

# The Ramsey Ram



**9th edition**

**Teachers  
Talk**

**Ramsey Ronald**

**Open Evening**

**Shakespearean Schools  
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## Editors' Notes



Hi! My name is Jasmin Selby, I am a Year 9 and one of the editors for the Ramsey Ram. If you have any ideas or would like to contribute anything to the Ramsey Ram. There are meetings each week on a Friday lunchtime at around 1:30. I hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine.



Hi! My name is Tazmin Sloat and I am in Year 9; I have been part of the Ramsey Ram ever since it started. I enjoy it because there are always new ideas to explore. My favourite subject is English, which is partly how I joined the Ram.

## Opening Evening

On Thursday 28 September, opening evening took place as it does every year, for children from primary schools and their families to view The Ramsey Academy. The aim of the evening is to see if our school is the best choice for them. Each faculty produced something special to promote the Academy, with some students helping to make the evening extra special.

The English Department put on a performance of Macbeth: act 4, scene 1 where the witches encircle the cauldron and speak the iconic words "Double, double toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble!" The children who came to view the English Faculty especially enjoyed the performance and some even took part in the comical fun. Many parents complimented the students on their efforts to speak in Shakespeare's language and entertain the guests!

Not only was Macbeth being performed but also four classrooms were open and showing different aspects of the English Faculty. BBC News Report (which students took part in in the last school year) was promoted and students described what happened along with advocating the Academy magazine. Another room was celebrating National Poetry Day with opportunities for visitors to write their own poems. Finally, some Ramsey students had their English books on display to show the type of work they complete. Mr James has said that the students left good impressions on the visiting pupils and their parents.

- Anna Mills (Year 9)



# Shakespearean Schools Festival – What is it?

The Shakespearean Schools Festival is an event that is held every autumn, run by the Shakespearean Schools Foundation. The festival itself is one of the largest youth drama festivals and is celebrated by acting groups or “companies” from either primary, secondary or special schools who perform a shortened version of one of William Shakespeare’s marvellous works at a local professional theatre.

The Shakespearean School Festival is also very close to us as a school, and much closer than you think. Currently, in drama club, we are rehearsing for this wonderful event. Our cast of students between Year 8 and Year 11 are currently working on a shortened version of ‘The Tempest’ by Shakespeare for our performance. We also have four students who help us backstage; two working on staging, and lighting, and two working on costumes and prop design, as well as our wonderful director Mrs. Barnes of course. We will eventually perform on stage at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford on Tuesday 14 November.

On Thursday 28 September, the cast went to the Cramphorn Theatre in Chelmsford for our Shakespearean Workshop. At the workshop, we learned some top tips for acting and performing on stage. These are:

- “Landing Your Line”  
By Landing Your Line, you must project your voice within the room where you are acting so that everyone can hear you properly. This is to enable the audience to focus on the story of the drama rather than wasting time wondering what you just said.
- Avoiding “Kiss or Kill”  
The Kiss or Kill position is where two actors on a stage are close to each other, and their next move will be to either kill or kiss each other. The tip is to avoid this position and spread out from one another on stage.
- Resist the Magnet  
In Drama, when we refer to the magnet, we refer to the way that people often lurk at the back of the stage. The whole idea is that the back wall is a magnet, and you should resist the magnet in order to become a better performer.
- Standing Position  
It is recommended that on stage you have one foot facing the audience, and one facing the person you are speaking to. This then prevents any times where you have your back to the audience and also allows you to move about the stage easily.
- Entering in Character  
This tip is so that when you enter the stage, you become your character instead of walking on as yourself and then becoming the character later. This allows the audience to believe your story more easily and also helps you to portray your character too.

The trip was a great experience, and I can safely say that, we will perform fantastically and promote the Academy extremely well on the 14th November.

- Tazmin Sloat (Year 9)

## Teacher Talk – New Interviewers

Now, as you will know if you have read previous editions, Teacher Talk was a section of the Ramsey Ram that was run by Jasmin and Amber Selby. We are excited to announce that we have some new interviewers to take over their previous role. These two interviewers are Courtney Sloat and Scarlet Cheffins.

Teachers Talk is a section that focuses on some of the most influential people in the Academy: the teachers! In each edition, there will be at least one interview with a particular teacher within the Academy, and each edition’s interview will be different. The questions that the teachers will be asked will be a mix of both formal and informal, such as asking about pizza toppings, as well as questions about their school life as a child.

The very first interview will be published in the next edition, so keep your eyes peeled.

We hope you will enjoy their future work.

- Tasmin Sloat (Year 9)



# Ramsey Ronald

Dear Ramsey Ronald,

This probably isn't as important as other issues you get, however it seems to be holding me back from a lot of opportunities at the moment. I just feel so down, nothing has happened, it's just really little and stupid things that are building up and getting on top of me.

I would talk to my friends, but it just makes me feel whiny when I listen to myself, and sometimes it is even things they say that upset me. Sometimes it can be little comments or even little actions, how can I stop feeling like this? It's making me procrastinate more with school work, makes me put off challenges and I don't even recognise any good in myself anymore. I find myself increasingly attached to my phone as a result of this.

Can you help?

Hello,

It would almost be unnatural for you as a teenager to NOT be feeling like this; sometimes the worst feelings are caused through little things as opposed to a large tragedies or events. To prevent feeling like this though, it is important to address the little things as they happen, for example; if someone makes a comment that makes you feel uneasy, tell them, get it out the way, if someone does something that you disagree with or makes you feel an emotion that hurts, then speak to them; chances are, if you're reasonable in the way you explain the situation, then they will understand.

As grown-up as this sounds, turn your phone off! It genuinely helps in the process of clearing your mind of negative things and what you are using your phone for is most likely more damaging for your mental health than positive. Happy music can bring you out of moods, as well as going out, socialising and eating and drinking healthy foods.

Smile: it will help, I promise,

Ramsey Ronald



Dear Ramsey Ronald,

I think I have an obsession with music and I honestly think it is damaging my hearing and affecting my learning at school. Whether I'm really happy, really sad or even chilled, I cannot help but listen to music and the more I like the song, the more I turn the volume up. Also, when I'm working on homework or revising, I'll instantly put music on and choosing songs often seems to be what I seem to be doing most of the time instead of working, which is resulting in me not getting a lot done. This may not sound a large issue, but when it gets to the end of the week and I've done barely any of the 100 things I had to do, it is really unhelpful. I even feel like sometimes I'll rely on music to help me with my mood; however I may be feeling instead of talking to someone.

Hello,

With so many resources to listen to music on nowadays, many people have this issue; others however can gain concentration from music, this could work for you, however you need to take control of the loud volume and create various playlists for types of mood as then you'll be less inclined to keep changing the song.

Understandably you may be worried that you are relying on music, but frankly that isn't a bad thing as it will always be there: however maybe if you speak to an actual person they may be able to help you more than something that can't directly address you may be!

You didn't mention whether you use headphones or not- that is proven to be a lot more damaging to your hearing than music out loud, so try to avoid that wherever possible.

Only you can change this negative in to a positive for you; if you have a loss of hearing, make an appointment with your GP to get it checked out.

Ramsey Ronald.

