



# Ramsey Voice

## Updates Newsletter

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### Note from The Headteachers

Welcome to the first edition of The Ramsey Voice for the new school year.

Well, what can we say about the last few months? At this time last year, I don't think most of us would have had any idea what was meant by remote learning, year group bubbles, social distancing or lockdown. We wouldn't have thought that our lives and particularly students' education would look so different in the year ahead. We have had many challenges and we are now starting to see a greater sense of normality returning to the school day. I know there will

continue to be changes throughout this school year and can only assure you that we will keep you informed and updated at all times.

The return to school has obviously been a little unusual, but I have to say the reaction of students and staff has been amazing. It has been lovely to welcome students back to school, and for our year 7 to welcome them to their new school. To see everyone enjoying learning again and interacting with friends has highlighted what we have been missing. The fact that the whole school has embraced the importance of things like sticking to social zones, wearing of face masks and maintaining social distancing when possible, has given the whole school an even greater community feel.

I mentioned welcoming our new year 7, all 170 students, and this means that the school is now the largest it has been in terms of numbers for many years. It is an indication of how highly regarded we are that we have already had a huge amount of interest around next year. It has been a pleasure to finally get to meet all our new students and to see how well they are settling in.

Much of this edition of The Ramsey Voice covers what students completed before lockdown and is an indication of the sort of activities we hope to be able to offer again very soon. You will also see the pictures of our now former students collecting their GCSE results. As always, we are extremely proud of what they have achieved.

Inside you also have the opportunity of meeting new staff who have already made an enormous impact on the life of the school. There is also a message from our new Chair of Governors, and I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming Malcolm to his new role. As he mentions, we do have vacancies on the Governing body, so please make contact if you are interested.

You can also meet our new School Captains, Ellie and Cobi who will play a major role in the life of the school this year.

As we begin this new school year it is important to focus on what we want to achieve. The world is not an easy place to live in at the moment, and we must all be aware of the difficulties that are out there and what we can do to support each other. Being a member of The Ramsey Academy community means we all work together in the pursuit of learning, enjoyment of life and happiness.

To end I just want to relay something which happened to me last week. I was visiting lessons and in one particular Year 7 class I asked a student "What is it you are doing today?" I was expecting an answer along the lines of "Geography", "Answering questions" or the like. The answer I actually got made me feel immensely optimistic about the year ahead. The student answered:

"Trying to be the best I can be."

## Mask Wearing Around School

The wearing of masks is now compulsory around school when in communal areas and moving around lessons. Please remember to send you child in with a face covering for their school day. Should your child arrive at school without a mask, they may be able to obtain one from the school office (subject to availability) at a cost of 50p added to their Scopay account. Thank you for your co-operation and for helping us keep everybody safe in these uncertain times.

Mr Leys & Mr James



# Pre-Lockdown Drama Competition

We have a new and exciting role in the Performing Arts team at The Ramsey Academy - the Drama Ambassadors. These dedicated students are a force to be reckoned with and lead the way when it comes to developing theatre performance. We are so proud of their independent, creative spirit!

In particular we want to applaud the initiative of Charles Bailey, 9A1, who recently launched a really intensive Drama competition. Students from across the year groups spent their lunch times play-reading in the theatre library space, rehearsing their own choices of scripts and creating their own devised Drama. Charles and other Year 9 Drama Ambassadors were on hand to support them in their rehearsals. Charles also took on responsibility for planning the programme of performances and organising a panel of staff judges with packs of criteria for us to use when deciding on the winning pieces!

All students directed their own work and the performances were hugely atmospheric and powerful as we were taken on a journey through the lives of a whole raft of characters in some riveting work.



All contestants were rewarded with certificates and House Merits. These went to Paige B, Yaprak O, Abi M, Isabel C. Chloe B, Eneja S, Jack, Holly VB, Kitty O'B, Poppy N, Isabel H, Mollie S, Tegan J, Natalie P, Mollie M, Hannah J, Amelie P, Lily M and Tetti H.

But we especially want to congratulate the winners who received WHSmith vouchers and chocs(!): Melissa A for her powerful and emotional interpretation of a monologue from "Stranger Things" and Daisy D, Holli D, Neve K, Freya D and Isabel T for their hilarious performance of an extract from "The Jungle Book".

What a fabulous way to celebrate the wealth of talent in our school! Mrs Barnes



# Year 10 - Apprenticeship Information Event

Pre-Lockdown on Thursday 13th February 2020, students from Year 10 now Year 11, attended the Apprenticeship Information Event at the exciting new STEM Innovation Centre at the College at Braintree.

There is a huge selection of employment and training opportunities for our students as they move on beyond school. They made the most of the opportunity to gather as much information as possible to broaden their thoughts about further education and worlds of work that are out there. Students spoke to representatives from a range of public and private sector employers, as well as universities, local colleges and training providers.



There was a real buzz about the event as students experienced recording and TV studios, beauty therapy salons, art and media rooms, IT suites and business environments. We were hugely proud as many came away with contacts for work experience and part time jobs as well as aspirational thoughts for future careers and professional qualifications and training.

How wonderful it is that students are carefully considering the professional and academic worlds on offer to them and that they really understand that their paths to the future can be many and varied!

Well done! Mrs Barnes

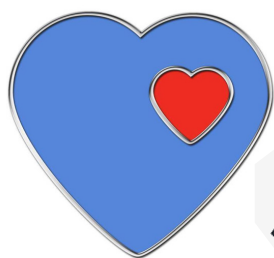


## Pre-Lockdown Endeavour Charity Week July 2020

Way back in February, pre-lockdown, Endeavour House held an 80s themed charity week. This time around we supported equally Essex Air Ambulance and My Blue Heart Charities. My Blue Heart is a nationally recognised symbol of bereavement, providing a way to communicate loss and giving others the opportunity to show consideration and support.

All students were encouraged to join in and help raise as much as possible towards this worthy cause.

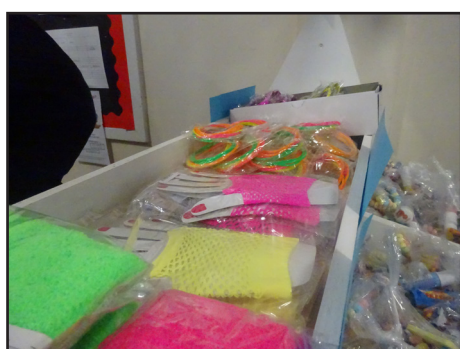
We held daily cake and sweet sales which sold out every day. Students were able to purchase 80s leggings, wrist bands and leggings to wear for non-uniform day and the discos after school. We had a fantastic Singing competition which packed the hall out with their amazing talents. We also had games challenges, Year 11 against staff basketball match to 80s tunes and finished the week off with an 80s dress up day. Costumes included The Ghostbusters, Freddie Mercury, and lots of fluorescent accessories. Everyone had a great time while raising much needed funds for the two charities. Mrs Tyler [RSL Endeavour House](#)



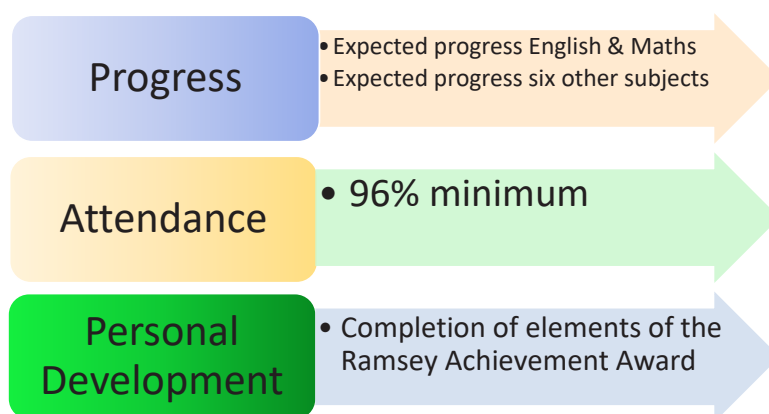
# Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Your local life-saving charity

# Pre-Lockdown Endeavour Charity Week July 2020



# Ramsey Achievement Award Winners



**Congratulations to this years recipients of The Ramsey Achievement Awards who have fulfilled all of the specified criteria. Well Done!**

## Year 8

Isabelle T, Freya R, Sam P, Yaprak O, Maddison G, Eden G, Daisy D, Terry M, Cameron M, Holli D, William G, Violet B, William, A, Libby B, Freya D, Rosie-May G, Isabel H, Jack L, Callum R, Lily-May S, Libby W, Harry W, Aaron W, Fern W, Megan W, Daisy F, Isabelle P, Monty F, Ella J, Henry S, Jacob C, Domonic Pope, Alisha K, Blue F, Mollie S, Rebecca B, Eadie G, Oliver D, Thomas R, Amelie B-F, Luca B, Neve K

## Year 9

Tetti H, Oscar H, Lily M, Alexandra L, Brooke P, Natalie P, Darcy C, Thomas W, Kitty O'B, Holly VB, Amelie P, Harry C, Heston R, Katie E, Ruby S, Gabrielle B, Kirsty J-L, Reuben L, Preston B, Eddie N, Morgan N, Harry S, Mollie M, Grace F, Erin P-J, Sophie B, William C, Tegan J, Hannah J, Brandon J, Amy L, Benjamin P, Ryan S, Ricky T, Sophie T, Mia W, Katie Y, Dylan B, Cameron C, George O

## Year 10

Sophie A, Cordelia D, Amelia G, Millan H, Sienna I, Jacob P, Ashley S, Jack S, Grace S, Emma S, Harrison S, Alfie T, Alfie W, Evie W, Cody B, Maisy C, Kacey C, Keiran D, Beau D-W, Jessica G, Chay G, Araya J, Yakup O, Oskar R, Alfie S, Billie S, James L, Nina P, Sonny B, Fletcher B, Lucy R, Hannah S, Josh C, Joe C, Courtney S, Lucy H, Keira H, Daisey-Mai B-R, Hunter B-S, Ellie C, Lois C, Olu F, Jamie H, Thomas N, Brooke S, Alesha S, Noah B, Rebecca F, Thomas F, Daisy H, Ella R, Mia-Grace S, Scarlet C, Kenza C-M, William G, Jessica H, Gracie H, Cameron McK, Callum M, James R, Oliver T, Reece Walker, Ruby B, Lily-Rose C, Yasmin H, Katie H, Ella M, Kaci-Mai S-M, William S

## Year 11

Cobi B, Jack U, Ellie P, Erin N, Zac L, Tom L, Reece S, William C, Oliver C, Anda-Andreea G, Zac H, Matthew J, Izzy P, Alivia S, Chloe B, Callum H, Lewis P, Jack T-H, Isaac H, Georgina L, Kain D, Jonathan H, Leon PWD, Ella-Rose B, Charlotte C, Lewis C, Frankie S, Lincoln S, Jessica T, Rose V, Louis D, Bence H, Jasmin H, Harry S, Chloe T

# Student View

As part of the tutor programme this term students in all year groups and all tutor groups have been discussing a variety of topics. Once there has been a discussion students are asked to vote on the topic, deciding whether their answer to the question is Yes or No.

Here are the results from the first couple of topics.

Please note: Not all tutor groups submit their result each week.

Raising Standards  
Leaders **Diversity:**  
**Miss Hibble and Mrs Howkins, Aspiration, Mr Newman and Endeavour: Mrs Tyler**

28/9/20: Should education be a top priority in a crisis?

	Tutor Group YES	Tutor Group NO	BOYS YES	BOYS NO	GIRLS YES	GIRLS NO
Year 7	37	95	13	47	25	48
Year 8	16	36	8	21	8	14
Year 9	11	24	3	15	8	14
Year 10	37	72	21	38	17	36
Year 11	10	28	5	12	4	17
Total	111	255	50	133	62	129

21/9/20: Should every country follow the same Corona advice?

	Tutor Group YES	Tutor Group NO	BOYS YES	BOYS NO	GIRLS YES	GIRLS NO
Year 7	5	76	4	42	1	33
Year 8	5	49	1	25	4	22
Year 9	5	18	3	5	1	11
Year 10	1	70	1	37	0	33
Year 11	18	57	8	34	7	33
Total	34	270	17	143	13	132

14/9/20: Are communities strengthened in a crisis?

	Tutor Group YES	Tutor Group NO	BOYS YES	BOYS NO	GIRLS YES	GIRLS NO
Whole school	285	240	140	119	146	103
Year 7	50	59	31	17	17	31
Year 8	90	48	43	26	46	15
Year 9	96	35	42	19	57	10
Year 10	21	60	14	35	8	30
Year 11	24	18	8	13	16	6

7/9/20: Is Ramsey ready for the new Normal?

Tutor group	Tutor group vote - YES	Tutor group vote - NO	BOYS vote - YES	BOYS vote - NO	GIRLS vote - YES	GIRLS vote - NO
Year 7	80	54	46	24	34	29
Year 8	92	33	53	26	42	11
Year 9	75	15	28	14	44	3
Year 10	48	47	26	17	35	7
Year 11	16	36	11	18	5	18
TOTAL	311	185	164	99	160	68



# Welcome, New Staff

Welcome to our New Staff that have joined since Lockdown. Mr Leys



Miss C Edwards  
Cover Supervisor



Mr S Collins  
Head of ICT/Computer  
Science



Miss H Rendall  
Maths Teacher



Mrs E Brett  
Head of MFL/MFL  
Teacher



Mr C Evans  
MFL Teacher



Mrs J Jordan-Burrows  
English Teacher



Mr G Davey  
PE Teacher



Mrs E Brown  
Learning Support  
Assistant



Mrs P Duque-Jiggins  
EAL Co-Ordinator



Mrs C Bowyer  
Learning Support  
Assistant



Miss C Bond  
Catch-up Facilitator



Miss O Sparks  
English Teacher



Mr D Wheeler  
Science Teacher



Miss V Ellis  
Humanities Teacher



Miss E Anthony  
Art/ICT Teacher

## New Chair of Governors



Amazingly, we are already a few weeks into the new academic year and on behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to welcome the pupils back into school. I appreciate that it has been a difficult time for everyone and I can understand the disappointment and frustration of those pupils that were away from school for nearly six months. But these are very strange times as the virus is changing the way that we live that we never thought was possible at the start of the year!

Over the summer, the Executive Headteacher Rob James, Head of School Calum Leys and their team at The Ramsey Academy have been working extremely hard to ensure that the school is as safe as possible so that the pupils were able to return. Our thanks go to everyone involved to make this possible, for which we are all very grateful.

I was delighted and honoured when I was approached in September to accept the role of Chair of Governors at The Ramsey Academy. My involvement in the school began in 2014 and I have been the Vice Chair for the last two years.

I am immensely proud of the school's achievements and its reputation in the community. The Academy offers a fantastic education to all its students in an extremely caring, nurturing and enriching environment which is a credit to everyone associated with the school.

My first taste of school governorship was back in 1997, when I joined the Governing Body of my local primary school in Marks Tey. At the time, my eldest daughter was in Year 1 at the school and now she is in her fifth year as primary school teacher in Tiptree. Where does the time go?

My working life was spent in the Banking sector where I spent over 39 years, Most of this time, I worked for one of the main high street banks before spending the last couple of years with one of the new 'challenger' banks. During my time in the industry, I led a number of teams in both the retail and commercial sectors.

I retired in 2016 so that I could enjoy my hobbies which include running, swimming, badminton (I am a Badminton England umpire; my playing days unfortunately have finished!), watching the mighty Colchester United and cricket. I also enjoy reading and listening to music.

Finally, there are a couple of vacancies on the Local Governing Body at the school. This is a hugely rewarding role which offers you the opportunity of giving something back to the local community and also helps develop your own skills. If you are interested, please contact the school for more information.

Malcolm Bailey

## Music Mark Award

The Ramsey Academy has been nominated to be a Music Mark school for the 2020/21 academic year! This is in recognition of the value we have placed on music education and our commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education, supporting access to music for all children and young people. Mr Lewis-James





# Library

## NEWS



From Mrs Heath and  
Mrs Burrage

### Library life last term

It was great still being able to engage with all our students last term via the weekly student bulletin. We hope everyone enjoyed the links and managed to keep reading for pleasure during our time away!

### Welcome back!

It has been lovely welcoming back students to school for this Autumn term.

The Year 7 students were so enthusiastic at their library inductions. It was lovely to welcome them all to our fantastic library!

As with all elements of school life, the library is currently working slightly differently.

Students are now able to search the library catalogue by logging on to our 'virtual library' called Reading Cloud'. This can be accessed by double clicking on the library icon either via the Ramsey Academy homepage, or via the 'links' tab on Edulink.

Students can search the catalogue, reserve, review and renew books and much more!



Any books that are due for return can be handed in to form Tutors.

Don't forget to email us at [library@ramseyacademy.com](mailto:library@ramseyacademy.com) if you need any further assistance!



### Raffle!

For every library book that is returned students can earn themselves a raffle ticket!

It could be you! So, don't delay, return your books to your Tutor today for a chance to win!



### New Books

New term means new books! Look out for our new selection including these.....



What's keeping you?

Log on to Reading Cloud and  
reserve a book today!

# Leavers 2020 Destinations

The Class of 2020 have now left us and many have gone off to the traditional further education paths of Colchester Sixth Form and Colchester Institute which is brilliant. We have also had some students go onto different destinations:

Royal Hospital School Holbrook - Maths Scholarship: Owen Smith

Stansted College: George C, Ben C, Marcello FA and Maddison S.

Writtle College: Jasmine G and Kirsten D.

Chelmsford College: Edward R

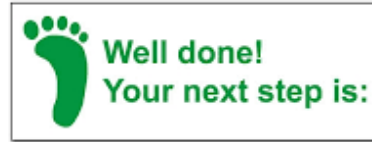
Stanway Football Club: Bleu M and William F

Basingstoke College: Charlie H

Suffolk West One College: Ella J

Harrogate Army College: Hannah W and Harrison R

Congratulations to all of our 2020 leavers. You have had a very tough year we are very proud of you all. Mrs Gibbs



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## School Captains

Hi, we are Ellie and Cobi, your new School Captains. The school has implemented a new safety system to ensure the students and teachers remain safe, following all government guidelines. We have found the smaller grouping and segregated access around the school due to the current global pandemic has been reassuring, showing us that Ramsey has our health and continued education at the forefront of their minds. Recovering from the massive amounts of work missed due to the virus is very difficult for us as for most of the other students however, as school captains, we are here to help anyone through these weird times.

As school captains we would like to accomplish bringing the school closer together. Even if it can only be in year groups (due to the segregations for our safety) we believe that, especially during the uncertain times we are living, that we should all be supporting everyone in any way possible to make the school a better place for students to feel comfortable in. Ellie P & Cobi B Year 11



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## Media Leaders

In February 2020, Year 8 students (now Year 9) were invited to apply for roles as Media Leaders for each house. Media Leaders will help promote good new stories from their respective houses, interviewing staff and students and taking pictures for the school, website and newsletter.

Here are your new team.

L to R: Grace F, Endeavour, Morgan N, Diversity, Tetti H, Aspiration. Congratulations girls, you have done brilliantly and we look forward to seeing your articles and pictures really soon. Mrs Keen



## Seb's Water Skiing Success. Team GB!



Seb T, Year 8, and his siblings have been picked to represent the nation on the water.

Seb and his older siblings have become the first trio of siblings to make it into the Great Britain National Water Ski Squad in the same year in their age categories.

Despite Covid-19 postponing many of 2020's events, the trio could still take part in national competitions later this year.

The postponed events, which include the European Youth and Under-21s Championships and World Junior and Under-21s Championships, are now set to take place in 2021, with the 2020 squad still taking part.

The teenage Turps compete in the three high-adrenalin disciplines of water skiing - slalom, jumping and tricks.

Seb had his first taste of action for the summer earlier this month. He was part of a Great Britain Water Skiing squad coaching camp in Lincolnshire where Seb smashed his slalom personal best and also broke the U12 slalom record.  
Seb T, Year 8



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## Amelia's Amazing Show Jumping

'I started Horse riding four years ago, when I went over to Poland for a camp for two weeks. I took a turn into the professional side of show jumping six months ago. Since then I have been competing with my mare Marina S and Czaris (gelding).

During this time period I have achieved my bronze badge which involved me taking an exam with 300 questions to learn in Polish on the general knowledge of key aspects of the horse industry. I had to take a flat work exam and a jumping exam which I passed. This meant I could compete in the higher jumping competitions.

During the lockdown I have entered many competitions and won the Juniors' Jump Off Business Class in August 2020. I entered that competition on my 17 year old mare Marina S. The competition lasted three days. On the 1st day I came 2nd place then the 2nd day I came 3rd and on our last day of the show we came 1st place. It was a big achievement for me and my mare. After this I went in a show in Biskupiec on Czaris and we placed 3rd out of 126 horses'. Amelia G, Year 10



## Ryan Playing for England in Top 12 Futsal Tournament



"I was fortunate enough to represent England U14 Futsal in Barcelona. We arrived in Barcelona on Thursday 28th February where we had a de-briefing for the competition. In the evening we were lucky enough to go and train with Blanes, a local Spanish Adults' Team.

On Friday we travelled to Ciutat Esportiva Blanes to play our first set of group stage games against Brazil, USA, and Australia. The USA was our biggest challenge due to their strength and height, plus we also lost a key player. Day two we got through to the quarter-final, we played Australia which we won 8-2, which put us into the semi-finals against Brazil. It was another tough game but we managed to go in at half time level. The second half didn't go so well, losing two players, one to an injury and another being shown a red card, which resulted in us losing the match and not making it into the final.



Sunday 1st March, we had a free day, so we went into Barcelona and did a tour round Camp Nou (Barcelona football stadium) before flying home that evening.

I have been playing for the Elite Braintree Futsal Club for 2 years; I train twice a week. I would like to thank my coaches for everything and for a fantastic experience." Ryan S, Year 9

## Ewan T, National BMX Race Series

BMX Nationals in Manchester.

Ewan has been BMX racing since 2012 and has been racing nationally for several years now. In 2019 Ewan was ranked 11th nationally in his age group after competing throughout 2019.

There are 12 races each year across the country with the first races being held in 2020 at the British cycling centre indoor arena. This is where all the top rider across the world can compete. It's an awesome venue.



Ewan raced on both the Saturday and Sunday, making it through to the semi finals on both days.

In the semi-finals you are down to the last 16 racers in two separate races of 8. The top 4 in each race progress to the A final; the other 4 in each race go to the B final. It was tough racing and Ewan got through to 12th overall on for the weekend.

The next round was going to be in Birmingham with a race in Scotland after. Both of which have now been postponed due to the Coronavirus. Ewan is the most improved rider at Braintree BMX club.

Ewan T, Year 11

## Caston Majorettes

"In February my sister and I attended a competition in Skegness for our majorettes called UBT (United Baton Twirlers).

The competition lasted all weekend and we placed 2nd place for Pom and 1st for baton, competing against 12 other troops made up of between 50-100 people each troop.

We really enjoyed this experience and had so much fun. The next competition however, because of lockdown, won't be until April next year but we are very excited about it".



Grace and Isabelle C



## Tom's Musical Achievement

Tom W, Year 11 took his ABRSM Grade 5 Theory of Music exam this summer and received a distinction grade equivalent to a higher grade GCSE. Tom and his parents would like to thank Mr Graham Lewis-James for his support and dedication shown to Tom, going above and beyond expectations even during the school summer holidays. Tom also plays for two orchestras called Take Note and Caprice.



## Music Lesson Fun

Year 8 students have been using a new instrument in their music lessons. They are brightly coloured plastic tubes called 'Boomwhackers'. Each tube is tuned to a specific pitch and can be played by striking it against the palm of your hand. With each row of students playing the same colour/pitch the whole class can become one large musical instrument! We have used them to perform the melodies of songs in the Celtic unit of the Music curriculum. We have also been using them to compose melodies as part of the Music catch-up curriculum. Because they are easy to sanitise and transport these instruments have enabled students to continue making Covid secure live music in the Humanities and Languages classrooms of the Year 8 learning zone. Mr Lewis-James



# Results Day 2020

Results Day 2020 had a very different feel to recent years but students still managed to celebrate their achievements and receive their results after a tough year. Well done Class of 2020!



# Information for Parents, Carers and Students



<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Check out the areas called Tool Box and Calm Zone on this website which may be useful for students

## E-Safety

The students have all been learning about age dependent aspects of e-safety since their return to school in September with years 7, 8 and 9 completing computing units on e-safety in lessons. Here are some website that will help you to keep your children safe while online:

- \*Think U know: <https://swgfl.org.uk/online-safety/>
- \*NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
- \*Essex Safeguarding Children Board: <https://www.escb.co.uk/>
- \*Childnet international: <https://www.childnet.com/>
- \*Get Safe Online: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>
- \*Internet Watch Foundation: <https://www.iwf.org.uk/>
- \*Parent Info from CEOP and Parent Zone: <https://parentinfo.org/> Mr Collins



## Year 11 College and Sixth Form Places. Applications Open

You can now start applying to your college and sixth form courses. If you need any more help or information please let me know in school. Mrs Eaves. Directions IAG Ltd



Colchester Institute:

You can apply NOW

You can also start booking virtual tours for your area of interest on their website

<https://www.colchester.ac.uk/>

Colchester Sixth Form:

You can apply from this Friday 16th October!

<https://www.colchsfc.ac.uk/>

Hedingham Sixth Form

[http://www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk/sixth\\_form](http://www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk/sixth_form) has a virtual open evening

Application form available on the website- apply by December

Stansted Airport College

Check website to attend virtual open event

Applications open Mid November

<http://www.stanstedairportcollege.ac.uk/>

### Dates For your Diary

Friday 23rd October - End of Half Term

Friday 27th November - Non student day

Monday 30th November - Non student day

Tuesday 1st December - Non student day

Friday 18th December  
- Last day of Autumn Term

Monday 4th January - Non student day

Tuesday 5th January  
- Start of Spring term

\*We are unable to give more specific dates for events at present due to Coronavirus. More dates will be announced when in more settled times.