



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

"Aspiring to be the best you can be"



@RamseyAcademy



/ramseyacademy

Visit Online: www.ramseyacademy.com



Notes From the Head

Welcome to the third edition of this year's Ramsey Voice. My space has been limited as there is so much content to be included. Once again, the articles show the wide range of activities in which the students and staff are involved. Such a range of opportunities for a small school demonstrates the commitment of staff to ensure students' learning is enriched with activities outside the classroom, allowing them to 'be the best they can be'.

As a school we are committed to maintaining and continually developing 'outstanding' provision but this is becoming increasingly more difficult due to financial constraints. The Headteachers in Essex are working collaboratively to campaign to address the decreasing 'real terms' school budgets which is impacting on the educational provision for our young people. The 'Fund the 8%' campaign is supported by primary and secondary Headteachers. The '8%' refers to the real cut to each school's budget based on imposed additional pension and National Insurance contributions, reduction in the Educational Service Grant, introduction of the Apprenticeship levy, inflation pressures and unfunded pay rises. To date this has included writing to local Members of Parliament and subsequent meetings with them to discuss the issues and impact in more detail. We are working together, including Headteachers from other counties in England, to ask the politicians to listen to our reasonable demands to ensure the future of our students is not jeopardised.

Recently, Andreas Schleicher, the Division Head of Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), stated; "If you take the same system and you take money out of it you lose and lack in quality. I think there's no question around it," He went onto say "It's a value choice of societies to make. Education really is an important choice; that is the future. The school system today is your economy tomorrow, and that is something I worry about when governments have an attitude of. 'Oh well, let's cut some corners here'."

I would encourage you to support us and write to or visit our local MP, James Cleverley to echo our concerns and ensure the educational experience of our young people allows them to follow their dreams and fulfil their potential. - Mr R James

Sizewell Trip

On Friday 7 October we visited the Sizewell B power station. It is the UK's only pressurised water reactor. It is located on the coast which allows water to be used from the sea. When we arrived at the power station, we were separated into four groups, then shown a presentation about the power plant by one of the tour guides before being told all the safety regulations. We then put on all our safety gear: a helmet, gloves, a fluorescent jacket and a pair of earplugs for the turbine hall. Each group set off on a tour with the tour guides. We had to go through security first, then the tour began. We walked around the power plant whilst the tour guide explained what each building did. We got to see where the water is taken back out into the sea. The power plant has a system that means most of the fish that are accidentally taken into the power plant along with the water are taken safely back out to sea. Then our tour guides took us into the turbine hall. This was where we had to put our ear plugs in. We walked around right next to the turbines before leaving and heading back to meet the other groups. I found out that this power station uses nuclear fission to allow their turbines to work. Construction of the power plant began in 1988 and there is one reactor that produces about 9.7TWh every year.



The Curious Incident Trip

The National Theatre's production of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'.

The play is about a 15-year-old boy called Christopher Boone, a boy with an extraordinary brain and strong ability with Maths who uses physical theatre to interpret everyday life. When he discovers his neighbour's dog, Wellington, has been murdered, he becomes a detective. The play charts his attempts to solve the mystery of who killed the dog and ends up on a journey that will challenge him beyond his imagination.

Throughout the play there is a great deal of emotion and dramatic narrative. This is partly told through a diary which is read out by Siobhan, Christopher's school teacher, played by the actress Jo Castleton.

The lighting, sound and projection effects used throughout the performance were very creative and there were always surprises around the corner as students of The Ramsey Academy discovered as soon as the play unfolded. The use of the cube stage helped the audience view the action as though they were looking through a window into Christopher's perspective of everyday life. The storyline was very touching because there was a lot of emotion and it was portrayed truthfully and honestly.

The cast worked together to represent physically Christopher's story. This made the audience gasp and lean forward in their seats, eager for more. The actor, Joseph, played the part of Christopher. Many students made the comment that he played the part really well and brought the role to life. Christopher, having Asperger's, led Lolly Cooke to comment: "The portrayal of Christopher's condition was very moving in a great performance, keeping the audience captured"

Charlotte Roche stated: "It was a stunning performance with a great, emotional story line."

Lauren Young stated: "It was a very moving performance, fast motion and emotional"

Amelia Juniper stated: "The staging and story line were amazing" - Lolly Cooke (Year 10)



Gardening Club Update

Busy! Busy! Busy! The start of another gardening year. We are spring cleaning everything.

The staging in the greenhouse has been re-positioned to create a more compact growing area. This has released space for five new potting stations, using old wooden lab tables. Harry, Jamie, Will and Josh have sorted through our massive stock of plastic trays and plant pots. They are now ordered and on shelves ready for use.

The £250 from Josh Lingley's Jack Petchey Award has been put to good use. Two large storage containers have been constructed from flat packs, to give us somewhere to safely store our gardening tools. Following the flat pack instructions took a bit of time and effort, but was a useful life experience for the members! Thank you to Noah and Ollie for their fabrication skills.

The polytunnel has been cleaned ready for the growing season. We hope to fill it with flowers, fruit and veg.

We have been asked to find a solution to having to take the school grass clippings and fallen leaves off site. This costs money, so we will build a large composting station for the green waste to be collected and composted. A project that we aim to complete by the end of term.

Once more we have been invited to take part in the town's May Day In The Park celebrations. We will be producing plants and wooden items to sell on our stall.

Once we have completed our beginning of year tasks we will focus on attaining our fifth RHS School Gardening award. We look forward to linking up with Halstead In Bloom in a joint community project to achieve this. - Mr S Pittuck

Artist Matt Mackman

Artist Matt Mackman spent two days working with a select group of Year 7, 8 and 9 students using their creative skills to investigate the positives and negatives of technology, the internet and, specifically, social media.

The students discussed what they enjoyed about technology and how it can be used to improve their lives. This was extended to social media which has become common place in most people's lives and can be great fun. In contrast, however, everyone was able to recognise that there was possibility for social media to have a negative impact on our happiness. Most people are able to give an example of a bad experience on social media and this was backed up by the available statistics. The fact that every click of the mouse, every view, comment, post and sign up is recorded somewhere, is either fantastically exciting or dreadfully concerning depending on your on-line behaviour.



Using this as a starting point, the students started to brainstorm ideas for an art project. The ideas were free flowing and showed great creativity. Working in small groups, they took their best concepts and turned them into 3 fantastic finished pieces.

Good versus bad, light and dark, nice opposing nasty were common themes:

Group 1 produced two oversized iPhones, both beautifully decorated...but whilst one delivered messages that would give you a warm glow, the other would leave you feeling cold, upset and unhappy.

Group 2 produced a life size winged figure with two sides to its character and behaviour. One half was devilishly red and carried unpleasant words and messages showing the potential evil side of social media. To counteract this, the other half was angelically white and carried compliments and kindness.

Group 3 created a vibrant world map to represent the distance that technology covers and the large potential audience for a post on social media. As well as delivering a number of both 'nice and nasty' messages, this colourful piece of art shared some interesting facts about social media use.

Each student also produced and decorated a phone of their own, half producing a phone with a positive message and the others designing a phone that would make the viewer feel uncomfortable or unhappy. You will be able to see these thought provoking pieces around the school. - Mr S Pittuck

"I was very impressed by the variety of ideas that the students were able to come up with and their ability to work effectively in teams. They were repeatedly challenged to refine their ideas and use new techniques and processes. Their finished pieces are visually exciting and expressive whilst delivering some important information in an interesting way. These students should be proud of what they achieved...well done!" - Matt Mackman



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST**

27 January Holocaust Memorial Day

On Friday 27 January 10X1PD joined over 500 schools worldwide to take part in a Holocaust Memorial Day event. The group was able to listen to a Holocaust survivor via a live webcast. The survivor, Mala Tribich, was only 8 years old when war broke out in her home country of Poland. She told the pupils how she had at first escaped the horrors of ghetto life when her parents had paid to have her smuggled into hiding. However after suffering from homesickness and believing that the family were safe in the ghetto, Mala returned to her family. She then told the heart-breaking story of how her mother and sister were first taken away and then she herself was selected to be deported. Mala told how she managed to plead with a guard who let her and her younger cousin escape back into the ghetto. Mala stayed in the ghetto until it was liquidated and then found herself in the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. Mala gave an insight into the horrific conditions in the concentration camps and told how she felt when the British arrived to liberate the camp at the end of the war.

Mala has dedicated her life to telling her story of the Holocaust and she said she wanted pupils to remember the victims of the Holocaust and if they ever were unfortunate enough to witness discrimination and abuse, to stand up to it. Mala felt that it was not just the Nazis who deserved the blame for the Holocaust, but every person who complied with the orders to round up Jews, or failed to stand up and say that the treatment of the Jews was not right.

The pupils found the experience very enlightening, Charlotte Roche said "I have nothing but respect for the Holocaust survivor and hearing her story was emotionally compelling. The live video was a strong reminder that we all have a social responsibility to ensure genocides do not go unchallenged." - Mrs A Perrins

Able and Talented Upcoming Opportunities

The following sessions have been offered by our external Able & Talented provider, these are on a first come first served basis and carry a fee of £10, for booking details and payment options, please contact Mr S Hendry at The Ramsey Academy. All sessions will be held on Saturday 25 March at Notley High School, Notley Road, CM7 1WY.

Drama Course

This is for suitable students in Years 10 and 11.

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Objectives for the morning will be:

This workshop is aimed to inspire, enthuse and support the creative minds of current GCSE Drama students. We will be working in a more 'A Level' style to challenge students in their creativity and learning. The workshop will focus around Physical Theatre and the works of Frantic Assembly connected to the play, 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time', by Mark Haddon. Students will be required to attend in comfortable clothing due to the physical nature of the session.

Food Technology Course

This is for suitable students in Years 7 and 8.

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Objectives for the morning will be:

Students will attend a 'Bake-Off' style workshop with a healthy twist. Using vegetables as a key ingredient, students will bake and take home 2 tea time treats to enjoy. By baking a courgette and lemon loaf and carrot and pineapple muffins students will learn that the use of vegetables in cakes can improve the texture and add some nutritional value too!



French Course

This is for suitable students in Years 8 and 9.

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Course Title - Les Olympiades Francophones

Objectives for the morning will be: To be able to develop a competitive approach to French.

Learners will research aspects of the culture of French Speaking Countries to deepen their understanding of the French Speaking World as it is a requirement of the New MFL GCSE.

Content:

- 1) Learners will develop independent skills through research
- 2) They will then develop team work to plan their presentations
- 3) Learners will present their findings during a debate

Electricity and Circuits Course

This is for suitable students in Year 7.

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Objectives for the morning will be:

Students will learn the correct way to set up circuits, to measure current and voltage, the difference between series and parallel circuits, how current and voltage differ in components in series and parallel circuits, how voltage affects the brightness of a bulb. Please note that this course has run before for students in Year 6 and will cover similar content.



Fire Break

Over the week we found out about the life of a fire fighter and learnt a lot about life skills and discipline. It consisted of different experiences, one of the experiences that we were taught about was CPR and how to perform it on a casualty. We also were able to enter the breathing chamber and had to work together as a team to extract civilians from the chamber.

On another day we found out about how to act around or in a car, to help us know more about road safety. Within the week we also learnt how to properly use and treat the equipment that an every day fire truck is equipped with. At the end of the week we had a pass out ceremony to celebrate and show our parents and teachers what we had accomplished throughout the week. - Noah Weitz (Year 10)



Cambridge Trip

Both of our Geography classes from Year 11 went on a trip to Cambridge city centre to help us with our GCSE controlled assessments. We used surveys and questionnaires to ask and record what the people of Cambridge thought of the city. We filled out environmental and traffic count surveys to see how much traffic congestion, litter and shops there were, to figure out where the CBD (central business district) is in Cambridge's city centre. We all enjoyed the day and it helped us to understand the different land uses Cambridge offers to locals and tourists. The weather could have been better as it was snowing and cold; however it was still a good day out in Cambridge. - Katie Nicholls and Zak Raczi (Year 11)

Jump Street Student Conference

On Thursday 15 December 2016 the Student Management Team went to Jump Street Colchester to discuss the future plans for the school. This was thanks to Thomas Svensson who decided this would be a good way to use his Jack Petchey grant. After we had finished our exhilarating hour of jumping and falling over, we used the Jump Street conference room and had a discussion about improvements for the school whilst eating pizza; we decided to look at the aspect of toilet provision in the school, particularly in terms of improvement and re-decoration. This is a project we have now put forward to the school's Leadership Team.

We would like to say a big thank you to Jump Street Colchester for working with us and providing the activities, venue and food. We are looking forward to running more trips to Jump Street so students can experience many different ways to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle. Look out for enrichment trips to the new Chelmsford venue so students can use both the trampolines and climbing walls.

Finally we would like to thank Mr Taylor for organising the event and Ms Riddleston and Mr Charlton for taking us and bringing us home safely. - Tom Svensson and Lucy Stokes (Year 11)



V&A Art Trip

Personally, I found the trip a lot of fun whilst also being very relaxing. The museum had a massive variety of topics and exhibitions such as photography and sculpture. Every display captured my attention, so it was impossible to become bored or distracted.

I think my favourite section would have to be the theatre which displayed some famous costumes and puppets such as Sooty and Sweep, Punch and Judy and items from the wardrobe of 'The Lion King' musical.

I enjoyed trying to draw the fashion styles and jewellery which will give me inspiration for my own work. The only negative I can think of, would be the London traffic.

- Olivia Vinter (Year 9)

Jack Petchey Awards Evening

A massive congratulations to the nine Jack Petchey winners for 2015/16 who attended the Braintree schools' annual event at The Braintree Arts Centre on Tuesday 17 January.

It was fantastic to see all our winners attend the event and receive deserved praise for their efforts over the year. Sam Hawes, Charles Mallett, Emma Gooden, Joshua Lingley, Hannah Birch, Molly Gerrard, Chelsea Akroyd- Blight, Lucy Stokes and Tom Svensson all hit the stage to receive their Jack Petchey medallions.

We are very proud of all the students and we are also very honoured to be associated with the Jack Petchey Foundation. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of another six students during the rest of this academic year.

Sam Hawes - volunteering to coach the Year 7 football team.

Charles Mallett - volunteering to coach the Year 7 football team.

Emma Gooden - working extremely hard for all students within the school and supporting school activities.

Joshua Lingley - commitment to the Gardening Club and support of younger students.

Hannah Birch - supporting students in the Drama Club and commitment to behind the scenes for school productions.

Molly Gerrard - leadership and commitment at extra-curricular clubs and activities.

Chelsea Ackroyd- Blight - supporting EAL students and extensive charity work.

Lucy Stokes - working hard to support the school and many of its initiatives especially supporting younger students.

Tom Svensson - volunteering and commitment to supporting Year 5/6 sport at local primary schools. - Mr P Taylor



Boots 2 Africa

In response to an appeal from Boots 2 Africa, Ramsey Academy staff and students are rallying round to recycle their old football boots so that these can be re-homed in African villages and communities. Football is a popular sport in Africa, as in the rest of the world, and many excellent footballers hail from African countries. Alex Song, Dider Drogba and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang are three examples of African talent. Cobi Berkane and Joshua Ricca (Year 7) are raising awareness in support of the appeal.

Thank you to all students and parents who have help contribute to the Boots 2 Africa appeal. So far we have managed to deliver 80+ pairs of football boots to the charity which now has just under 1000 pairs which will be delivered to schools in Africa during April 2017. The appeal is aiming to combat the issue of 10,000+ children per year dying in Africa from snake bites and infection and thousands more getting sick from foot infections.

The project will run until 2030 with the target of 1 million pairs of football boots being distributed across the continent.

If you still have unwanted boots that you no longer wear please drop them off at Mr Taylor's office as every pair of boots donated really matters. - Mrs M Gibbs and Mr P Taylor





Sam Hawes



Charles Mallett



Emma Gooden



Joshua Lingley



Hannah Birch



Molly Gerrard



Chelsea Ackroyd-Blight



Lucy Stokes



Tom Svensson



Christmas Carol Service

On Monday 12 December, Year 7 students, prefects and staff enjoyed a festive carol service at St Andrews Church, Halstead. Three Year 7 students delivered bible readings to the congregation very confidently and clearly. They were: Thomas Bell, Izzy Peters and Charlie Mills. They represented the school very conscientiously and were a credit to their houses. Mr James also delivered a bible reading about the Christmas story.

Music to accompany the hymns was provided by the school orchestra and choir who performed beautifully. Reverend Katie de Bourcier gave a rousing sermon on the nativity and its significance in the modern world. Students conducted themselves very well and we were pleased to see a number of parents and other adults in attendance.

On Tuesday 13 December we returned to St Andrews for the Christmas Concert with The Colchester Band. Well done and thank you to

Jessica Thomas, Isobel Peters, Tom Winter, Amelia Bell, Maximus Felton, Imogen Dockrell, George Clarke, Hannah Birch, Rosie Shackell, Emily Williamson, Sam Smith, Faith Bird, Mollie Brine, Phoebe Warren, Katy Rudling, Lilly McKean, David Mead, Bridget Clegg & Beth Curnock. - Mr Lewis-James

Ski Trip

The Ramsey Academy is delighted to join Ski Notley for their annual ski trip to Austria.

Departing by coach on a Friday we arrive in resort on the Saturday and allow the students to settle into the hotel. We then take them to Ski Fit to collect their rented boots, skis and poles for the week. From Sunday to Friday we try to get onto the slopes as early as possible (nice early breakfasts!) and spend at least 6 hours skiing, weather permitting, with an hour break for lunch. After we return to the hotel to change and eat our evening meal, the students are provided with an evening activity, which in previous years has included tobogganing, tubing, bowling, swimming, quizzes and a disco, or downtime to chat to friends and surf the net.

On the Thursday evening the instructors present each student with their ski grade for the week. Friday is our last day on the slopes so we finish a few hours early and then return our ski gear. Once back at the hotel we have our evening meal, board the coach and return to England.



Futsal Tournaments

Over the last two weeks Ramsey was represented extremely well at the annual Futsal tournament at Notley. All Year groups were represented, with Year 7 and Year 8 warranting special mention. Mr. Child and Mr. O'Gorman would like to congratulate all the students involved and commend them on the manner in which they represented the school.

Player of the tournament for each Year group were as follows:

Year 11- Conor Avery for his superb volley

Year 10- Ben Tyrell for some outstanding keeping

Year 9- Taylor Stigant

Year 8- Sam Bell showing great control of the game

Year 7- Tom Leader for showing great leadership

Dates For your Diary

13-17 Feb - Half Term

23 Feb - Year 9 Options Evening

2 March - Year 9 Parents' Evening

17 March - Art in Residence Project

20 March - Art in Residence Project

30 March - Year 10 Parents' Evening

