



# Ramsey Voice

## Updates Newsletter

"Aspiring to be the best you can be"



@RamseyAcademy



/ramseyacademy

Visit Online: [www.ramseyacademy.com](http://www.ramseyacademy.com)



### Note From The Head

Welcome to this year's second edition of The Ramsey Voice. Initially, I would like to thank those parents and businesses who kindly donated to our Library and Learning Centre Appeal that was outlined in the previous edition. Whilst we have made a positive start to our fundraising efforts we are still a considerable way short of the funds required to refurbish the area as we would like. Any donations would be greatly received.

Once again, we have sufficient articles to produce a 'bumper edition', which is quickly becoming the norm for the size of the newsletter as there is so much going on. The diversity of activities, both within the classroom and during extra-curricular opportunities, enhances the students learning experiences, and reinforces the importance of their education for their future.

It was fantastic to see our former students return to collect well-earned GCSE certificates and celebrate their success. Many have progressed to sixth form colleges to study academic

or vocational courses, gained places on apprenticeship schemes or entered the world of employment. We wish them good luck for the future.

This year we are particularly focusing on developing students' self-confidence and their ability to make informed decisions, allowing them to avoid potential situations that may place them at risk of harm. Many of the articles demonstrate the growing confidence levels of our young people and taking them 'outside their comfort zone.' This aspect is important, as it not only challenges them but builds resilience, which reinforces our 'growth mindset' approach to learning. The words of Nelson Mandela summarise this admirably:

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

It can be hard for young people to make difficult decisions when they are faced with peer pressure, media portrayal of the ideal image and social media influences. The work we are doing encourages the students to think and make informed choices; doing what they think is best for them rather than be guided by others who may not always have their best interests at heart. This is easier if students have a solid foundation of values and morals for, as Roy E. Disney, nephew of Walt Disney, stated:

"When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier."

We simply want our students to attempt to strive to achieve our motto of 'Be The Best You Can Be', allowing them to contribute to our aim of being an 'outstanding school in the heart of the community.'

I would like to thank all the students, parents, staff and Governors for their support during the year and their contribution to The Ramsey Academy's continued development.

- Mr R James

### Message From The Head Boy And Head Girl

Our names are James Tarbin and Gianna Galvez; we are the new Head Boy and Head Girl of The Ramsey Academy. The primary schools that we attended were St Andrews and Richard De Clare. We feel honoured and grateful to be trusted with these important roles. In this role, our job is to build a bridge between students, senior leaders and connect with the community. Through this interaction, we hope to make improvements within the Academy.

Some of our other roles of being Head Boy and Head girl include: representing Ramsey, supporting teams within the Academy, delivering presentations to students, parents and staff and being role model to the younger students. We are looking forward to working with The Ramsey Academy and we feel that we are trusted and self-assured in being able to represent our school in a positive way. We would like to thank Mr James and the Academy for giving us this exceptional opportunity. We will definitely not let you down!

- James Tarbin (Head Boy) and Gianna Galvez Head Girl)



## Science Dissection

I enjoyed the rat dissection and found it very informative. We had to pin down the rat, I then cut into the skin to open up the rat. We then exposed the small intestine. We then had to lift this up and pop the membrane that kept it in place. Later we opened up the rib-cage, exposing the heart, lungs and diaphragm. Next we cut into the scrotum and managed to cut out the rat's testicles. Finally we skinned the rat's tail, this allowed us to see the tendons which move the tail. I think that doing the dissection helped me to understand how body systems work together.

- Roman Watkins (Year 10)



## UK Youth Rocketry Challenge



**UK Aerospace  
Youth Rocketry Challenge**

Once again this year, we are attempting to boldly go where no Ramsey student has gone before; to reach the international final of the Youth Rocketry Challenge to be held in Paris.

Last year's adventure came to a very abrupt end for our teams: ranging from some groups not getting off the ground to some being cleared to fly, having their have flight status revoked due to a change in the rules on the

day.

In the face of this adversity, and unfortunately, some ridicule from more experienced campaigners, we have entered this year's competition with a much clearer view of what is required and a steely determination to prove not only to ourselves, but to other schools that we at Ramsey will rise to a challenge, learn from our mistakes and stride forward, aiming to be the best we can be.

Many of last year's students have returned this year which has proved invaluable as they are helping to guide new rocketeers through the pitfalls of rocket building, with initial small scale flight tests proving to be highly successful.

Despite our failed rocket attempt in the regional finals of last year's competition, and even being told it 'wouldn't fly', I found the day extremely beneficial in proving myself as a person and in showing my resilience and commitment, so naturally I wanted to come back this year to try to get to the final to prove them all wrong.

"Come on Ramsey!" - Hannah Birch (Year 10)

## Colchester Zoo Visit

During our activities week in July, the Academy decided to take the whole of Year 9 on a Science based visit to Colchester Zoo. The idea behind the visit was to introduce the students to the reason why animals are classified into the groups that they are and also to the Bi-Nomial (Latin) naming system for species.

The reason we chose these two specific subject areas was that they appear in the GCSE Biology curriculum, therefore giving our students a chance to apply the knowledge they gained from the zoo trip to their studies and to also put some of the subject content into an environment that they might remember.

The day was broken down into two key parts, a brief talk about classification of species and why we use Latin names for species - this is because it removes any confusion as Latin is the same anywhere in the world, followed by a treasure hunt where the students had to find out the Latin names for different animals and spot any patterns between them.

"When we got there, we were given a talk about classification which was very interesting"

"We are all very thankful to have been given the opportunity to take part in this trip, it was fun and we learned a lot from it"

- Hope Hamilton (Year 10)



# Ypres Trip

On Thursday 2 November forty-seven Year 9 students and six members of staff left Halstead before the sun had risen to visit the Ypres Salient in Belgium. We were lucky as throughout the whole trip as we barely encountered any traffic at all and soon found ourselves waiting to board the Eurostar to Calais. Our first visit was to the military hospital cemetery of Lijssenthoek. The students spent some time paying their respects to the fallen soldiers and Nellie Spindler who was a nurse killed by shrapnel whilst treating the injured.

The trip then moved onto Essex Farm to visit the site where John Mcrae wrote the poem, 'In Flanders Field', whilst working in the dressing station patching up the wounded soldiers. The concrete dressing stations are still there and students were able to go inside and imagine the scenes there during the battle for Ypres. Bayernwald, a preserved section of German trenches, was our next destination and the students were able to climb into the trenches and explore the various ammunition stores and dugouts. The students really gained an insight into what it must have been like to be stationed in the trenches for an extended period of time, far away from home and with only basic supplies.

After a quick trip to the hostel and a three course dinner, the students were ready to attend the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The Last Post Ceremony has taken place every evening at 8pm since 1928 except for a period during WW2. Owen Smith and Anna Mills took part in the ceremony and laid a wreath on behalf of the staff and students at The Ramsey Academy. We were fortunate that a male choir performed during the ceremony and their singing made the whole experience more moving.

Friday was equally busy starting with a visit to the German cemetery at Langemark. The fog had set in making the atmosphere quite eerie. The students were particularly shocked to discover the fact that 3000 of the Germans buried there had been taken straight from school to fight in the first battle for Ypres. Tyne Cot and Hill 60 were our next destinations where students were able to see the largest British cemetery and a huge mine crater known as the caterpillar. The site really helped students to understand how difficult the terrain became during the fighting. We journeyed back into Ypres town square for a spot of chocolate shopping and lunch and then embarked on our last visit of the trip to the Passchendaele Memorial Museum. The museum contains the expected artefacts from the war, but also has a deep underground system of trenches and dugouts to explore. Students were able to gain an insight into the lifestyles of soldiers at the front and really enjoyed exploring all of the various areas.

The students behaviour was fantastic throughout the trip and their conduct was a real highlight for the staff.

- Mrs A Perrins

---

The drive was about 7 hours long and the students stopped off at attractions along the way before actually arriving at the youth hostel. It was a fun experience as everyone was together and the hostel was claimed to be haunted and it was all quite amusing!

The museums enhanced Year 9's knowledge and helped them understand the details of the First World War. The Passchendaele Museum and the real life trenches, which the students ran about and mainly played man-hunt in, allowed them to understand the reality of the war. At the end of the first day, they also attended the Menin Gate ceremony where Owen Smith and I laid a wreath along with Mr Ager. The Menin Gate has the names of the unburied soldiers who fought in the war and when you read them in each column, the names just keep going up and up...

When the students started their journey back home to England and started to reflect on what they had seen, most of them spoke about feeling overwhelmed about the effects and consequences of World War One. Overall, the trip was very insightful, sad and important; but also fun! It will be a trip that will be remembered for a long time.

- Anna Mills (Year 9)

Students Quotes:

"My favourite part of the trip was visiting the cemeteries because there were a lot of lives that had been lost. I also enjoyed going down into the trenches and in the underground trench holes". - Millie Livesey

"I really enjoyed seeing and going in the trenches. I also enjoyed looking at the cemeteries and looking at the weapons etc at the museums. I also really enjoyed facts about the war. I feel as if we could have had an extra day there." - Melissa Moon

"I enjoyed going to all the cemeteries because I liked seeing all the different types of German, French, Jewish and British graves. I also really liked the waffle shop!" - Morgan Jesson

"It makes you realise just how many people died." - Harry Tranter



## Year 9 'Perfect' TIE

Year 9 students had a visit from Tiny Giants to perform 'Perfect'. This is part of Safer Essex Roads Partnership's (SERP) road safety programme and is delivered to highlight passenger responsibilities.



'Perfect' started like a sitcom in its slick delivery. The plays infectious characters and their idiosyncratic relationships had the audience instantly smiling. Using naturalistic acting, narration, physical theatre, and popular music, the performance and its story line had students glued to their seats. We saw the build-up to a crash involving Anne (13). Anne was a perfectly normal, pretty young girl, who after being thrown through a windscreen in a car accident, had over three hundred stitches to her face and head because she wasn't wearing her seatbelt. Anne had to live with the constant reminder of how important a seatbelt really is. There are some hard-hitting themes contained within this play, including the mention of Anne's suicide.

Key messages: Wear seatbelts; don't distract the driver.

## Shakespeare in Schools Festival Workshop

Preparations for The Ramsey Academy's production of "The Tempest" moved on a pace as we rehearsed for our November performance in the prestigious, National Shakespeare in Schools Festival at the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford. The Festival is a nationwide project that encourages young people of all ages and abilities to engage with their cultural heritage, community and creativity through the performance of Shakespeare.

Work on "The Tempest" began in the summer term and since then the students have been rehearsing hard in their own time with Mrs Barnes to bring this show to life.

On Tuesday 26 September, the cast and technical crew had the fabulous opportunity to work with professional directors and facilitators from the Shakespeare Schools Festival organisation at the Cramphorn Theatre, Chelmsford. Here the cast were able to explore characterisation, think about performance skills and consider the meanings in the play. The technical students, who have been tasked with planning the lighting, sound, props and costumes, were able to gain some insights into the equipment available at the Civic Theatre and take a look around the lighting and sound box in readiness for their work on the show.

We commend our students as their behaviour, commitment, maturity and enthusiasm during the workshop were outstanding. The workshop facilitators from the Shakespeare in Schools Festival organisation were highly impressed and particularly pointed out how well they had done.

Three other schools will perform abridged, half-hour versions of Shakespeare's plays on the same evening alongside The Ramsey Academy, so the programme will be varied. We're really looking forward to the main event. - Mrs A Barnes

On Tuesday 14 November, The Ramsey Academy's very own Drama Club took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival performance evening at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford. The whole day was very challenging, but we pulled together as a team and learned a lot about cooperation and how to work well in not only a group, but as a Drama Company, which is how we were referred to after our performance.

At the start of the day we went to school and did our first lesson as normal. After that however, we made our way to the theatre and we arrived quite early. However we soon got settled down in the waiting room, going through our lines, which helped with remembering cues and gestures.

We were then led into the changing rooms where we changed into our costumes, ready to start the two rehearsals; a cue-to-cue rehearsal, when we did only the scenes that involved light or music changes and the dress rehearsal.

Heading towards the performance evening, all four schools gathered in the theatre to do the warm-ups, which were a mixture of both vocal and movement warm-ups. Then the organisers informed us of our timing for the performance - we were to be in the second act, as the fourth piece. We were last and had to finish the show!

During the first act, we watched the other two schools' performances, which were excellent. However, during the interval we were moved down into the changing rooms and we got changed and went over a few small issues. Then it was time!

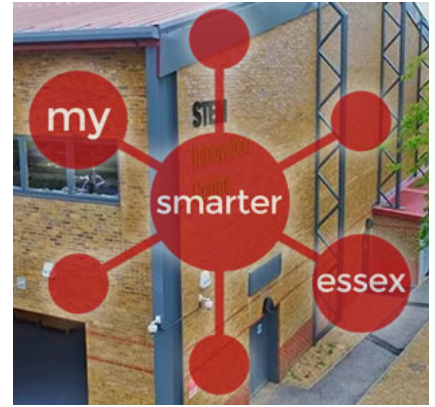
In my opinion, we performed our interpretation of "The Tempest" very well, and we overcame some very bad nerves and anxiousness. We also learned the importance of teamwork, and that encouraging each other is one of the best things you can do before going on stage. Just remember to keep quiet in the wings and stay out of sight!

- Tazmin Sloat (Year 9)



## 'My Smarter Essex' Evening at Braintree College

What will the future be like? What kinds of energy will be available? How long will it take to achieve the 'perfect future'? These are all questions that were addressed in the 'My Smarter Essex' talk that was held at the Braintree College by the Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society, on Thursday 2 November. Mrs Barnes organised taking several 'Gifted and Talented' students from The Ramsey Academy to this event, and although some were intrigued about the purpose of this trip by the end of it every student had a different view! It involved talks from professionals in Science, Engineering, and security and was designed to give each student who attended the chance to discover new technology, share their opinions, and just learn about how our future will affect us.



The evening began at around quarter-past four, and the first talk was by a man who spoke about the health of both individuals and societies in the future. It was a very enlightening talk with a lot of thought-provoking topics, and from the start, everyone in the room was completely engaged. The conference had its own Wi-Fi code, so all the students and members of staff in the room could connect and interact with the speakers by asking questions, which proved to be a very good component in the way the conference was run. After a brief break, the second speaker talked about the future of energy resources and how we can make the sources more environmentally friendly. This talk was by Roger Pittock, a local STEM ambassador for the CSES, and he gave a very amusing but very enlightening talk about the best energy resources that will benefit the population as well as the environment. It felt very exciting for us to be included in such an important discussion, and I am glad that we got the opportunity to listen in and develop our opinions of the future of our earth.

After this talk, we were spoken to by Defence, Security and Electronics professional, Vic Leverett, who spoke about possible futures for towns and cities. This was my favourite of the evening's talks because it introduced several technologies that could aid us in the future, such as intuitive parking in cars, which is already being developed and utilised in cars today. This was a great part of the evening as it really gave us the chance to form our own opinions and ideas about the idea of a future run by technology, which is a rather scary (but fascinating, in my opinion).

To add to this already brilliant event, the world-class engineering company Leonardo supplied the venue with a piece of state-of-the-art thermal imaging equipment. This tool takes photographs of things based on the heat given off by them, which served as a very entertaining piece of technology for the students!

All in all, the evening proved to be extremely beneficial for our opinions on the future, since in the short term it is very much going to be our generation that is affected by the changes that the future brings. I think that it is important for young people to be involved with the discussions about our environment, because there might well be a teenager in our community with an idea that could change the way we live our lives in the future. - Amelia Dean (Year 11)

---

## Employer Visits at The Ramsey Academy



During the past term we have been delighted to welcome several local employers into the Academy to talk to students about their careers, the industry and current labour market updates. Many students have attended the sessions and have found them inspiring and motivating. We have had an accountant, a managing director, a trainee solicitor and a graphic designer. Students were able to ask questions and learn about the various industries from a working professional.

We look forward to welcoming speakers from sports based careers, equine careers and precision engineering in the next term.

We would like to thank the employers who gave up their time and spoke very honestly with the students.

- Andy from Milbank Concrete Products
- Ben from Bright Lights Creative
- Jon from Kew Law LLP
- Michael from Richard Edwards Group LLP
- Mario and Jack Armed Forces Careers Office

If you would like to visit and speak to students about your own career we are keen to welcome more local employers! We hold the sessions every Wednesday during lunch (1.10 p.m.) Please contact Laura Eaves: [leaves@ramseyacademy.com](mailto:leaves@ramseyacademy.com)

- Mrs A Barnes and Mrs L Eaves.



Kew Law  
LLP Solicitors

ARMED  
FORCES  
.CO.UK

Defence  
Suppliers  
Directory

B

# Year 10 GCSE D&T Trip to Maycast-Nokes

We went on a trip as part of our GCSE Design and Technology course to a factory in Halstead called Maycast-Nokes. We first had a presentation in the conference room on apprenticeships, the different job roles and processes and about how they make really important parts for many industries such as cars, aeroplanes, fighter jets and helicopters. They make different metal parts by creating moulds with sand and wax which are then filled by metal such as aluminium. They also talked about how far the company has come, the history of the company and that they recently won an award for their apprenticeship scheme. We also learned about all the stages the parts go through from design to manufacture and quality checking. They told us about the different methods they use to make these parts and the different facilities they have such as the sand room and the x-ray room where they check for damage or bubbles in the metal.



After the presentation, we went on a tour around the factory floor and looked at all of their different machines, stations and facilities where they make all the variety of parts for their customers. There was a building where sand was formed into the parts and covered in wax to keep it together. After the part is heated to a high temperature and has melted aluminium poured into it. We really enjoyed watching them making the sand moulds". - Written by collaboration of Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology students. - Miss P Jarvinen.

"I enjoyed going there as it was about engineering and that's the career path I want to go down, so I really got to see what they do there." - Josh Burlong

"We had a very educational tour and we were told about all the different jobs and how they work. We were able to touch different materials and have a close up look at how they are made. It was so good I'm thinking about getting an apprenticeship with them when I leave school as I'm very interested in engineering. Overall it was a very good day and I enjoyed it." - Jessica Livings

"The first thing I learned was that the environment and vibe is very nice to work in. I also learnt that the parts they manufacture are very tough and professional. It was interesting to learn how far you would go in working for this company. They told us previously they had made a gearbox for a classic Aston Martin and a part of a Bugatti Chiron gearbox, which for me, that is an amazing thing to make because I love cars." - Mason Brady

"I enjoyed seeing all the work they have done in the past and present." - Perry Hull

"Maycast-Nokes was a fun trip! We got to examine different surroundings in the product design world. I found it very interesting on how they all crafted and how the end product looked very different to what we first thought it would. It was very high tech." - Jake Bernstone



October 17, 2017 55p

## D & T TIMES

My Design and Technology lessons are great, I love them. In my opinion it is the best subject. In D & T at the moment we have been making wooden helicopters which are beginning to come together and look great. This is how you make them: First of all we made sure that all of the edges of the wood were sanded down and ready to start making the helicopter with. After that, we got the three main parts of the body and glued them together to make the main body. Thirdly, if we wanted the back of the helicopter to be curved we could sand it down to make it a curved edge.

This is a picture of another wooden

helicopter that looks similar to the ones we are making.

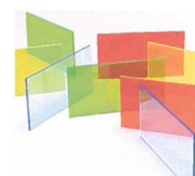


My finished helicopter



Rosie Hossack (Year 7)

This is a picture of



some of the different types of acrylic used in our helicopters.

After that, we chose what shape we

wanted the front of it to be. Next, we chose if we wanted to cut a hole through the main body. After that, (Don't pull the cover of the acrylic off) we chose what colour the acrylic {wood or red should be and started to sand down the acrylic and shave any marks off the edges from where it was cut by the saw to make sure it was smooth, because when we had done the wet/dry paper any marks would stand out.

After that we chose what colour we wanted the propeller to be. Next, we used wet/dry paper to rub the edges of the acrylic to make sure there are no marks. Lastly, we chose the colour we wanted our helicopter to be.

## House of Commons Education Select Committee Invitation

On Wednesday 1 November, Mrs Price went to Parliament as she was invited to contribute to the House of Commons Education Select Committee. This was a great opportunity for a member of staff to discuss educational issues at the highest level, and to represent the needs of The Ramsey Academy to Parliament, and subsequently the Government. The Select Committee consisted of eight MPs from a selection of political parties including the chair and six teachers from different educational settings. The main topics discussed were teacher recruitment and retention; reforms to the education system, particularly the new GCSE specifications; mental health and wellbeing of teachers and students, as well as alternative provision for students outside of mainstream schools. The process was intense but interesting, and the six teachers from across the UK who were chosen to contribute, all felt they were listened to and that their comments would be taken on from Mr Robert Halfon MP, who chaired the committee, to Mrs Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Education.



## Tate Modern and The Globe Theatre Trip

When we were approaching the Millennium Bridge we could see that most of Year 7 were already on it, all of us took up the whole width of the bridge. It was great fun when we walked over the bridge, we could see really far down the River Thames, and at one point a large boat carrying coal passed beneath us. Some of my friends did not like the bridge at all because they thought it was going to break so they kept asking the other students to stop jumping so the bridge did not shake, I did find this very funny.

When we entered Tate Modern's Turbine Hall, most of the students had already taken their phones out and were taking pictures of a shiny metal ball on a wire swinging from the ceiling; further in were some weird shaped swings, some of the individual swings had enough room for three people to sit on. Also when we walked in, we noticed that the carpet was stripy and had some unusual colours on it.

Half way through our tour of the Tate we were allowed to venture into the shop where there were some stationery, books, and t-shirts. Most of us, including me, bought mini Slinkys which we played with while going around the rest of the galleries. At half past twelve we had our lunch, we were all very hungry because we had had our breakfast around seven that morning. We ate our lunch on the stripy carpet and were allowed to go on the swings and visit the shop again.

My favourite piece of art in the Tate Modern was a stack of radios in a dark room. When we entered the room, everyone in front of me was amazed but at that moment, I couldn't see what they were looking at; as soon as I got round the corner, I could see blue lights which were all facing a tall tower of old radios. I thought whoever made it must have been very creative, Also we saw a picture by Claude Monet, which is who I am studying in Art and Design.

When we finished looking around the galleries, we walked along a short road to get to the Globe Theatre. Soon after we entered the building next to the Globe, we were divided into small groups by the theatre staff to do a workshop all about the Tempest (one of the plays by William Shakespeare). We entered the Globe, but it wasn't as we had imagined it because it looked old, it had a straw roof which covered most of the top of the theatre, but did not cover the stage or the standing crowd and a concrete floor. We were told that the Globe Theatre was a sphere so the actors on stage could talk to the crowd.

All of Year 7 had a great day out and would like to thank all the staff that came along.

- Jamie Hartnup (Year 7)



## Active Braintree Sports Award

Ivan Street, Year 9, was nominated for a sports award from Active Braintree and collected his certificate at a presentation evening. Mr Child reliably informs us that Ivan was very smart and a credit to The Ramsey Academy. He also received an award for his athletics at a separate awards ceremony in Harlow for his running and shot-putt achievements over the summer.



## North West Essex School Sport Partnership Update

The School Games are part of Active Essex's core programme to engage with children and inspire them to lead healthy and active lifestyles. The North West Essex School Sport Partnership (which is based at The Ramsey Academy, Halstead) has had a busy start to the year with lots of primary and secondary school students taking part in School Games Events as well as teachers becoming upskilled in sessions delivered by the Academy in a variety of sports.

### Table Tennis

On Monday 25 September, primary school sports co-ordinators were invited to the Academy to take part in a Table Tennis CPD session. Our coach, Dean Andrews, who runs the after school club at The Ramsey Academy, delivered the session to staff. Teachers were guided through a range of skills and drills that could be used for Key Stage 2 students as well as sharing good practice and ways to teach the sport without any table tennis tables! The Year 5/6 Table Tennis competition took place on Monday 9 October at The Ramsey Academy, Halstead. Congratulations to St Andrews, Great Yeldham who won the competition. They will now be representing our district in the County final in November. The Secondary Table Tennis competition took place on Monday 16 October at The Ramsey Academy, Halstead. Congratulations to the under 13/ under 16 girls and under 13 boys from The Ramsey Academy and the under 16 Boys from Honeywood School who have also made it through to the County final, which will be played at BATTs in Harlow.

### Change 4 Life

The Academy also hosted a Change 4 Life Festival on Tuesday 3 October. Over sixty students from Year 3 and 4 took part in the fun and active session. Activities ranged from team games to musical statues!

### Badminton CPD

On Friday 3 November staff were invited to take part in 'The Racket Pack' workshop. 'The Racket Pack' is Badminton England's new primary age (5-11 years) focused initiative. It's been designed to deliver fun and engaging skill-based sessions, ensuring a positive first experience to badminton.

### Year 1 Teddy 'Lympics

The Ramsey Academy hosted a Teddy 'Lympics for year 1 children on Tuesday 17 October. Students took part in a number of KS1 athletics activity stations.

### Football

Wednesday 11 October - Year 5/6 Small School Football Competition - White Notley Primary School won the competition and represented the district at the Small Schools County Final on Thursday 19 October.

All winning teams from the competitions below will play in the Level 2 Final at Lyons Hall School on Wednesday 15 November:

Wednesday 18 October - Halstead Primary Schools Year 5/6 Football qualifier (Winners: Holy Trinity Primary School)

Friday 20 October - Hedingham Primary Schools Year 5/6 Football qualifier (Qualified: St Peters Sible Hedingham and Stanley Drapkin)

Tuesday 31 October - Braintree Primary Schools Year 5/6 Football qualifier (Winners: Great Bradfords Junior School)

Wednesday 1 November - Braintree Primary Schools Year 5/6 Football qualifier (Qualified: John Bunyan Primary School and Notley Green Primary)

### Boccia

On Tuesday 7 November fourteen schools took part in the district Boccia competition. Ridgewell Primary School won the event and have gained entry into the County Winter Games final in January.



Congratulations to Holy Trinity who won the competition and will be representing North West Essex at the County Final.





# Ramsey Academy Christmas Concert

The Ramsey Academy Christmas Concert took place at St Andrew's Church, Halsted on Saturday 2 December 2017. The appreciative audience were entertained with performances of popular and traditional Christmas music by the Academy Choir, the Academy Band and our special guests First Class Brass from Colchester. There were also some wonderful, solo performances from Tom Winter & Mollie Brine on saxophone, Jessica Thomas & Lily Mckean on flute, Dom Hunt on piano, and an amazing 'O Holy Night' sung by Beth Curnock. Before the final rousing rendition of 'Merry Christmas Everybody' Mr James presented students with their bronze, silver or gold Music Awards. Congratulations to all those who took part and to all the music award winners this year.

2017 Bronze Music Award Winners.

Izzy Willsher, Beth Stinson, Beau Drysdale-White, Niamh Tyrrell, Amy Slade, Holly Sedgwick, Suzie Cosgrove, Kenza Chieowit-Munns, Emily Skingsley, Keira Harris, Sophie Andrews, Tom Fox, Courtney Philips, Isabel Peters, Edward Williams, Frasier Hughes, Kiara Cohen, Max Hudson, Ben Spencer, Tommy Harrington, Harry Eaton-Nicholson, Kian McGuinness & Kadie Jay-Heaney.

2017 Silver Music Award Winners.

Yasmin Hague, Paige Lawrence, Tom Winter, Jessica Thomas, George Clarke, Owen Smith, Max Felton, Amelia Bell, Dom Hunt, Sam Smith, Faith Bird, Rosie Shackell, Emily Williamson, Mollie Brine, Bessie Batt, Katie Rudling, Maisie Smith, David Mead, Lolly Cooke & Bridget Clegg.

2017 Gold Music Award Winners.

Lily McKean & Beth Curnock.

- Mr G Lewis-Graham



# Diversity Charity Week

Diversity's Charity Week was the first of three to take place this academic year. As always there was an abundance of activities to participate in and many different cakes to buy.

Throughout the week Breck wristbands, pens, pencils and more were sold to staff and students at the Ramsey Academy. Diversity House were raising money once again for The Breck Foundation.

The Breck Foundation raises awareness of online safety and helping young people avoid being groomed into doing things for someone they have met online; in Breck's case, through online gaming.

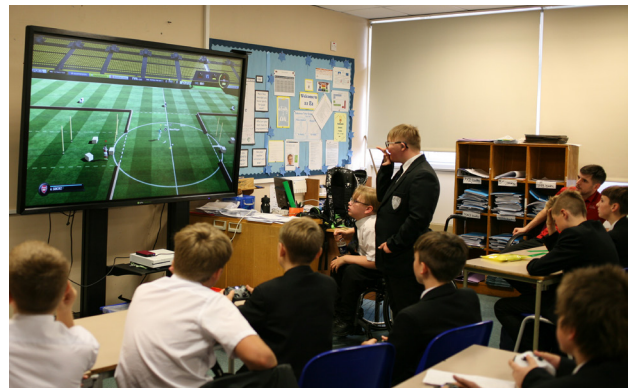
A lot of money was raised for this great cause, games and activities were also a huge part of the fund raising. Thank you to everyone that donated and participated in events.

- Callum Watson (Year 9)

Once again I would like to thank students, parents and staff for the huge support shown throughout Charity Week. During the week there were some fantastic events going on, ranging from spooky films, a Ramsey Great British Bake off and an incredibly toughly fought FIFA competition with our victors winning 2 cinema tickets.

With your help, we managed to raise a massive £1014. Which is fantastic! This allows us as a school to book workshops and assemblies from The Breck Foundation to help educate our young people of the real dangers online and to help keep them safe.

- Mr A Lugton (Diversity Raising Standards Leader)



## Gardening Club December 2017



We finish the year having welcomed a number of new members who have worked hard on our site. Hundreds of plants have been grown from seed and used to beautify our raised beds. The new composting station has been functioning well for months, and we look forward to using the fruits of our labours next year. We have been given many bags of geraniums from the town displays when they were replanted. 150 of them are now trimmed and potted up in our polytunnel for overwintering. All is looking good for the spring.

- Mr S Pittuck

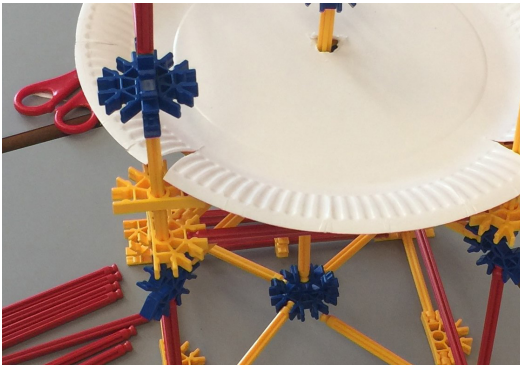
## Motocross

I enjoy motocross a lot because it is fun and it takes a lot of practice. This year on Sunday 15 October, I participated in a competition at Weston-Super-Mare beach, so it was quite far away. There were many people there as it only takes place once a year, so people come from all over the world. This was my first year taking part and I had to practise quite a lot, as there are huge sand dunes and it is hard to ride on sand. I did not get very far in the competition as my bike broke down and it would not start up. However, the bit that I did do was so much fun, it made my heart race so much. I am going to take part again next year and hopefully it will go a lot better. It was an amazing experience and I can't wait until next year.

- Maisie Hockney (Year 10)



## Earthquakes and Destruction



In October, Year 10 Geography students learned about earthquakes and the destruction they can cause in tectonically active areas around the globe. They also looked at how countries are trying to reduce the effects and improve their buildings by 'retrofitting' new earthquake proof features onto older buildings. Using the maths department's K'Nex, they split into teams and tried to build their own earthquake proof buildings. One team succeeded in holding up 3kg weights during a simulated earthquake (jelly was used to create the shaking ground!). Congratulations to the winning team and their brilliant base isolators (moveable floor) that allowed the building to move with the shaking!

- Miss K Hilton

## Hola a todos

Spanish club has got off to a great start this half-term and students from a variety of year groups have been regularly attending. So far we have looked at a variety of topics including 'El Día de los Muertos' which is a Mexican celebration for the lives of friends and family who have passed away. Through this topic students learnt the colours in Spanish and coloured in masks which are typical of the Mexican celebration.

Now we will be looking at Christmas celebrations in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. It will include a 'doce uvas' challenge; a Spanish New Year's Eve tradition where everyone has to eat one grape on each chime of the clock at midnight. This is not as easy as it sounds!

I look forward to seeing more of you in the New Year. Maybe your New Year's resolution could be to challenge yourself to learn a new language!

¡Feliz Navidad y próspero Año Nuevo!

- Miss G Shaddock

Come and learn about all the interesting traditions and customs in Spanish speaking countries!

You will be able to understand more when you go on holiday and impress the locals by ordering your favourite food in Spanish!

Spanish is an official language in over 20 countries!

Learning a language is good for your brain and could help you in many future careers!

You can even learn how to dance salsa and how to make paella!

You can learn the lyrics to the latest Spanish songs!

# National Citizen Service

I didn't think about NCS much before I went, it felt quite sudden, I was on a coach for two hours and then got chucked in a tent with three girls I'd met once before! We quickly became friends and our whole group, which was a complete mix of people, became a close group.

The first week we did around 5 activities each day: these ranged from climbing tall posts and just jumping off, to bouncing on trampolines trying to play some form of basketball. The week was fun and we all got to know each other. We learnt what we were all afraid of and what we all enjoyed. A weekend apart felt like forever considering we'd spent 24/7 together, but the second week soon rolled around and we were all excited to see each other. This time we were happy to have our own individual rooms, and bathrooms which were inside real buildings - not something on wheels. Everyone had their own individual dorm room with an ensuite but we shared a kitchen area with the people closest to our room. My room was opposite the kitchen.



We were at Colchester University! Each group had a classroom and we had different sessions which included debates: learning about money and how the government spend our money and sexual health. We had a project for the last two days where we had to create a plan to present to a group of people, based on a charity. We had food passes which we could use in three different diners within the university. We had to be in our dorms by 10 each night, but we always snuck into our kitchens to have pot noodles and hot chocolate. The last two weeks could be considered boring weeks to most, but I have learnt that's why you've got to make it fun and personal. We had to do something that benefits your community or a charity: our group couldn't decide what to do, so we split into three smaller groups. Five of us created a video on The Smile of Arran trust because it was close to our hearts and we wanted to raise awareness. Another group created a series of videos on mental health awareness and the last group did a few smaller projects which included turning tyres into dog homes and doing a care home's garden. The last two weeks were a bit calmer and we all stayed at home, but travelled to Braintree everyday for a few hours to do some work on our charities.

To end the whole experience off, we had a graduation ceremony back at Colchester University a month later. Everyone dressed up nicely and we all received our official certificates. I still talk to my group most days, and a couple of the people I met will hopefully be in my life for a while. Now not only can I put on my CV that I have completed NCS, I can also say that I learned a lot about myself and others. Being with the same group for four weeks was frustrating at some times, but it was one of the best experiences of my life and I can't imagine not doing it.

Daisy Catterwell - Aspiration Prefect 2016-2017

---

## Year 9 Handball Match



On Wednesday 4 October Year 9 boys went to Notley High to play in a Handball match. We had a good amount of players and rolled on and off of the court. We took a while to get into the game, in the first half we were jogging on attacks, we had no pressure; there wasn't any intensity. When we started the second half, the score was 17-6, but we were pressurising the opposition, especially Alfie Hume who got man of the match for doing so. Also we were sprinting in attack and making gaps in the opposition and using that to get a lot more shots off and score a lot more. The final score was 19-27 but we had no training or competitive experience! - Harrison Ridgwell (Year 9)

---

## Rugby Tournament

### Year 7

On Wednesday 11 October 2017, twelve Year 7 Ramsey Academy students took part in a Rugby tournament. We played three games against different teams, those teams were: Tabor School, Alec Hunter School and Hedingham School. We lost two games, one against Hedingham and another against Tabor, but on our last game, we won against Alec Hunter. Unfortunately, our one win wasn't enough, so we were sent home, but only by one whole point, it was a great day! For most of us it was the first rugby match that we had ever played. - Alfie Turner (Year 7)

### Year 8

On Thursday 12 October, thirteen Year 8 and one Year 7 played a Rugby tournament at Braintree Rugby Club. The first game was against Honywood School. The two teams were evenly matched, with a final outcome being one try each. Lewis Couttie scored an easy try from a ruck ball by Isaac Hayes. Joyce Franklin were a very strong team but Cobi Berkane (captain) stormed through their defensive line and got the draw. We then went to the semi-finals to play our local rivals Hedingham School. They had some quick players who stormed through our defence making the score one try to nothing. Ramsey made a brilliant come back through Ewan Hair smashing through their defence and scoring a great try. Hedingham's second and final try came from a missed tackle on the wing. As a result Ramsey came joint third in the tournament. Will Gerrard and Lewis Couttie both received man of the match for their cracking tackles and overall great performances. Although not overall winners, Ramsey Academy rugby team can walk away with their heads held high.

Team selection: Cobi Berkane, Isaac Hayes, Ewan Hair, Jamie Grant-Green, Corey Hasler, Lewis Couttie, Josh Jennings, Will Press, Jack Buckle, Charlie Mills, Thomas Brackley, Bradley Knights, Frankie Salmon and William Gerrard.

- Isaac Hayes (Year 8)

## Year 7 Handball Team

On Monday 4 December the Year 7 Ramsey Academy Handball team set out to play a tournament, at Notley High School. There were seven of us on the team - me, Bobby Tyler, Tom Fox, Oskar Rzezawinski, Jacob Page, Milan Howlett and Finley Bacon. First we played Notley and won! Then we played Rickstones Academy and won! Most of us scored goals and Bobby did a great job in goal - That's why if it was down to me I would give him 'man of the match'! We all worked well together and when we were defending we all marked our man well. It was really fun and we celebrated by singing on the minibus on the way home saying 'Ole Ole Ole Ole ... RAMSEY!'

Well done boys!

- William Gerrard (Year 7)



## Year 9 Rugby

Ramsey arrived at Braintree Rugby Club ready to compete against three other schools, Honywood Community Science School, Helena Romanes School and Newport. Our first game was against Honywood. For the first few minutes of the half Ramsey put up a nice defence making low tackles and big hits. Honywood stood strong and broke through our defence with nice back work to score the first try. They pushed on, ending the game with a win. Our second game was against HRS. After our first game we worked on our mistakes and put up a better defence but HRS had some big boys who they used to break our defence and some quick backs who got around our defence as well. The game ended leaving HRS with the win, but we were improving. It got to the end game where Ramsey faced Newport. We started with possession first, using some of our forwards, however they managed to turn over the ball in a ruck scoring their first try of the match. We returned to the half, ready to kick off but they had a few good runners and scored from the catch. When it got to half-time we were losing by quite a bit, but Ramsey was determined to get a try. The first few minutes of the game we conceded a few tries, but when it got to a penalty lineout, we formed a maul, and pushed them back to the five metre until they collapsed. We had another penalty lineout and we formed another maul, they collapsed it again but before we could take the penalty, the final whistle blew and that was the end of the game with Newport with the win.

- George Clarke (Year 9)

**(((BOUNCE)))**  
BOUNCEFITBODY.COM


- MINI TRAMPOLINE FITNESS
- INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSES
- 100 STUDIOS ACROSS THE UK

**Class Times**  
Monday 7pm  
Monday 8pm  
Wednesday 7pm

Based in the gym  
at the Ramsey Academy,  
Colne Road, CO9 2HR

COME AND ((BOUNCE))  
IN HALSTEAD!

For information on locations and class times:  
[WWW.BOUNCEFITBODY.COM](http://WWW.BOUNCEFITBODY.COM)

  
**The Ramsey Academy**  
would like to wish  
everyone a happy  
holiday.

### Dates For your Diary

Wednesday 20 December - Last Day of Term

Tuesday 2 January - Non-Student Day

Wednesday 3 January - First Day of Term

Thursday 11 January - Year 7 Parent's Evening

Thursday 25 January - Year 11 Parent's Evening

Thursday 1 February - Year 11 Parent's Support Evening

Monday 12 - Friday 16 February - Half Term

