

# The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

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27 March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher:  
Rob James

As we near the end of the Spring Term, we can reflect on a very busy but also a disrupted few months due to inclement weather. We will always attempt to ensure the Academy remains open but the amount of snow and ice made the conditions on site and the journeys to and from school too dangerous for students and staff. We appreciated your understanding during this time as the decision to close the Academy is never taken lightly and we realise the implications this may have for your arrangements at home.

On Thursday we say 'goodbye' to Mrs Sams, who oversees the attendance records and works in the Main Office. On behalf of the staff, students and parents I would like to thank her for her hard work and the support she provides daily to many families. Mrs O'Riordan will be joining us as the new Attendance Officer immediately after Easter.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve the learning environment for the students a major project has started to change all the lighting in the Academy to LED units. This has many benefits in addition to improved lighting in all areas, including more eco-friendly and reduced electricity bills. The work has started and is scheduled to be completed before the start of the Summer Term.

We are also awaiting the outcome of a bid submitted to the Government for the installation of an improved heating system and plans are ongoing to refurbish the Library and Learning Centre in the summer holidays. Although we have not reached our target we have sufficient funds to give the area a 'facelift' and improve the area for students. Thank you to those who have contributed to the project and any further donations will be gratefully appreciated.

We are delighted that for the second year in succession our September 2018 Year 7 application numbers are above our published admission number, meaning the Academy is continuing to grow in popularity and becoming the first choice for many local families.

An important aspect of our continued improvement is gathering the views of various stakeholders. Thank you to all those who have completed 'Parent Survey' questionnaires during parent evenings. The overwhelming response is positive in all areas. We would like to encourage you to answer the same questions if you have five minutes on the official 'Parent View' website, using the following link, <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>, which can also be accessed via the Academy website.

Students have continued to participate in numerous activities and we would encourage you to read the latest editions of the Ramsey Voice showing the diversity of opportunities available. Electronic versions can be viewed on the website and hard copies are available at Reception.

We would also like to take this opportunity to request your continued support to ensure students wear the correct uniform and attend school with the appropriate equipment.

The final day of this term is Thursday 29 March finishing at 3.00pm and students return for the Summer Term on Monday 16 April.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to reach our aim of being 'an outstanding school in the heart of the community'.

Yours sincerely

R James  
Headteacher