

RamseyVoice

'Achieving Excellence Together'



Issue 48
December 2024



C. LA. R.N.
H. T. A. R.A.F.
ON. D. R.N.
R. R. S. MIDDX. REGT.
FIELD. L. E. (GRENADIER GUARDS)
W. R.A.F.
NGTON. M. W. (FIS AND HERD. REGT.)
H. J. CLIPPER PILOT REGT.
AN. J. W. SUIT. REGT.

Remembrance
Ypres Trip
Library News
And much more



HeadteacherUpdate

Welcome to the first edition of the Ramsey Voice for this academic year.

As usual there has been a lot going on this term, do read on to find out details of some of these events.

The Humanities department took year 9 students on the annual Ypres trip and the whole school was involved in the Remembrance ceremony in November.

PE have taken part in a large number of fixtures this term. Congratulations to all those students who took part and the successes they have had. The Science department has ensured that students have had the opportunity to do lots of practical work including growing crystals.

All students were involved in the termly focus day. Year 7 created Christmas cards and took part in other Christmas activities in preparation for the annual Christmas Fayre as well as listening to talks delivered by the Department for work and

pensions. Year 8 took part in Science and Maths activities. Year 10 welcomed the Jack Petchey team and took part in the speaking challenge. Year 11 were given the opportunity to prepare for their GCSEs with Positively You as well as careers activities and mock interviews.

We welcomed Dom back, a previous student at the school who aspires to become a teacher. He took part in some work experience in the English Faculty.

The BBC bitesize careers roadshow came to the school and delivered sessions to years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The Library has introduced all the new books purchased in the Summer through the Siobhan Dowd fund and has hosted the author Ian Eagleton who met with year 7 students. They have also introduced the Ramsey readers book club. Congratulations to Brooke and Anabelle who won the Annual poetry competition.

Year 11s visited the careers fair to give them the opportunity to speak to different providers and consider their options for next year.

Our Anti-bullying ambassadors took part in the Diana Award bullying ambassador programme and are now qualified. We look forward to them using the skills they have learnt in school.

Health and Social Care students visited Colne View Care Home and met some of the residents. There have been a large number of extra-curricular clubs this term that we continue to encourage students to take part in. Details of clubs that are offered to students can be found on the school website.
https://www.ramseyacademy.com/files/news/Extra_Curricular_Timetable.pdf

All subjects have their Learning journeys on the school website so you can see details about what your child is learning. This can be found in the Curriculum area of the website.
<https://www.ramseyacademy.com/curriculum>

On behalf of all staff and governors I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and New Year.

- Mrs Sterland

Christmas Break

We wish all students and their families a relaxing festive break.

School returns on:

Monday 6 January 2025

COULD YOU ? SPARE SOME TIME ?



Do you have some spare time each month?

School governors and trustees play a vital role in education and help shape the future of young people.

Bridge Academy Trust is seeking new members to join its board of governors at our schools in Braintree, Chelmsford, Halstead, Ongar and Witham. We are a collegiate and collaborative trust, where each school is a place of high quality learning and where our young people **ENJOY, ENRICH, ACHIEVE, ASPIRE.**

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit www.careersatbridge.com





PE Fixtures

A brilliant busy term here in PE. All students have done Netball, Football, Table Tennis and Basketball in their PE lessons and have had lots of opportunities to represent the school in a number of fixtures. We have had our busiest ever term to date, with both fixtures and clubs every lunch time and evening after school with all year groups. The boys have been at football fixtures against local schools and the girls have been at netball fixtures. We also had the annual District Cross County event held at Tabor which we took a full team from each year group too. Shout outs to Hannah R (Year 8), Charlie T-H (Year 11) and Milana T (Year 11) for their top 10 finishes. The sports for Spring Term will include; Rugby, Creative, Hockey and Badminton in lessons and a new extra curricular timetable will be sent out to students, parents/guardians in the New Year. The PE Department wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, we look forward to seeing everyone back in 2025.

- Miss Danino



YpresTrip



On Wednesday 23rd October 89 Year 9 pupils assembled at just after 5am to travel to Belgium for the annual battlefields trip. After a stop for breakfast at Euro tunnel we made it to our first site in Belgium by lunchtime. Our first site was a section of preserved front line trenches where the Belgian army fought. Pupils were able to explore the trenches and see where the Germans were fighting from, a mere 50 metres from the Belgian frontline on the opposite side of the canal. From the trenches we travelled to Lijssenthoek military cemetery where we were able to lay some flowers on the grave of a pupil's great uncle which helped pupils to realise that every grave has a family and story attached to it. Our last visit before checking in at our hostel was the preserved German trenches at Bayernwald where again pupils were able to explore some of the dug outs and see where the machine gunners were based. We checked in to our accommodation had a bbq dinner and then went out again to the Menin Gate for the ceremony of memorial which takes place inside the arch every night to remember the 54608 soldiers who's bodies were not found and have no known grave. Grace B, Gracie-May C and Bonnie C took part in the ceremony and laid the wreath which included the names of the men who died in WW1 from Halstead on it. After walking back to the hostel and enjoying some free time pupils settled down to get some rest before the second day of the trip.





Thursday was equally kind to us in terms of the weather, lots of clear skies and sunshine for the whole trip. We started our day visiting the cemeteries at Essex Farm, Langemark and Tyne Cot. Pupils were able to contrast the different styles of cemetery and visited specific graves at each site to hear the soldier's stories. We then headed to the Passchendaele Memorial Museum. There were 2000 men stationed at the chateaux where the museum is based and so 25,000 tunnellers were deployed to build a vast network of dugouts for them to be based in. The pupils were able to explore the dugouts, some of which were deep underground and the 12,000 artefacts on display. One of the highlights of the museum was the new immersive experience where you are able to step inside the battlefield of Passchendaele.

Our final historical visit of the day was to Hill 60 where the results of a mine detonation can be seen. Pupils walked around the 260 foot wide crater and got a sense of the power of the weapons deployed on the Western Front.

We finished the trip with some time in Ypres where pupils were able to stock up on the locally produced chocolates and visit the many cafes and gift shops.

The trip was a real success and the pupils were a real pleasure to take away. They represented the school admirably and really developed their knowledge and understanding of the impact of war.

- Mrs Perrins





Remembrance

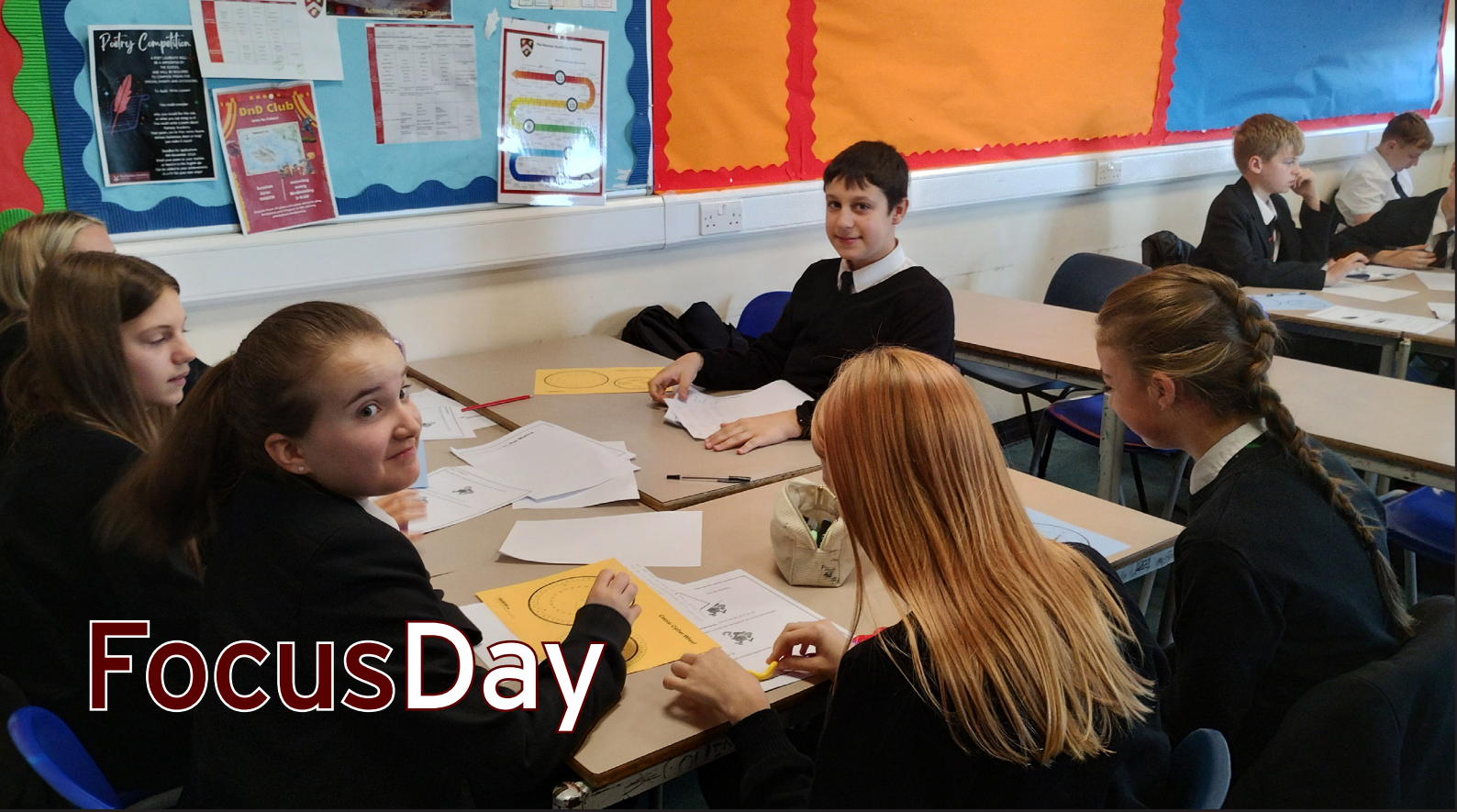
Remembrance Day is a time of both community and reflection, a day where everyone bands together to honour and respect the lives of those who fought to secure our freedom. In particular, it's a day we take very seriously in Ramsey and this year we were lucky enough to represent our school both publicly and internally as the school captains. At 10:40, we were briefed on our role and how we would contribute to the service, this was then followed by students arriving promptly in our courts and lining up in tutor groups. The two-minute silence has always been the most impactful part of any remembrance service but seeing the whole school drop everything, even if only for a short period of time, to come together as one gives us such a sense of pride in what we stand for when we put on our uniforms. I've never felt more like part of a community. As with any service, our music department played The Last Post, I believe it's one of the vital parts which make up remembrance; and the sentiment was what really pulled together the importance of what we were standing for. Afterwards, our roles allowed us to initiate the cross laying and once again, we were proud to see the amount of form reps and other students stepping forwards with poppies of their own to symbolise their support. Events like this make the school feel more interconnected and

impactful even if we are small, as we hold those who sacrificed their today for our tomorrow and hold their memories close to our hearts to honour their bravery.

- Scarlett & Sam (School Captains)







FocusDay

Murder in the Maths Department!

During the Autumn term Focus Day, year 8 students were involved in solving a murder mystery by making use of and breaking different codes. Students were very engaged and showed high levels of teamwork and resilience, working through the various coded activities. In their groups, students worked together to work the murderer was and the murder weapon - a maths textbook!

Some of the codes students worked through included the Caesar, Substitution and Transposition Ciphers, Morse and ISBN Codes.

You can find out more about this challenge here : <https://ibmathsresources.com/2014/11/01/murder-in-the-maths-department/>

- Ms Opoku





MathsNews

Numeracy Fact

Most people know that a billionaire is worth more than a millionaire, that a billion is “a lot” more than a million. But most people do not realise how much bigger.

To put this in contrast, 1 million seconds is approximately 11.5 days whilst 1 billion seconds is 31.5 years!!

INVITING ALL KS3 students!

Each week, there is a board games club in BG3 and all KS3 students are invited.

Some of the games include Chess, Ludo, Snake and Ladders, Connect 4, Monopoly and many more!

WHEN and WHERE: Fridays at lunch in BG3.

- Ms Opoku

AutismResources

The Christmas period can be a very exciting but often stressful time of the year for many autistic people. It can be a time with lots of change, social interaction and expectations. The National Autistic Society have put together a brief list of resources that may prove helpful in making this festive period as special and stress free as possible for autistic people.

You can view them here:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/christmas-resources>

Positive Feedback Form



WELL DONE

You can now submit positive feedback to us via this form <https://buff.ly/3FcZGZ6>. This can also be found on the contact us page of our website. We look forward to receiving all your comments.

HousePoints



8752

Aspiration



9069

Diversity



9441

Endeavour



WorkExperience

Over the last week, I was privileged to have the opportunity to complete a Placement at The Ramsey Academy within the English Department. Throughout my time here, I saw firsthand the grit and determination of members within the faculty, and the school as a whole, to create an atmosphere which inspires students to achieve their best and allows them to excel in everything they do. Over the course of the week, I had the opportunity to witness students' devotion and love for the subject, most importantly echoed by an outstanding department and inspirational teachers, including their well-mannered and respectable behaviour towards their peers. I had the opportunity to teach two set Year 8 classes, 8X1 and 8Y2, exploring the fundamental activities when faced with an unknown poem, and ultimately embedding their knowledge of poems and applying this to a new one - their tenacity and proactivity was admirable. As the week progressed, I had the opportunity to attend multiple meetings and extra duties associated with Teaching, ensuring that I was provided with the full experience and the "Behind The Scenes" activities of a teacher. Special thanks to Mr Wills, Mrs Sterland, and Mrs Price for allowing me to accompany them on these activities, including Miss Guest, Ms Ritson and Ms Blunkell for their insight and invaluable knowledge shared with me during these meetings.

The English Department's motto remains clear: in the words of Margret Attwood, 'a word after a word is power'. To that end, I make my message clear: Thank you. Thank you to Ramsey for providing me this opportunity; Thank You to the students who I had the opportunity to teach, and their willingness and desire to impress; and most importantly, thank you to the English Department. Their devotion to achieve the very best for each and every student was incredibly clear. Whilst teaching is no easy job, the English Faculty as a whole has made a lasting impression upon myself, both as a student and now a member of staff, and I have no doubt for others too.

Ramsey's motto of 'Achieving Excellence Together' underpins everything the school aspires to do. Over the course of the week, I saw firsthand each and every value the school strives to ensure: Students' pride at their work and the recognition for their 'Achievement'; Students' 'Excellence' in their attitude, behaviour and engagement in lessons; and Students' relationships built with their Teachers, fulfilling their sense of being 'Together' in seeking to ensure each and every student has the ability to excel in anything they seek to do. And as a result, I am confident that Ramsey really does have it "right", and I truly believe that each and every student has the opportunity to 'Achieve Excellence Together'.

- Domonic Pope (Ex Student)

BBC Bitesize



BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow- October 2024

Students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 had the exciting opportunity to take part in the BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow, which was designed to introduce them to a wide variety of career options and to inspire them as they begin to think about their futures.

The Careers Roadshow was not just about giving students information; it also aimed to inspire them. By showcasing a diverse range of careers and emphasizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to success, the event encouraged students to think about what they are passionate about and how they can turn those interests into meaningful careers.

- Miss Pearce





LibraryNews

Library News

Although it seems a long time ago now, back in July a selected group of students went to Red Lion Books in Colchester to spend the £750 from the Siobhan Dowd fund. It was a wonderful day and the students and staff had a very enjoyable time choosing books for our library. Red Lion Books were also kind enough to apply their educational discount, so we received even more books for the money!

We are so excited to be hosting the BAT Book Awards this year. A selection of year 7s will be invited to be part of the judging panel, alongside students from Notley High School and Moulsham High School. The students will read four books selected by Mrs Owen-Westwood and Mrs Gilbert, and there will be activities to participate in (and chances to win prizes!) as well as a visit from one of the authors. The book choices will be revealed in February, so watch this space!

A group of year 7s met with Ian Eagleton as part of their reward for engaging with their Summer Reading Challenge, where they read his book 'Glitter Boy'. The students listened to an inspiring presentation, had an opportunity to ask Ian their own questions, and got their books personally signed by him. It was a fantastic morning and Ian's insight into writing diverse, inclusive books proved

to be very interesting for the students.

The Ramsey Readers Book Club has enjoyed its first half term in full swing. We have read 'Fake' by Ele Fountain, which generated lots of interesting discussions. We have also secured £250 of funding from the Earls Colne and Halstead Educational Charity, meaning that we can buy sets of new books to read, as well as an e-visit by an author. We would love to welcome new members, so please stop by if you think you'd be interested. We meet on Friday lunchtimes at 1.35pm in the library. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Owen-Westwood



The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Academic Year 2024-2025

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30																					30	31					

January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025						
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May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30																				

- = Schooldays
- = School holidays
- = Bank holidays
- = Weekends
- = Non-Student Days

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 2 September 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024 <i>Half Term 28 October – 1 November</i>	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 6 January 2025 – Friday 4 April 2025 <i>Half Term 17 February - 21 February</i>	60 days
Summer Term:	Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Tuesday 22 July 2025 <i>Half Term 26 May – 30 May, and May Bank Holiday - 5 May</i>	60 days
		195 days

Please note:
 The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.
 You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.

School Competition



Annual Poetry Competition

The Ramsey Academy launched its first School Poet competition this autumn term. The poetry competition, which will be held annually, will give young people in all year groups, a chance to discover more about the world around them, and experience the joy that comes from writing a poem. Poetry has the power to connect us to people, places and ideas. It also cuts across social and cultural divides. The important role of School Poet helps to record key moments at The Ramsey Academy and celebrates our ethos and values. The volume and quality of poetry submitted by students, made selecting a winner a difficult task for the English department.

We are proud to announce the KS3 and KS4 School Poet winners for 2024:

KS3 Brooke H (Year 8)
KS4 Anabelle L (Year 10)

- Miss Ritson



Year 9 Science

Crystal Growing for Materials in Science.

Year 9 have been studying different types of materials recently.

One practical activity was to grow crystals of Salol on microscope slides. Slides of different temperatures were used to see the effect of cooling time on crystal size.

Some lovely results were obtained, and the similarity to frost crystals on windows was noted. Thanks to 9Y1 for the image, which was recorded by Mrs Papple, Senior Technician using a microscope and camera phone after the practical.

- Mrs Cowlin

Vacancies

Have you considered working at the Ramsey Academy?

Please see the vacancies section of our website for more details.

<https://www.careersatbridge.com/our-schools/item/the-ramsey-academy-halstead>

All vacancies at the school can be found on this page.



Careers Fair

Year 11 Careers Fair- September 2024

Year 11 students had the exciting opportunity to attend a Careers Fair held at Chelmsford Racecourse. The event was designed to give students a chance to explore the vast array of career paths available to them after they complete their GCSEs. With over 50 different exhibitors representing industries ranging from healthcare to technology, business to creative arts, the fair provided a wealth of information and inspiration for students as they begin to consider their futures beyond school.

As Year 11 students prepare for the important transition from school to either further education, apprenticeships, or the workforce, the Careers Fair was a valuable experience in helping them make informed decisions. The fair showcased a variety of pathways, allowing students to meet representatives from universities, training providers, employers, and industry professionals.

Many students expressed excitement as they walked around, speaking to experts and gaining firsthand insights into what different careers entail.

- Miss Pearce



CurveFoundation

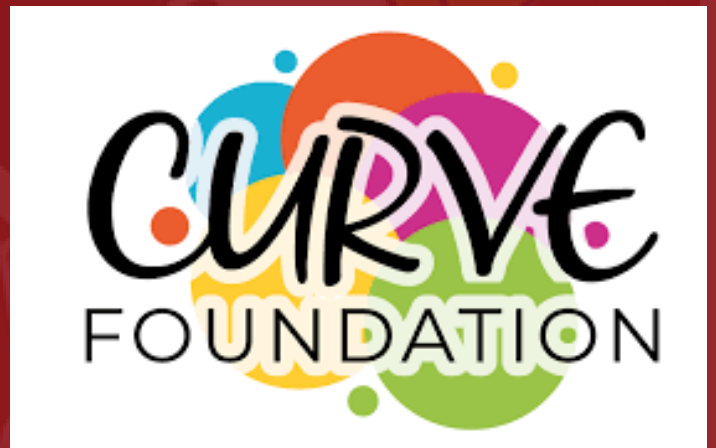
Counselling Service - Beginning in January 2025

The whole team at Curve Foundation is thrilled to be launching our counselling service at The Ramsey Academy! Curve Foundation is a small, mental wellness charity focused on children and young people, based in Chelmsford (Charity Number 1176935). We've been working with Miss Retter throughout the autumn term to put arrangements in place and we will begin the service in the week commencing 6 January. The key thing for us at Curve Foundation is being able to support young people with their mental wellness needs as quickly and effectively as we can. So we have two fantastic counsellors who will be working onsite at the school, one on Tuesdays and one on Thursdays. The pastoral team at The Ramsey Academy will work with the counsellors to ensure students can get the help they need. We've provided a similar service at Moulsham High School in Chelmsford for a few years now and the

feedback we have received from the school and its students has been fantastic. So we believe passionately that we can provide a great service for the students of The Ramsey Academy, too, and we're excited to get that underway. You can learn more about Curve Foundation, who we are and what we do at our website.

<https://curvefoundation.org.uk/>

- Tim Rowe, Trustee, Curve Foundation



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Diana Awards



Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme

On the 26th of November, a few students including myself, Luisa, paid a visit to Bury St Edmunds to become qualified anti-bullying ambassadors. An Anti-Bullying Ambassador is someone who has been trained by The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Programme. Our roles are to help educate our peers on bullying behaviour, lead anti-bullying campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates difference and help keep our peers safe both online and offline.

The Diana award bullying ambassador programme is an amazing opportunity, providing possibilities to develop relationships with other local schools, such as Count High school in Bury St. Edmund's. My knowledge has broadened on bullying behaviour, its impact and being an Upstander due to this occasion. It was a great chance. To work with other students at school as well, transcending the year groups and forming relationships with older and younger students, is what this programme is all about.

Experiencing the horrible reality of being bullied myself and not letting it wither me but using it to fuel me toward success, has propelled me toward submitting my application. It is a great feeling to know your school is involved in a world-class credited foundation, thanks to the Diana awards sustainable and youth-led approach and to know that Ramsey can create opportunities for all students. These badges we were awarded proves the Ramsey academy's commitment to anti-bullying initiatives and should be worn with pride.

The training day we attended included various activities, providing us with resources such as booklets, as certificate, and a badge. These materials will serve as valuable guides as we implement anti-bullying initiatives in our schools.

We all worked coherently to plan out a campaign for our school to promote community, inclusivity, or wellbeing. My experience at Bury St Edmunds on November 26th has equipped me with valuable skills and knowledge to address bullying behaviour effectively.

Luisa L (Student)



Community Award

If your child has participated in an event, volunteered, or assisted in any way, and you would like them to be acknowledged for their contributions, you can contact office@ramseyacademy.com. This program is designed to help them earn a Trust Community award and badge, boosting their self-esteem and motivating them to continue making a positive impact.

Ramsey Social Media

Below are the official social media sites for The Ramsey Academy. Please be aware that, with the exception of departmental Instagram pages, other social media sites are not related to the school.

Facebook... www.facebook.com/ramseyacademy

Instagram... www.instagram.com/theramseyacademy

Twitter... www.twitter.com/ramseyacademy

Health & Social Care



Health and Social Care trip to Colne View Care Home

A group of Health and Social Care students recently visited Colne View Care Home in Halstead to meet with some of the residents. After a short walk, the students arrived just before 2.00pm and were shown into the main reception where they met Lady, who is a dog that works in the care home. She was an instant hit, and Lady joined us for the rest of our visit. We were shown upstairs to a large room where the students settled in, and a group of residents joined us. We all introduced ourselves and each of the students paired up with one of the residents for a game of Play Your Cards Right which was a new game for the students.

After some initial apprehension, the students soon relaxed and got chatting to their partners. Following on from the game, the residents told the

students about their working lives, and this led some of the residents to realise they had worked at the same place. Food and drink were served, and the students chatted with the residents and staff about what they want to do in the future before a final group photo was taken. It was a really inspiring visit and is something we hope to do again in the future. A special well done to Gracie T who was amazing! She got chatting to one of the residents who had been very quiet throughout our visit, and we had to drag her away at the end! The care home were so impressed with her they have offered her the opportunity to go back and do some work experience.

- Miss Linsdell



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