meet professionals from different sectors, so your involvement could have a lasting impact on the choices they make about their future. **To express an interest or find out more, please contact hprice@ramseyacademy.com**

Thank you for helping us inspire, inform and prepare the next generation.

Careers

Please access our careers Padlet for up-to-date information, advice and guidance

https://padlet.com/alex2536/ramsey-careers-newsletter-polnaluaxwpqmtl

From Isolation to Inclusion – Meet the Ramsey Robot family



As part of our commitment to becoming the most inclusive school in the area, we are introducing a fleet of AV1 telepresence robots for a small minority of students that require extra support. This innovative technology provides a temporary solution for students who may find returning to mainstream lessons challenging, enabling them to access learning and remain connected to their classes while confidence is rebuilt. Using an iPad from our Inclusion Base, students can connect wirelessly to their AV1 robot in the classroom. The robot allows them to see, hear and actively participate in lessons, join discussions, work collaboratively with peers, and even interact through simple gestures such as raising a hand or nodding. This exciting development helps ensure that students can continue their education and maintain a sense of belonging while receiving the support they need to successfully reintegrate into school life.

*Please note that, due to limited availability, these AV1 robots are considered on a case-by-case basis by a school panel and allocated at the discretion of senior staff.

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Christmas is Coming 🎅 🎁 ❄️ ⛄ 🦌 🌟 🔔 🎶 🍪 🕯️ 🎀 🎄 ✨

As the festive season approaches, Ramsey Academy is beginning to wrap itself in Christmas cheer, with a range of exciting activities, competitions and charitable events planned for students, staff and families throughout December. We look forward to bringing our community together to celebrate, support others and enjoy the spirit of the season.

Christmas Card Competition

Students from all year groups are invited to design a festive card for the Academy's official Christmas card collection. Entries close on **Friday 20th November**.

Christmas Corner Competition

Tutor groups, classrooms and offices are invited to create a festive Christmas Corner, complete with a ram-themed element. Entries should be ready by **Friday 11th December**.

Food Bank Appeal

We are collecting donations of non-perishable food items to support local families over the Christmas period. Donations can be made through tutor groups until **Friday 11th December**.

Year 7 Pantomime Visit

Year 7 students will enjoy a festive afternoon at the pantomime on **Wednesday 2nd December**.

Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair will take place on **Tuesday 15th December, 3.30pm-5.00pm**, hosted by our Year 7 and 8 students.

Christmas Carol Concert

Students will take part in our Carol Concert at **St Andrew's Church** on **Wednesday 16th December**.

Christmas Jumper Day

Students and staff are invited to wear a festive jumper on **Friday 18th December** and help spread some Christmas cheer.

Further details about these events will be shared with families in the coming weeks. We look forward to celebrating the festive season together as a school community. 🎄

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⚽ Sports Update ⚽

What a turnaround from our Year 7 footballers on Monday!

After beginning their footballing life at Ramsey on a slightly rocky road, conceding a total of **32 goals in 3 games,** the boys headed into a local 5-a-side tournament and what happened next was brilliant to see.

The boys dug deep and produced some electric football. There were long throws launched into the box, determined man-marking, tackles flying in, and a real willingness to fight for every ball. More importantly, there was ***resilience.***

From their four games, the boys came away with **three draws and just one defeat**, a massive improvement and a reflection of the effort and determination they showed throughout the tournament.

The best part? Despite not getting their first win, every player walked off the pitch beaming with smiles. They played for each other, never gave up, and discovered a new belief in themselves.

Sometimes the biggest victories do not show up on the scoreline. The boys have found a new fight, a new confidence, and will head into their next fixture full of determination to keep improving.

Well done, lads. The journey has only just begun! 👏⚽

Early help offer:

At The Ramsey Academy, we are committed to ensuring that every child receives the right support at the right time. Our Early Help document explains how the school can work together with families and other services to identify any concerns early and provide support before difficulties become more serious.

Please refer to the link for our Early help offer. The Ramsey Academy - Early Help Offer

Mobile phones:

If your child does not bring a phone to school, please send an email to your child's Head of Year and school office (office@ramseyacademy.com) and we will discuss next steps with you.

Young Carers

A young carer is a child or young person who helps to care for a family member due to illness, disability, mental health difficulties, or substance misuse. Young carers often take on additional responsibilities at home that may impact their wellbeing, education, or social life.

If you think your child may be a young carer, please contact Mrs Howkins, bhowkins@ramseyacademy.com or your child's Head of Year. We are keen to identify and support young carers to ensure they receive the help and guidance they need.

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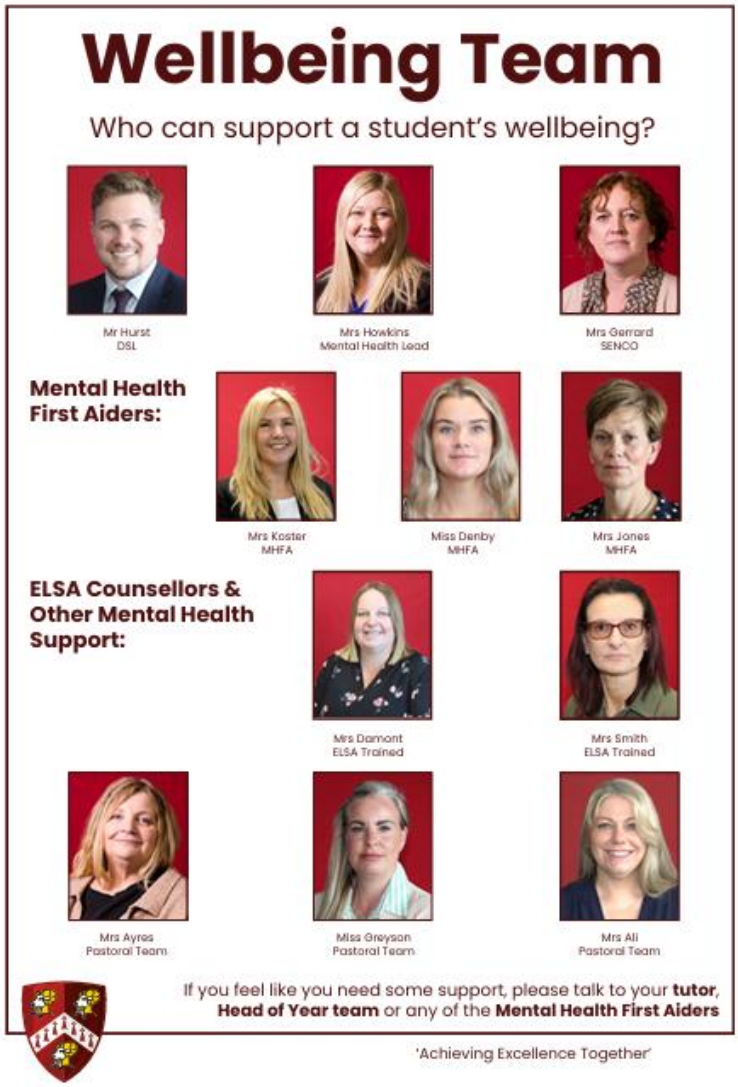
Tutor Time Wellbeing Focus

This half term, our tutor time wellbeing activities will be taken from the NHS Better Health: Every Mind Matters programme. These evidence-based resources are designed to help young people develop positive habits that support their mental health and wellbeing.

This week, students will be exploring the importance of being physically active and the positive impact that movement can have on both physical and mental health. Research shows that regular physical activity can help to boost mood, increase energy levels, reduce stress and anxiety, and improve overall wellbeing.

Through activities such as **"Take a Stroll",** students may have the opportunity to enjoy a walk around the school grounds and reflect on how moving their bodies makes them feel. Alternatively, students may take part in a series of simple seated stretches, including seated twists, crescent arm stretches, and a seated stretch and fold, helping them to experience the benefits of movement in an accessible and enjoyable way.

We encourage families to continue this focus at home by finding opportunities to be active together. Whether it is a short walk, some gentle stretching, or spending time outdoors, even small amounts of physical activity can make a positive difference to wellbeing.



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Free Support for Parents and Carers – Essex County Council (ACL Essex)

This November, ACL Essex (Essex County Council) are running some more free online courses for parents and carers, offering practical advice and support around some of the challenges families can face.



The sessions cover a variety of topics and may be useful for families looking for practical strategies, reassurance, or a better understanding of their child's needs.

A few highlights include:

- **Support Your Child to Attend & Enjoy School:** for parents and carers whose child may be finding school attendance challenging, struggling with transitions, or feeling anxious about going to school.
- **How to Communicate & Connect with Your Teen:** for parents and carers looking to strengthen communication, build positive relationships, and better understand their teenager's thoughts and feelings.
- **Zones of Regulation:** for families whose child finds it difficult to recognise, understand, or manage their emotions and responses in everyday situations.

All courses are free and delivered online, making them easy to access from home.

Essex Fire Museum Family Open Days

The Essex Fire Museum have two family open days coming up at the Essex Fire Museum:

Sunday 22 November
Essex Fire Museum Open Day Tickets, Sunday 22 November • 10:30 AM - 4 PM | Eventbrite
Sunday 13 December (Christmas Open Day with Santa's grotto)
Essex Fire Museum Open Day Tickets, Sunday 13 December • 10:30 AM - 4 PM | Eventbrite

There will be opportunities for families to get involved in history trails around the museum, spot hazards in their fire safety room, take part in craft activities and sit on the fire engines. Museum entry is free, but visits are by appointment only as they are on the site of an operational fire station. Please make bookings via the links above.

Bridge Academy Trust
Ofsted GOOD
NOS CERTIFIED SCHOOL
MUSIC MARK SCHOOL
Healthy School
MID-ESSEX ITT
INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

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Support for families of SEND students

Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshow Sunday 15th November 9.30am - 12pm

Pop Essex, 5–7 Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 9AE (No Cost)

- **Support & Information:** Access guidance on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for children and young people aged 0 to 25.
- **Professionals:** Connect with representatives from education, health, and social care teams.
- **Local Networks:** Discover school support, parent/carer support groups, and local activities.

SPACE

SPACE supports parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. How SPACE can support you
SPACE offers free one to one support, online group sessions, signposting to community events, podcasts and more.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mr. C Appleford
Headteacher

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