



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

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Notes From the Head

Welcome to the Bumper Summer Edition of the Ramsey Voice. There has been so much happening we have had to double the size of this last edition of the year and we haven't included anything about all the events during activities week, which will be reported in the next edition. In this edition there is a heavy focus on 'celebration'.

When reflecting on my first year as Headteacher at The Ramsey Academy, my first thought is 'where has the time gone?' We seem to have achieved a great deal, but there are still a large number of initiatives to implement to further improve the learning experience for our students. This makes the year ahead even more challenging, but exciting at the same time.

The Year 11 students have completed their examinations and are looking forward to the next stage of their education or career pathway. Their final assembly allowed them to reminisce about their time at Ramsey, laugh at photographs of themselves when they were 'much younger' and be presented with a variety of achievement awards. Recently the much awaited 'Prom' proved to be a superb evening. They made grand entrances, cheered on by a crowd of several hundred spectators, in a variety of motor vehicles including limos, trucks, scooters, supercars, a tractor and trailer, and even a tank! The students were a credit to all concerned. The evening included the magic of Michael J Fitch, a three course meal, construction of 'glow stick' sculptures, election of the Prom King and Queen and hours of dancing to a specially selected 'student play list'.

However, as one group leave another starts. We were delighted to welcome our new Year 6 students to their induction days. They were looked after by Year 10 students, participated in a variety of lessons, found their way around the school and started to experience life at Ramsey.

Since the last Ramsey Voice we have been inspected by Ofsted. We are delighted with the report and the 'Good' judgement. It recognises the hard work during recent years to improve the education of our students and gives us a platform to achieve our vision of 'being an outstanding school in the heart of the community.' Some key statements to highlight include:

- "Inspection evidence indicates that students achieve well. Students across year groups make good progress in a wide range of subjects, including English and Mathematics."
- "Behaviour around the Academy is good. Students respect one another and adults. They have a positive attitude towards their learning and are proud to be part of the Academy."
- "All leaders and managers, including governors have high ambitions for the students. They have made sure every student has the opportunity to achieve as well as they can."
- "Teaching is improving and is, for the most part, consistently good."

To recognise the achievement and progress during the year the annual Awards Evening celebrated the students' success. Over 100 students were awarded with certificates and commemorative trophies were presented to the highest achievers in each year group.

Finally congratulations to our newly elected Head Girl, Emma Gooden, and Head Boy, Lewis Crow. I am sure they will enjoy the experience and be ably supported by their team of Deputy Head Girl & Boy, Prefects, House Captains and Sports Captains. Our final celebration will hopefully be in August when we receive excellent GCSE examination results!

- Mr R James

Year 7 - 10 Achievement Evening

On Tuesday 7 July we held our annual awards evening for Year 7-10 students. The evening celebrated the achievements of students throughout the year, with awards being presented in all subjects for achievement and progress. Over 100 students received awards and it was wonderful to see the pride of students and parents as they collected certificates and trophies. The evening ended with the presentation of our Year Awards which are given to students whose overall contribution to the school has been exceptional throughout the year.

These awards were presented to:

- Year 7- Owen Tuthill and Molly Gerrard
- Year 8- James Tarbin and Lauren-Mae Cooke
- Year 9- Ethan Ancient and Chloe Phillips-Taylor
- Year 10- Lewis Crow and Sophie Ford

Thanks to Terry Short, who demonstrated his piano skills, by providing excellent entertainment.

- Mr C Leys





Our visit to the Royal Institution of Mathematics

Throughout this academic year we have been attending Royal Institution of Mathematics Masterclasses. These have been a series of workshops that have allowed us to experience different types of Mathematics up to degree level work. Recently it was our last follow up session, which was held in London at the Royal Institution itself.

On Friday and Saturday we joined physicists, professors and mathematicians in a succession of lectures. We were chosen to participate in these lectures and activities that spanned across the whole of the UK. Teenagers and various adults travelled from

across the south of England to come to watch in the great lecture hall. We were spoken to about the physics of knots; the maths behind solving crimes; astronomy and telescopes, and the impact that maths has on the transport business. It was fascinating and we learnt a lot from it. We thank the Maths department for choosing us for this.

- Katie Nicholls and Kai Thrower

Duke of Edinburgh

Recently a large group of Year 10 students participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which consists of 4 parts. These parts are: volunteering; physical; skill and expedition. The expedition is a two day walk separated by an overnight camp.

There were various different reasons students took part in the D of E, some said it would look good on their CVs as well as college and university applications, others are doing it because it is a well-rounded award, testing them in multiple ways and is really enjoyable. For the first three sections there are a range of different activities from coaching sports to working for charity shops, playing football, rugby or cricket and some are even playing darts! The range of activities shows the flexibility of D of E.

The fourth section is the expedition: we do two, a practise and an assessed one. During the practise we learn how to read a map and use a compass, as well as what things we need to take on the assessed expedition. During the expedition we have to stop at a location on the map. All four groups chose a different location. Our group chose the Forrester's Golf Course and we all ended up meeting the owner, Tim Forrester!

As we have done the Bronze Award, we can now progress to Silver, which we all would like to do, as Bronze was an excellent experience. We'd definitely suggest that Year 9 try it next year, it's great fun!

Thank you to Mr Lugton, Mrs Ralph, Mr Murray and Mrs Barnes for everything: we all arrived home safely!

- Sam Hawes and Lewis Brennan



Year 10 Catering Trip to Camden and Borough Market



On the 9 July, 35 Catering students and 5 Teachers went on a trip to different markets, Camden and Borough (Central London) to research and investigate different international and cultural foods for our Year 11 World Food Project.

After the early start we arrived bright and breezy in North London, ready for a day of experimentation of foods. After arriving in Camden we split into our 5 groups and began to adventure around the world food street market, a place of different colours, smells, tastes and people. The range of foods was incredible: tastes from around the globe Scottish Venison to American Cheesesteaks, French Crepes and even Venezuelan dishes.

After eating a range of lunches we decided to explore the other half of Camden, the gifts and small shops. After that we regrouped and headed for Borough in Southwark, a market of different foods to Camden. After the 3 mile journey to Southwark, we ventured out for a shorter amount of time due to traffic and getting home. We found cheese, poultry, chocolate, coffee, truffles and olives. Then we began our trip home from Central London, passing through the iconic sites of the capital.

- Callum Tricker (Year 10 Catering Student)

Community Choir

One of our aims this year has been to ensure the Academy is at the heart of the community. To create additional opportunities in Halstead for people of all ages, a bid was submitted to Braintree District Council as part of their Mi Community Project.

The proposal involved the creation of an all-age community choir based at the school, with the ultimate ambition of performing at local venues and civic events. The bid was successful and on behalf of the Academy, Jessie Allen (Year 7) and Jennie Sutton (Governor) were presented with the cheque to fund the project.

"Yesterday at a meeting with my mum and Mrs Sutton, I was presented with a cheque for £12,000 towards the creation of a Community Choir. I had a photograph taken with the cheque on behalf of Mr James.

I am so happy to be a student at The Ramsey Academy. This has been the best year and I want to say a big thank you to Mr James and all of the staff." Jessie Allen - 7A2

The choir will hopefully involve people from all parts of the community. Workshops will be completed next term, with local primary school pupils from Year 5 upwards to encourage them to join; other recruitment events will be arranged to publicise the choir in the community.

It would be great to develop a truly 'all-age choir'; the aim is 9 to 90.

Recruitment of a choirmaster is currently underway. If anyone is interested in applying for this role please contact the Academy.

- Mr R James



Gardening Club

Gardening Club members have worked their socks off this term! May and June saw us in full construction mode. The metal frame of our new polytunnel went up, and the cover was stretched over it. With a footprint of 28ft by 14ft it looks massive. The only dark cloud was when the whole of one side was slashed by vandals. Not the kind of newspaper report I was aiming for! We don't let this kind of setback put us off though, we patched up the damage, and continued with our gardening.

The Gardening Club represented the school at Halstead's May Day celebrations in the town park. Our stall and school banner really stood out. We sold planters, seed trays, sedums and wooden pumpkins, making £50 towards our polytunnel project. We ran an activity for young children, painting wooden carrots. This went down well, with 25 carrots being painted. The organisers of the event have written to us in glowing terms: "The Ramsey Academy really showed the people of Halstead how dedicated and committed they are, not only to their Academy but to Halstead."

When Ofsted came to visit we actively sought out an inspector and took them to our allotment site. They were impressed with our enthusiasm and the huge amount of work taking place. They did ask a few probing questions. Thank you to James Donald for explaining that we put down a black membrane to kill the weeds by preventing photosynthesis! James has since received a Jack Petchey award for his work in the club. The £200 award has paid for a computerised irrigation system for the new polytunnel. 'Anglia In Bloom' judges visited us to see our site. The judges were the same as last year and they could clearly see how much we had expanded our site. They also applauded our response to the damage to the polytunnel. Good luck to 'Halstead In Bloom' in this regional competition.

We are in a good position for next term and will aim to nurture hundreds of plants over the winter. New members will always be welcome. We also wish Mrs Bolt, who has helped out supervising the club, best of luck with her new job in Hedingham.

- Mr S Pittuck



Lunchtime Concert

The sun shone on the music department's lunchtime patio concerts on 9 and 10 July. On Thursday Morgan Wilkin, Morgan Finlayson, Pearl Knight, Kira Freeman, Maisie Cook and Finlay Crussell wowed us with their vocal skills and on Friday Terry Shortt excelled on the piano. On Monday 13 July we were in the hall to hear fantastic performances from Bethany Collins (vocals), David Mead (vocals), Rosie Shackell (clarinet), Emily Williamson (clarinet), Lily McKean (flute), Scott Firman (guitar) and Beth Curnock (guitar and vocals). Thank you to all who attended and made the atmosphere so special.

STOP PRESS!!

Congratulations to the following pupils on their success in music examinations this term; Pearl Knight, Trinity College Grade 5 vocals; Finley Crussell, Trinity College Grade 3 vocals; Emily Williamson, Grade 1 clarinet passed with distinction.

- Mr G Lewis-James



Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

Once more the final Year 11 Leavers' assembly proved to be one of the highlights of the Ramsey year. This is an assembly that gives students a chance to reflect on their time at the Academy and to recall those special moments of school life.

This is the last time that the year group are together for a formal occasion and is an opportunity to say goodbye to both friends and staff.

Special awards were given to the Head Boy, Head Girl, Sports Captains, Form Reps and the House Captains. These awards were in recognition of the outstanding contribution that they had made to life at the school.

We wish Year 11 good luck in their exams and a successful future as they move to the next stage in their life.

- Mrs K Riddleston



Year 11 Prom

"One of the best Proms ever!" was the unanimous vote of both staff and students. This may have been due to the magic tricks provided by top entertainer, Michael J Fitch, it may be due to Prom King and Queen thrones provided by the Technology Department, or it could have been due to the candy floss given to all students at the end. All of these ingredients, added together, made this an extremely memorable night. Once more the girls' dresses were absolutely stunning. All the boys were very smart and students yet again arrived at the prom in a range of unique vehicles. The Essex Golf and Country Club provided students with a delicious meal and everyone joined in the dancing until midnight. This was a wonderful night enjoyed by all who attended.

- Mrs K Riddleston



500 Word Short Story Competition 2015

The Ramsey Academy 500 Word Short Story competition winners proved difficult to choose from a field of impressive entries. Oliver Brooker, Year 8, was the overall winner with his story: 'Day in the Life of an IT Technician' followed closely by runners-up: Hannah Birch 2nd, James Burgess 3rd, Millie Oxley, Highly Commended, and Jay Prior, Highly Commended.

- Mrs M Gibbs



Day in the Life of an IT Technician

This is a story about one of the most misjudged, over looked and extraordinary creatures to live on Earth. This exciting creature is called the IT technician, this special creature lives in a cupboard/room where their employers think is the most dirty place they could find, but they do not know the real story of this amazing creature. After a few months in their skanky little room they turn into one of the most beautiful sights that any man or woman can see, they start by putting computers every centimeter in their room. Then tree like wires start to appear from their room curling around through the walls connecting every computer in the building as if it is a forest of wires, like roots of a massive tree inside of the IT technician's room making them control of the whole entire building. These amazing creatures trick everyone by thinking that they fix the computers, but actually they speak to the tree of wires in their room and the computers fix themselves. The IT technicians just come out of their lair to only spread more wires around infecting the whole building with these wires while they are just miming that they are fixing the computer. So when he comes to actually see what he is doing don't overlook him like everyone else, but be careful they use their mystical power of looking like they are doing something so complicated that makes the average person give up and just agrees to whatever they have said and forget about it 5 seconds later, as they do not get the cyber magic they do. This ancient magical power has been brought down by each IT technician, to learn this they have to stay in a room full of computers meditating for 3 years listening to what the computer says.



After they had learnt this ancient skill they get a job. At this point in the story you might be wondering why? And how? I know this, well the reason is, a few years ago my uncle started acting really odd, so on a crisp autumn afternoon my Mum and Dad forced me to stay at my uncle's house for a weekend I started thinking something isn't right when I walked into his house to find wires curling up the banister, all of the sofa covered in wires and to find a 70 inch TV in each room. Then he locked himself into his room, there was a blue glow coming from his room glowing through the hinges of the door this blueish purplish light blinding me as I walked up the stairs and then to hear the echoes of him talking to the great tree of wires.

Still to this moment I can't believe I escaped with my life and at that moment that I realised how stupid people are by looking over IT technicians and to this day they are still dangerous.

- Oliver Brooker (Year 8)



Doves of Peace

The Art Faculty received a request from 'Halstead In Bloom' to contribute to the town's entry to the 'Anglia In Bloom' competition. There was a stretch of water next to the Town Mill where an art installation would really stand out. We created ten 'Doves of Peace' out of plywood. We mosaicked them with broken white tiles and grout. Green acrylic olive branches were attached to their beaks.

The display was part of the town's remembrance of the Second World War. The piece really stands out. Well worth a look.

- Mr S Pittuck

Young Essex Assembly

In the Autumn term all students at Ramsey voted in the Young Essex Assembly (YEA) elections. The YEA is the elected youth council for Essex, with 75 seats to mirror the adult County Council. Young people who are elected to represent their peers will work with the Community Involvement and Engagement Team in Essex County Council. They will be the voice of young Essex on a range of issues identified by young people themselves as being important to them.

Two students from Ramsey were successful in gaining places on the YEA. Bridget Clegg and Ali-Mae Brown have been attending regular meetings to discuss a range of topics that are relevant to young people. Both Ramsey students are part of a committee that looks at ways to improve the environment in Essex. Next academic year the House Councils will support their work by discussing ways to improve the environment at the Academy and to investigate ways to reduce waste in the school.

-Mrs K Riddleston



Rounders Fixtures vs Helena Romanes

On 8 July, the Year 8, 9 and 10 rounders teams travelled to Helena Romanes School in Great Dunmow for this eagerly awaited fixture. Despite heavy rain at Ramsey just before we left, and further showers at HRS, the game was able to be played.

A large number of Year 8 students have regularly attended rounders club this, year so choosing a team was always going to be difficult. Many of the players were playing their first competitive match, making this a real challenge for the girls. Despite this, they were always in the game and came very close to winning. They eventually lost 7 - 6 with particularly good performances from Estelle Hewitt, Hannah Peters and Lolly Cooke.

A strong Year 9 team took to the field against HRS and performed well throughout, particularly in the second innings. They battled back from behind to win 7 - 6, with the whole team working well together, ably led by Hannah Milton.

The Year 10 team are like a well-oiled machine and played to a high standard throughout their game. With three players unavailable, those who usually play stepped up their game and the team won convincingly 12 - 10. Emma Gooden's batting was outstanding and the fielding combinations between Georgia Smith and Jess Maddocks led to a number of opposition players being stumped out. A special mention and thank you to Poppy Yeomans who stepped up to play for the Year 10 team at the last minute. All in all, a very successful evening. Well done to all the girls!

- Miss R Linsdell

Tennis at the Houses of Parliament

The day came about due to our work with Chelsea Foundation and Premier League4 sport. Students took part in a number of tennis activities within the grounds of the Houses of Parliament and met both MPs and sporting celebrities Graeme Le Saux, Judy Murray and Tanni Grey-Thompson. This was all to celebrate the build up to Wimbledon and all the work carried out by the Premier League football clubs in developing sporting opportunities for students.

The day provided another amazing experience for the Ramsey Academy students with Chelsea FC Foundation. The students had such an inspirational and entertaining day playing tennis and meeting the sports stars and MPs. Once again Chelsea and the Premier League4 sport have not only created regular sporting opportunities for our youngsters but created lifelong memories and experiences that can only inspire and motivate our students both in sport and academically.



The setting and welcome from the Premier League4 sport, LTA and MPs was amazing; the students felt relaxed, motivated and valued.

It was great to see our students perform in such a prestigious environment surrounded by important faces from the world of politics and sport, and especially pleasing to hear them so motivated and desperate for a return visit.

- Mr P Taylor

District Sports

On 17 June Mr. Child, Mr. Charlton and Mrs Blunkell took sixty-three students to Tabor Academy in Braintree to take part in District Sports. The photographer from Ramsey Academy took photos of all the students performing in their events. (These are available on the Ramsey Academy website under the photo galleries tab).

During the day we had several students coming in the top three places in their



events; we had Year 7 Ellie Hood coming second in shot-put, with Becky Howard coming third. Aiden Harding in Year 10 came second in the 1500m, and Owen George came third in the 400m. In Year 10, we also had Jack Preston in third place in the 100m, and Taylor Nicholson second in the shot. Jess Maddocks, also from Year 10, came fourth in the girls' shot.



However, it was a sad end to the day for Year 10, as it was their last time competing at District Sports.

Overall Ramsey, as a small school, did well to come ninth, considering many of the other schools competing have double the number of students.

- Emma Gooden (Year 10)

Sports Day

On the 26 June, The Ramsey Academy held their annual Sports Day for students in Years 7-10. Unusually, the weather was fine, enabling all events to take place as planned. In the morning, students took part in rounders, football and badminton competitions against the other Houses.

In badminton, Diversity proved to be the strongest House, winning the doubles tournaments in Years 8, 9 and 10. In rounders, it was Aspiration who led the way with a number of very good performances, particularly from their Year 7 and 8 teams. In football, it was Endeavour who came out on top with wins in the Year 7 and 9 tournaments and joint winners in Year 8. This led to a very close overall score going into the afternoon relays.

The relays were preceded by the 'opening ceremony' which was led by the 2014 Sports Day champions, Aspiration, who came out carrying the sports day trophy. The three Houses stood and watched each other as they took it in turns to march onto the field with their banners, streamers, pompoms, drums and House songs. Once all three Houses were in position, the relays began. Endeavour made a strong start to the relays, winning the first three races before the victories were more evenly spread between the three Houses.

Finally, the race all the students were waiting for took place! This was the staff relay. Despite some accusations of cheating, Endeavour took the win! After the final results were added together by Mrs Pudney and checked by an impartial adjudicator, the Sports Day winners for 2015 were Diversity. Well done to Mr. Lugton and all in Diversity. The final results were Diversity 113, Aspiration 102, Endeavour 98.

- Miss R Linsdell



Dates For your Diary...

17 July	- Last Day of Summer Term
20 August	- Results Day
3 & 4 September	- Non Student Day
7 September	- Start of Term
30 September	- Open Evening
1 October	- Non Student Day
26-30 October	- Half term

