

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead



Colne Road, Halstead, Essex CO9 2HR. T: 01787 472481 F: 01787 474267
E: office@ramseyacademy.com W: www.ramseyacademy.com

Deputy CEO/ Executive Headteacher: Rob James

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Dear Parents/Carers

Management Information System Change

The management information system currently used in school is Sims.net. We use it to store all student, parent/carers, staff information as well as data such as attendance, behaviour, exams, assessment.

In December, the academy were put in a position by ESS (Education Support Services) whereby we were forced into a longer term contract which would have broken public service procurement law.

We decided to review Sims.net and what we use it for as we needed to go out to tender to keep within the procurement laws for public services.

Following the tender process and an intensive review of our management information system, we have decided to move away from Sims.net and move to a product called Arbor from the week beginning 11 April.

Along with this process we will no longer use Edulink One from 1 April 1 due to its incompatibility with Arbor.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Arbor web app and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way.

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Arbor App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

Login information will be sent out after the week beginning 11 April together with a parent guide for Arbor.

Arbor will become the school's main communication tool and we encourage you to download the App once you receive your login information. This will be sent to the email address we hold on file for you.

Arbor will also be used in school for setting homework and students will be able to login to Arbor to see and submit homework depending on the type of homework the class teacher has set.

If you have any questions please email itsupport@ramseyacademy.com.

Yours faithfully

M Fuller
Director of IT



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