

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

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Headteacher:
Rob James

28 June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As another academic year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in helping us achieve our aim of becoming 'an outstanding school in the heart of the community'. This year has again, been exceptionally busy; the increased range of opportunities and activities available, combined with excellent first quality teaching has allowed students to develop not only their academic skills and knowledge, but a variety of life skills, which are so important for the future.

As Year 11 leave to start the next stage of their education, training or employment, we wish them 'good luck' and look forward to their GCSE results in August. The new Year 7 students have already completed their 'induction days' and are looking forward to joining us. In September we will have 150 Year 7 students; as with last year, above our published admission number, which indicates the Academy is becoming the 'first choice' for many local families.

We have extended our network of 'community partners', who visit the Academy and also offer our students the opportunity to visit them on site. The students, via their Houses, have arranged a wide variety of activities to raise money for charity. This year over £6500 has been donated to the nominated charities; Smile of Aaron, Blue Heart, The Breck Foundation and Essex Air Ambulance.

Our ongoing commitment to improve the learning environment for the students has continued. All the lighting in the Academy has been replaced with new LED units, reducing cost and being more eco-friendly. The Library and Learning Centre will be refurbished over the holiday period. This ambitious project has been supported by parents, staff and Governors. Particular recognition should go to Milbank Concrete Products Ltd and the Earls Colne & Halstead Education Trust, who have contributed significant sums of money. If you are aware of any businesses who may be interested in becoming one of our 'community partners' and make a donation please ask them to contact me.

As usual at this time of year a number of staff are leaving Ramsey. On your behalf I would like to thank Miss Meechan and Miss Brunning (English), Mrs Todd and Mrs Pen (Learning Support), Mrs Harrison and Mrs Chapman (Pastoral Managers) for their contribution to the recent developments and improvements at the Academy.

As staff have left and the student numbers are increasing we have new staff joining us. Recruitment of teachers is one of the challenges faced by all schools at the current time but I am delighted to say we are fully staffed from September and the following staff will be joining us; Mrs Robins (English), Mrs Holdsworth (Humanities), Mrs Shields (Maths) and Miss Lewis (PE & School Games).

The half termly newsletter 'The Ramsey Voice' continues to celebrate success and displays the diverse range of opportunities on offer for the students. Please take the time to read the articles and share our success and events with your friends.

We are always looking at ways we can improve and have increased the opportunity for parents and carers to provide feedback via questionnaires at Parent Evenings and Parent Forum meetings. This allows us to prioritise the areas you think need further improvement. We are delighted with the overall feedback, although we would like the responses to be 100% positive;

- My child is happy at this school – 97% Strongly Agree/Agree (1% Don't know)
- My child feels safe at this school – 97% Strongly Agree/Agree (0% Don't know)
- My child makes good progress at this school – 98% Strongly Agree/Agree (0.5% Don't know)
- My child is well looked after at this school – 99% Strongly Agree/Agree (0.5% Don't know)
- My child is taught well at this school – 98% Strongly Agree/Agree (1% Don't know)
- My child receives appropriate homework for their age – 93% Strongly Agree/Agree (2.4% Don't know)

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- This school makes sure its students are well behaved – 94% Strongly Agree/Agree (2.7% Don't know)
- This school deals effectively with bullying – 78% Strongly Agree/Agree (17% Don't know)
- This school is well led and managed – 97% Strongly Agree/Agree (2% Don't know)
- This school responds well to any concerns I raise – 92% Strongly Agree/Agree (6% Don't know)
- I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress - 98% Strongly Agree/Agree (1% Don't know)
- Would you recommend this school to another parent? - 97% Strongly Agree/Agree (2% Don't know)

We have taken your feedback into account and this contributes to our School Improvement Priorities. We will aim to improve the information relating to how we deal with specific issues, allowing you to make judgements on our effectiveness. When a 'Don't know' response is given, there is the opportunity to provide a comment to help us understand the issue in greater depth. We assume that for the majority of the 'don't know' answers parents have responded due to not having a specific concern linked to the question.

Finally, I would like to outline the end of term arrangements. We close for the summer holidays on Friday 20 July. Students will attend normal lessons and final assemblies before being dismissed at 12 noon.

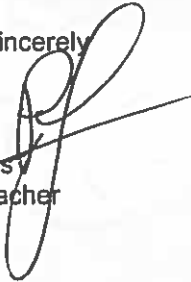
This year, the contract bus company has informed us they require additional payment for an early collection time, which we are not prepared to pay for. If your son/daughter requires transport home the buses will arrive at their normal time. If you would like him/her to remain on site and be supervised please complete the reply slip below. Alternatively, your son/daughter may wish to leave the site to spend time with friends and return at 3.00 p.m. to catch the bus. **If the reply slip is not returned by Friday 13 July it will assumed they will make their own way home and no transport will be provided.**

Those students who travel via taxis will have transport provided at 12.00 noon.

Also a reminder that students return to school on Wednesday 5 September.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for continued support and wish you a good summer.

Yours sincerely



R James
Headteacher

To: The School Office, The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Student Name

Tutor Group

**Please tick box*

My child does not need transport home on Friday 20 July.

I wish my child to remain on the school site under supervision until 3.00 p.m.

My child will leave site and return at 3.00 p.m. for the school bus.

Signed

Date