

# The Ramsey Academy, Halstead



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Deputy CEO/ Executive Headteacher: Rob James

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the final half term of this academic year. There is no doubt this has been a challenging year in many ways.

Last half term was particularly challenging for the Ramsey community following the sad news of the passing of Mr Leys. Many students and families have been in touch with me with kind messages, offers of support and suggestions for memorial events.

Following discussions with Braintree District Council and The Football Foundation, it has been agreed the new Astro-turf facility will be named the 'Calum Leys Memorial Pitch'.

Mr Leys was proud to be a part of The Ramsey Academy and local community. He worked at the school for 15 years as Deputy Headteacher and more recently as Head of School. He was a key member in developing the school culture and ethos by encouraging every student to adopt the aim of 'be the best you can be'. Everything he did was for the students, even if this meant an inconvenience for himself. He wanted students to have a wide range of experiences and opportunities.

As a member of the local community, living locally, he understood the need for a school with a positive reputation that would cater for all the children in the area, irrespective of their ability or interests. Whilst most students make the right behaviour choices, there are others that need more support. Mr Leys always took the time to work with individuals and their families to help develop the sense of responsibility required to be part of the community.

Mr Leys believed sport plays an important role in the school, by providing students with the opportunity to excel and develop lifelong skills. He would be honoured and proud that this excellent new facility bears his name and is a fitting tribute to the legacy he has left at The Ramsey Academy.

The official opening of the facility will be on Thursday 24 June in the evening, involving Mrs Leys, former School Captains, and various members of the local community.

Mr Leys's funeral will be held on Friday 25 June. The school will be closed as a mark of respect and to allow friends and colleagues to attend the funeral. The funeral cars will slow and pass by the school at approximately 11.45 a.m. Students and parents are invited to gather outside the school to show their respects if they wish.

Monday 28 June is also a scheduled non-student day as published in the school calendar. Staff will use the time for professional development, curriculum development and planning for the school improvement priorities for next year.



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We are pleased how most students have responded to the various Covid-19 guidelines, including the completion of regular testing at home. As part of the phased return to normal we have removed the need for students to remain in a 'social zone' outside the buildings. Year groups social zones will still operate inside the buildings during poor weather.

Students are still expected to wear masks when moving between classrooms and queuing for food. They are also reminded to follow hand sanitising and social distancing guidance.

Last half term we re-introduced extra-curricular activities, which have been well attended by the students. We plan to expand the provision this term, including Sports Day, Geography fieldwork trips and the traditional 'Activities week' programme. However, whilst we appreciate the importance of the cultural visits to London and other local areas, due to the current uncertainty of travel restrictions, the programme will be mainly based in school completing a variety of diverse and challenging activities.

As always 'thank you' for your ongoing support as we work together to make Ramsey 'an outstanding school in the heart of the community'.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R James', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

R James  
Deputy CEO/Executive Headteacher