



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

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Notes From the Head

To use a term commonly used in the sporting world, we are now in the 'business end of the season'. Our Year 11 students have started their GCSE examinations, following a thorough revision and preparation programme. Many of them have spent time after school in the library completing private study; attended additional sessions during the Easter holidays and will do the same over May half term. The students appreciated their visit to Anglia Ruskin University arranged by the Maths Faculty to aid their final preparations. We wish them all 'good luck' and look forward to another successful results day in August. Other reports in this edition reflect other finals: Year 10 Football Team reached the District Final; the Jack Petchey Speakout Final and a trip to the FA Youth Shield Final at Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea FC.

A key focus this year has been engaging with the local community and we are delighted to report the efforts of students and staff in raising funds for local charities. Other highlights have been our involvement in the Halstead May Day celebrations, supporting the Halstead Marathon and working with local primary schools.

Even though for some students their time at The Ramsey Academy is coming to an end, for those joining from primary school in September, next term will be the start of their journey with us as they attend Induction Days. We are looking forward to welcoming them.

Improvements to the Academy have continued. The first phase of refurbishing the Tower Block is complete and a new IT wireless system has been installed which will allow us to expand the range of learning experiences available to our students.

As our Year 11 students leave us, other students progress to their next year of study; new students join us and staff prepare for another year. We will all be confronted by new challenges and it may be helpful to be reminded of the saying:

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits."

- Mr R James

May Day

On 4th May, the band from The Ramsey Academy performed on the band stand in Halstead Public Gardens. For our first piece we played 'Rock around the Clock'. We all mastered our parts and moved on to our next piece after cheering and applause. Next we played the original 'Blue Danube'; together we got all of the timings right and we played perfectly. After this we played 'Jupiter' (also the theme for the Rugby World Cup) much to the delight of Halstead Templars, our local rugby club who showed their support throughout our performance. Our next piece was 'The Bare Necessities' from 'The Jungle Book', finishing with 'Oh When the Saints go Marching In'. By the time we had finished all the pieces, we had a lot of support and cheering from the crowd. Together we enjoyed playing in time - it was the best performance we had done together.

- Lily McKean



Science Club Goes Off With A Bang!

On Wednesday 6th May, The Ramsey Academy hosted a fun Science Club for children in Years 5 and 6 from the local primary schools in the area. Children spent an enjoyable hour learning new skills using Bunsen burners and identifying elements!

"I'm so glad I signed up, I can't wait to come back next week!" was one of the enthusiastic quotes repeated by the children after their first time as they left the lab following a fun-filled afternoon full of new experiences!

During the second Science Club, the students used microscopes to identify and classify the pond life that had been collected. It's amazing what can be found! Volunteering some of their free time, some of our Year 10 students, who were previous members of

Science Club, joined us to enlighten the younger students with their scientific knowledge. In fact they had been so inspired by their own Science Club experiences, they are now studying Triple Science. More fun experiments await the students as they continue to discover the wonderful world of Science!

- Halimah Babor and Sam Hawes



Diversity Charity Week Total : £1022.14!!

Year 11 Mathematics Conference

Over 100 Year 11 students recently visited Anglia Ruskin University to attend a Mathematics Conference in preparation for their forthcoming GCSEs. The event was run by The Ramsey Academy staff in conjunction with the university.

The students studied key areas of the syllabus that could make all the difference to their final grades. Last year, when there was a similar event, students said that it made a big contribution to them achieving the best Mathematics results Ramsey has ever achieved. As well as benefiting from the excellent facilities and the adult environment for learning, students also toured the site and learnt about the opportunities available to them in higher education. It was an exhausting but thoroughly rewarding day.



Laura Svensson says: "It was a really nice place to study with a great atmosphere. We could have done to have more time there."
- Mr M Everett



Elizabeth Ward Governor

It is a privilege to be Chairman of Governors at The Ramsey Academy, Halstead. The Local Governing Body (LGB) consists of a group of 15 experienced individuals, drawn from parents, staff and business people, all sharing a deep concern to see the school excel in all areas. Our core purpose is centred on ensuring that an excellent education is provided for all students with aspirational opportunities to allow them to discover and develop new talents and expertise.

All the governors are constantly looking for creative, practical ways to support the students, staff and parents in their drive to ensure it remains the best secondary school in the area. We are immensely proud of the improvements which are evident throughout the school and beyond it. It is particularly pleasing to read positive reports in the local press when students contribute to their local community via a WW1 art exhibition, Halstead in Bloom and in voicing their considered views on the proposed community centre.

Should any adult reading this newsletter feel the urge to join us we would be pleased to invite you to the school to see the work being done and to discuss how you could contribute to the school's success.
- Elizabeth Ward

Jack Petchey

Following May's public speaking workshop run by a Speakers Trust trainer and paid for by The Jack Petchey Foundation, The Ramsey Academy's representatives, Sophie Ford and Sam Hawes took part in the regional final on Wednesday 13th May.

This exciting opportunity to learn and develop public speaking skills is offered to Year 10 students across London and Essex, and is of enormous benefit to those who take part, developing confidence that will help students with many aspects of life such as interviews.

Competitors from all the North Essex schools involved arrived at Maltings Academy, Witham, at 16.00 and worked with Emily Pollet and Fiona Whytehead, Speakers Trust trainers, in order to prepare themselves for the evening ahead. Although this was a competition, it was great to see the bonding that went on: students from different schools, meeting each other for the first time, seemed to be making some fast friendships.

The Ramsey Academy competitors, Jack and Sophie, both acquitted themselves well in the Regional Final, although unfortunately neither of them came home the winner on the night. Jack's speech was entitled The Chicken or the Egg and explored whether society really wants people to be individual and express their own views. Sophie's speech, Dream, Believe, Achieve, very much echoed the Jack Petchey Foundation's motto "If you think you can, you can" and implored young people not give up on their dreams just because life sometimes makes it tough to achieve them.



Each year the standard of speeches gets better and better; it's not an easy thing to stand up in front of an audience of strangers to deliver a speech, many adults would struggle to do this, which makes the achievement of every single competitor truly praiseworthy. Our congratulations go to Dexan Charlery-Warner from Nottley High School who was a very worthy winner. We are looking forward to next year's competition when, hopefully, we will bring the prize home to Halstead.
- Ms A Williams

Easter Revision

During the Easter holiday, a full programme of revision sessions was offered to Year 11 students to help them to prepare for their GCSE exams. Teachers prepared sessions for: Dance, Music, English, Health and Social Care, Science, RM, Graphics, Catering and Textiles. The library was also open for some sessions to offer an independent study venue. Many students attended and engaged well in a range of activities.
- Mrs S Waterfall

Spotlight on Technology



Gardening Club

The Ramsey Academy Gardening Club has gone from strength to strength since its resurrection in February of this year. With a team of three, we started to clear the overgrown site. Raised beds were the logical solution, so we adapted those that had been put together a year before by builders working at the school.

Spring saw a productive greenhouse pushing out seedlings which we sold or planted in the raised beds. These included broad beans, tomatoes, spring onions, strawberries, sweetcorn and a range of flowers. The summer saw us complete a picket fence all around our site.

Students returned to school during the holiday to meet judges from 'Anglia In Bloom' and 'Britain In Bloom'. Our allotment garden formed part of the 'Halstead In Bloom' entries for these national competitions. The judges were very impressed and their feedback was very pleasing. We were awarded a certificate from the RHS as part of the 'Improving Your Neighbourhood' campaign. We were deemed to be 'thriving'. The club has signed up to the 'RHS School Gardening Campaign' and has achieved the first two of their Five Star awards. We are working towards the next three!

Steve Pittuck, our adult organiser, has received a trophy from 'Halstead In Bloom' for services to gardening in the town and community. This is a reflection of all the hard work put in by the club this year. Our numbers are now in the mid-twenties. We are all looking forward to the spring and a productive year in the garden!

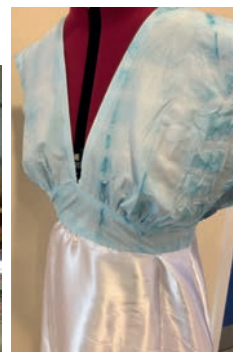
- Mr S Pittuck

Year 11 DT Practical Controlled Assessments

Year 11 Design Technology Students have worked hard over the past year and a half to complete a design folder and practical outcome for either Textiles, RM or Graphics. The skill and talent shown in production of pieces such as the garments and box pictured reflect the imagination and commitment of students working towards a finished piece.

Many students attended lunchtime clubs and Easter Holiday practical sessions to ensure their work was the best quality they could make it. Well done Year 11 DT students!

- Mrs J Gerrard



Arts Faculty Visit to Richard de Clare

We left Richard de Clare primary school two years ago. This was our first trip back! Mrs Gerrard and Mr Pittuck arranged to take a Year 5 class, making Easter themed wooden decorations in the American Primitive style. We went along as expert helpers!

Each student chose their wooden shapes - rabbits, carrots, eggs and birds. We demonstrated how to sand them and glue them together. We went from table to table, helping. Once the glued wooden pieces had dried, we helped paint them with water based wood dyes. It was a bit messy, but we were up to the task and got everybody cleaned up. Everyone had a really good time. The things we

made were excellent! It was great to go back and see our "old" teachers.

- Noah Parkinson and Ollly Smith

Year 11 Victoria & Albert Museum Art Trip

A warm February morning saw an intrepid group from the Year 11 Art faculty, embark on a coach trip for a day's visit to The Victoria & Albert museum in London. My first impressions of the museum were that it was an impressive building, and like the Tardis, appeared larger on the inside than on the outside.

We walked around the galleries in small groups, looking for works from particular periods in Art History, and generally absorbing the cultured atmosphere. There was a massive hanging sculpture, in the foyer, made out of different coloured blown glass by Chihuly. I was familiar with this artist from work in class.

Alex Blunkell and I had been involved in a project to build a chair designed 100 years ago by Gerrit Rietveld. Our RM technician had told us that there was an original version in the V & A. We found it and got Mr Pittuck to pose next to it. The trip really got us thinking, and fired up to return to the class inspired by new ideas.

- Tom Street



War Horse

One of the highlights of the GCSE Drama year is the main theatre trip. This year, students from Years 10 and 11 visited the New London Theatre, Drury Lane to see the spectacular "War Horse", based on Michael Morpurgo's novel.

"I wouldn't have believed that puppets could be so real," -Beth Slee

"It opened my eyes to new dramatic techniques!" -Ryan Murphy

"I couldn't believe how actors could create the set and scenery with simple sticks and an empty space. I could see the horses' hearts beating, breathing!" - Lucy Blackmore

Please see the website for a fuller account of the trip.

- Mrs A Barnes



Students brush shoulders with Chelsea FC

Students from Year 10 travelled to Loftus Road, the home of QPR FC to take part in another Premier league4 sport competition.

Our students spent the morning competing against students from the QPR Foundation in a number of multi-sport activities. In the afternoon they made their way to the QPR vs Chelsea football match and enjoyed the privilege of being the guard of honour on the pitch as the players made their way out for the start of the game.

- Mr P Taylor

The Ramsey Academy Orienteering Club

On 12th April some of The Ramsey Academy Orienteering team represented the local orienteering club, SOS, in the prestigious Yvette Baker qualifiers. Along with pupils from Hedingham School and St Andrew's Primary, everyone put in strong performances and SOS qualified for the finals in July representing East Anglia.

Congratulations go to Hannah Peters and Beth Lucas for achieving their yellow badges. At the East Anglian School Championships on 17th May Team Gold for Year 7/8 girls; Gold for Year 7/8 boys; Team Gold for Year 9/10 boys; Individual Gold for Emma Gooden; Bronze for Lucy Edwards; Silver for Callum Turner and Bronze for Kaitlyn Draper.

- Mr P Taylor



Year 10 Football Report

The Ramsey Academy Year 10 football team enjoyed a highly successful season this year. Go to the website for a full account of the team's exciting rise to the Football final! A very difficult final match awaited us against the favourites, Honywood. At half time the game was 0-0, Honywood having a lot of the ball but Ramsey looking more threatening on the counter attack. The second half saw Honywood enjoy more possession in dangerous areas and scored to go 1-0 up. With 10 minutes left of the final, Ramsey had to gamble, taking off a defender and putting on another striker. This seemingly paid off as Richard Cudmore came on to level it up. Unfortunately we could not hold on for penalties as Honywood grabbed 2 late goals in 2 minutes ending with a 3-1 victory.

Nonetheless it was tremendous effort from the boys, who definitely deserve a high amount of praise. MOM - Harrison Yates All of the players would like to say a massive thank you to 'Jose' Mr. Charlton for coaching us and taking us to the games.

Year 10 squad: Taylor Nicholson, Levi McEwan, Connor Bugbee, Harrison Yates, Owen George, Jay Sutton, Alfie Fisk, Lewis Brennan (c), Jack Preston, Mathew Halls, Bailey Turner, Alex Morrison, Aiden Harding, Richard Cudmore, Sam Hawes.

- Sam Hawes and Lewis Brennan

Dates For your Diary...



May
25th-29th Half Term

June
17th District Sports
26th Sports Day
29th Year 10 D of E Expedition

July
6th Year 10 D of E Expedition
9th Year 11 Prom
17th Last Day of Summer Term

FA Youth Cup final Visit

45 Students travelled up to Stamford Bridge to watch Chelsea FC Under 18s play against Manchester City in the second leg of the FA Youth Cup. Students enjoyed visiting the Premiership champions' ground and witnessed some outstanding young prospects for both Chelsea and Manchester City. 10,000 spectators created an excellent atmosphere and the high quality game was superb.

Another big thank you to Tom Gooder from the Chelsea FC Foundation for supplying the school with the tickets.

- Mr P Taylor

