



RamseyVoice

Newsletter

"Aspiring to be the best you can be"



Visit Online: www.ramseyacademy.com



Note from the Head

Welcome to the final edition of this year's Ramsey Voice and my final introduction as Headteacher.

It has been a privilege to be the Headteacher and lead The Ramsey Academy community for the past 8 years. We have attempted to achieve two broad aims. Students have been challenged to "be the best you can be" and as a school we have strived to be "an outstanding school in the heart of the community." I hope, because of these aims and the work we have completed, the school is seen to be in a stronger position than 2014.

The school has developed in many ways. We have grown from a student population of 500 to over 800, with a waiting list in every year group. This is particularly pleasing as it shows many families now choose Ramsey as their 'first choice' school for education. GCSE & BTEC results have continually improved, and the curriculum offers more subjects, offering more choice, allowing students to progress onto the next stage of their journey. The extended curriculum is gradually recovering following the pandemic, but the high number of students who complete the Ramsey Achievement Award, shows students received a full and meaningful experience during their learning journey with us.

Numerous projects have improved the facilities, including, refurbishment of the library and learning centre, continual upgrading of computers and interactive screens, re-cladding and roofing the Tower Block, new heating, hot water systems and lighting, refurbishment of the Astro-turf, a new Science laboratory and upgrading of classrooms and various Technology rooms. During the Summer holidays more planned projects include re-paving the areas between the teaching blocks, upgrading the IT system, including an additional 8 interactive screens and installation of a new multi-gym and fitness suite area.

The House names of 'Aspiration, Diversity and Endeavour' underpin everything we do. We have challenged students to take opportunities and chances, be aspirational but with the reality that things will not always go to plan, and they will need to be resilient.

Several articles in this newsletter illustrate this philosophy, including the recent visit to the University of Cambridge and our former student, Owen Smith, sharing his experiences after receiving a Maths Scholarship. Many students are limited by the scope of their experiences, fear of failing or by being told they will not be able to succeed. I would remind them of the following quotation:

"Aerodynamically the bumble bee should not be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn't know this, so it keeps on flying anyway."

I hope Ramsey students will continue to take the opportunities presented to them, be brave enough to accept challenges and always be the best they can be.

Rob James



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Cambridge University visit

On 22 June, a group of ten Ramsey Academy GCSE French and Spanish students, visited Cambridge University to experience a 'Why not Languages?' event. All students were an absolute pleasure to accompany on this day and thoroughly enjoyed this unique experience. I am extremely proud of all the contributions they made throughout the day during the lectures and Q and A sessions, especially their engagement with their Russian taster lesson, immediately asking me afterwards if we could introduce it to the Ramsey curriculum - maybe one day guys! French student, Rhys J, wrote the following article to share his experience.



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Faculty of Modern and Medieval
Languages and Linguistics

Ms G Kehoe,

"This Summer, ten of our Year 10 students were awarded the privilege of going on a trip to Cambridge University to be introduced to learning languages further. When we arrived, it seemed from the outside everything you would expect from one of the most famous universities in the world, but on the inside it was so much more than that. What must be understood is that a university is not a school, it is a place of education to the highest level. So as we walked into Cambridge, it was clear to see the unique ambition and gratitude of everyone around, to be at such a prestigious place.

The first event was a lecture on the reasons why we should consider taking languages further. This also included input from current students, which only built upon what was already said. For people our age, it is rare we are told why we learn something; so Cambridge gave an excellent argument which was something completely new to us. It made us well aware everything you could do to learn a language at university, and we found the options much less restricting than we first thought. A great lecture was given as to why languages, and education overall, should be taken further.

Following this, we received another lecture on the culture of Nazi Germany and the reasons for its reputation.

We were given the opportunity to see how the Nazi Party used propaganda to persuade Germans in their favour, and we were shown how they did this. In regard to language, we saw how language is a completely unrestricted thing; how it is not limited by definitions and conjunctions, but can be used in ways we had never thought of previously. It showed us that language is a great thing, so why shouldn't we want to learn it further?

After a break, we were introduced to the process of learning a language at Cambridge- we were showed the first steps of the Russian language. Here we were taught some basic phrases and saw the alphabet; one entirely different to our own. It was interesting to see how a language can be learned from scratch; that if done regularly, a language can be learned in a short time. By learning a language, you only improve your own capabilities and open your opportunities; so this hour we were introduced to a whole new opportunity for our later lives.

After lunch, we were lectured on the process of translation. Throughout, the lecturer referred to modern poetry and colloquial measures by which to educate. Once again we saw how language cannot be restrained, that the meaning of one foreign phrase can mean the same thing as one in English, but what the words mean are completely different. Through this, we saw that translation should not be viewed as a mundane activity, but rather to create connections between words that can mean completely opposite things, and so everything can become more connected overall.

Our last hour of the day was a question-and-answer section designed to give us the best aspect of learning languages, helped by the input of current students and a lecturer. It showed us that university relies on people, just as much as anywhere else, as well as and how they support their students. They drew us into the prospect of university; the comfort it gives you and the opportunity.

Overall, I think this trip was very enlightening, and it was wonderful to be given such an opportunity. I learnt a lot about why learning languages and further/higher education in itself is important, and how that is done. I thank Cambridge University, and our own MFL faculty, for giving us such an opportunity."

Rhys J

Cambridge University Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, offer a range of events and outreach initiatives to support prospective students, including widening participation aims and school language teaching. Their outreach programme encourages school students to explore new languages and cultures, and to continue studying languages at the next educational stage.

A series of online resources are available to view/read on their website:

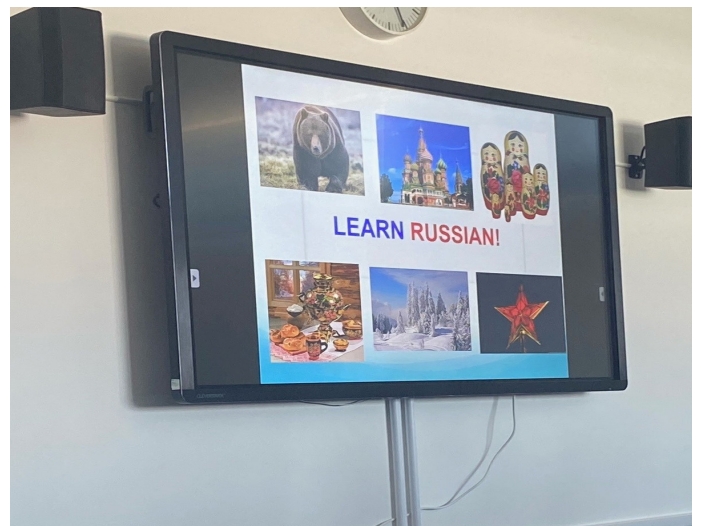
<https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/outreach-events-activities>

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Cambridge University visit



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Ramsey Year 11 Leavers

On 27 May, after one of their GCSE Chemistry exams, Year 11 enjoyed a series of leavers activities, including shirt signing, a dress up photo booth and very emotional presentations from their form tutors and our Senior Leadership Team. Here are a selection of photos taken at the event, the full gallery can be found on our website.



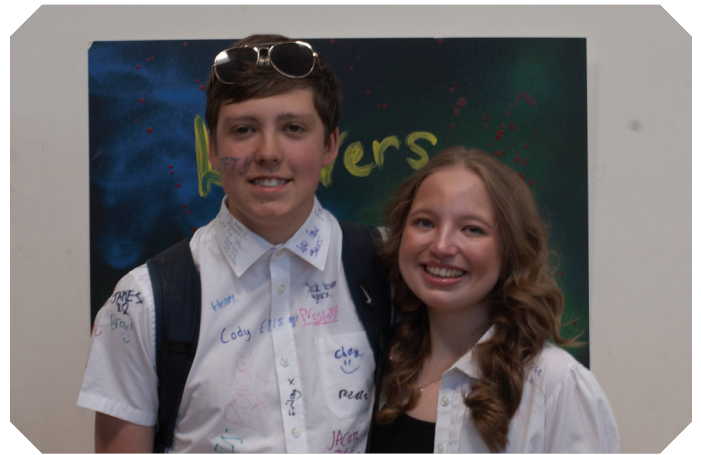
Ramsey Year 11 Leavers



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Ramsey Year 11 Leavers



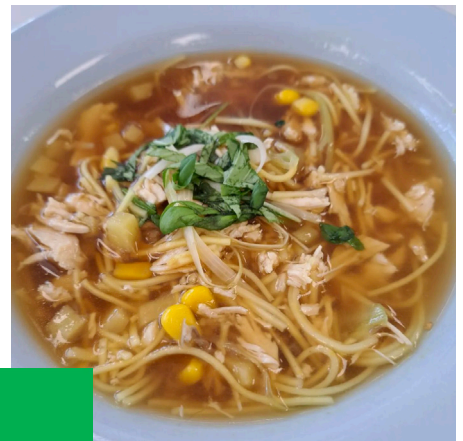
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Ramsey Food Tech News

Year 10 recently completed their final end of year practical assessments, producing some amazing dishes!



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Ramsey Food Tech News

On Thursday, 16 June, Andrew Callaghan gave a demonstration to Year 10 Food Students, on how to correctly fillet chicken. Filleting meat, fish and poultry, is a highly marked food preparation skill, that students are encouraged to demonstrate for their Year 11 exam. Andrew, who previously owned a butchers shop in Halstead, started giving these demonstrations way back in 2015, but had to stop for 2/3 years due to Covid restrictions. It was so nice to have him back at Ramsey Academy after this long absence.



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Library News

The Student Librarians this year have been a fantastic help! We are so grateful for all the help you have given us, keeping the library such a welcoming place! Thank you to the current crew and to all past librarians who undertook the role even for a short while. We hope you enjoyed the experience!



This Summer, we have been exploring historical terms and their meanings, hoping to encourage further reading of the school's history book collection. Literacy features across all subject areas and we have been focussing on this and trying to integrate different subject areas into our library displays.

We had a range of activities for students to enjoy celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. The word searches proved particularly popular, with some Year 10 students starting their own mini competitions to see who could finish first before registration!

Empathy Day and the activities and books recommended went down well with our students. There are a plethora of research articles proving that reading really does seem to make us better people. Even more reason to pick up a book and read!

We have had lots of book donations, plus many more new books waiting to be added to the library collection. Here are just a few of them.....



We have been promoting lots of Summer themed books to encourage students to read through the school holidays. Students are welcome to keep their library books and enjoy them over the Summer. Just bring them back in September! We wish you a very happy Summer break. Don't forget to keep reading! Best wishes from Mrs Heath and Mrs Gilbert

The Scholars Programme 2022

A group of selected Year 9 and 10 students have graduated this term from 'The Scholars Programme'. The programme helps pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to progress to the most competitive universities. They have completed weekly tutorials with a PhD tutor in a university style tutorial group. The programme aims to offer challenging content beyond what is found in the curriculum in school. The topic for debate was centred around 'Homelessness'. The students had to critically analyse data, research concepts, and form their own opinions on the topic. They then completed a final assignment which was marked by their PhD tutor using university level criteria and grading. Well done to all of the 2022 graduates! Here they are pictured attending their virtual graduation. Mr Mantle



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Sports Day - 28 June 2022

This year, through a project initiated by Mr Walker, our Sports Day events were covered by student reporters, represented by all year groups. Congratulations to; Rafi C, Eveie W, Joshua J, Rada U, Riley C, Phoebe E, Charlie T, Amy M, Ella K, Jessica T, Callum R, Izzy T, Tegan J, Alfie M and Oscar H who were excellent journalists, videographers and photographers on the day! Below are some of the articles they produced:

This is Year 7's first Sports Day at Ramsey Academy, so today is quite important.

Tennis:

Before her match Annabelle L (Endeavour) said:

"I'm kind of feeling nervous because I haven't played in a while."

Connor S (Aspiration) said:

"I'm excited! I think I will have a bit of competition."

After the match, the points come to:

D	E	A
22	30	48

So, Aspiration has won the Year 7 Tennis! Well Done

Aspiration! Aspiration team are very happy, but an unknown Diversity member says: "Aspiration cheat! but our spectator and score counter, Finlay H, made sure the scores were correct. "I'm making sure everyone is playing fair and all the scores are fair. I'm seeing some great teamwork."

Evie W

Year 8 Netball

The first match was between Aspiration and Endeavour. Many people were cheering, but in the end, it was a tie. Aspiration should earn a medal for their amazing teamwork and effort. Whereas, Endeavour were very organised and had a sense of the game and understood their surroundings.

Ella K

Year 10 Rounders

For Year 10 Rounders, Miss Ralph helped Endeavour by playing as the bowler against Aspiration. Even though Miss Ralph tried her hardest, she did not win against Aspiration, because Kellum and Fletcher scored 2 whole rounders for Aspiration. Miss Ralph lost because she failed to share the ball to her team and shouted at everyone who didn't hit the ball properly. Not a very good teammate!

Jamie S

Year 7 Girls Football

At the start of the match a Year 7 in Diversity said, "I think either Endeavour or Diversity will win." A Year 7 spectator from Diversity said, "I don't know what team will win."

First match, Endeavour won with 7 points and Diversity lost with 0 points.

Second match, Aspiration won with 2 points and Diversity lost with 0 points. Third match, Endeavour won with 3 points and Aspiration lost with 0 points. Endeavour came 1st, Aspiration 2nd and Diversity 3rd.

At the end, a Year 7 said "It was strange, Libby played good, after a while we started playing like a team it was a bit confusing."

Year 8 Boys Football

First match, Aspiration won with 2 points Diversity lost with 1 point.

Second match, Endeavour won with 2 points and Aspiration lost with 0 points. Third match, Endeavor won with 2 points and Diversity lost with 1 point.

Endeavour came 1st, Aspiration 2nd and Diversity 3rd. A Year 8 in Aspiration said, "I feel like we played well, we played to our advantages, and we were very aggressive." Another Year 8 said "I was annoyed and shocked when Miss Lindell joined the match."

Year 8 Girls Football

Aspiration Won.

Joshua J

Football: Despite the competition, Endeavour was extreme and won the Boys Football.

Netball: Quotes from Miss Pearce and Miss Reddey include - "It was a close game" and "It is very competitive - I hope Diversity wins", though Endeavour did not win (Aspiration) the team tried incredibly hard.

Girls Football: Unfortunately, Endeavour did not win, however, the Year 7 teams and hopefully more to come, defeated Diversity and annihilated Aspiration.

BMX: IS MISS PERINS TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL?

Though not a competition, all teams tried very hard. According to Miss Jordan-Burrows "The new competition adds diversity, and good opportunities. It is nice to encourage our rich cycling culture."

Rounders: One of many wins, Endeavour succeeds again with a whopping score of 8 rounders to 5 (Diversity).

Jessica T



Sports Day - 28 June 2022

Here are a selection of photographs our budding photographers and reporters took on Sports Day!



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Sports Day - 28 June 2022



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Activate your Summer!

Ahead of this Summer's Essex Activate programme, eligible families can book on to clubs taking place across the county. Follow the link below, to see what providers are delivering clubs near you, and catering for SEND pupils too. Working with a network of trusted local delivery partners, we run face to face clubs during the school holidays. These clubs are FREE for children and young people eligible for benefits based free school meals and those from low income working families. We are also able to extend this support to a number of other children and young people who may otherwise experience inactivity or social isolation without access to this free support. This is decided on a case by case basis so please speak to the organisation running the club you are interested in to discuss if this is an option for you.

BOOK HERE: <https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/bookings/>



FREE HOLIDAY CLUBS THIS SUMMER

- ✓ Enjoy lots of fun activities
- ✓ Eat tasty, nutritious meals
- ✓ Make life-long friends

BOOK ON
from midday
on June 20th

Department for Education | thurrock.gov.uk | Essex County Council

Year 11 Textiles/3D/Art

Part of the GCSE qualification, for students studying Art, Textiles and 3D Design is producing a final practical piece. Here is a gallery of talented students' work from this year's GCSE examinations.

Year 11 3D Final Pieces



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Year 11 3D Final Pieces



Year 11 Textiles Final Pieces

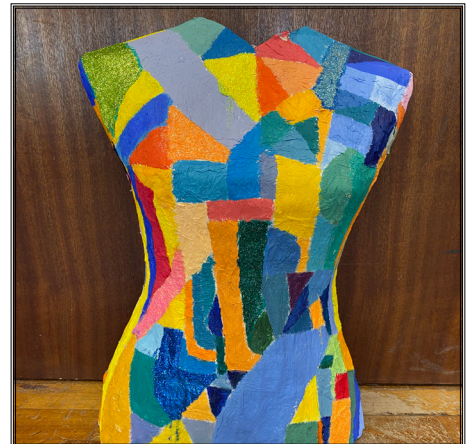
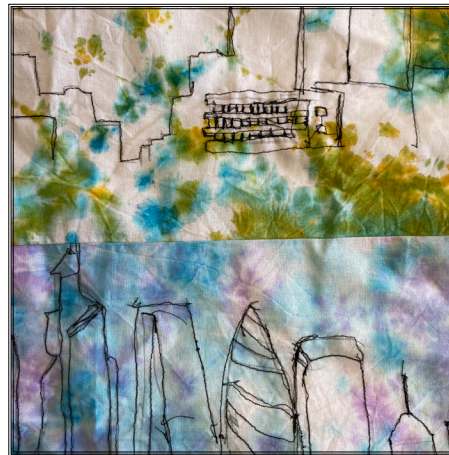


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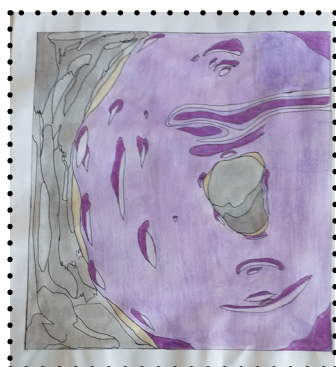
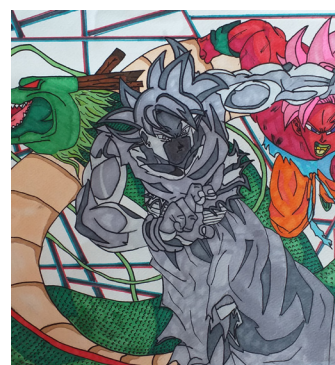
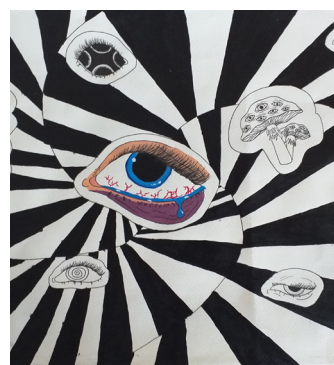
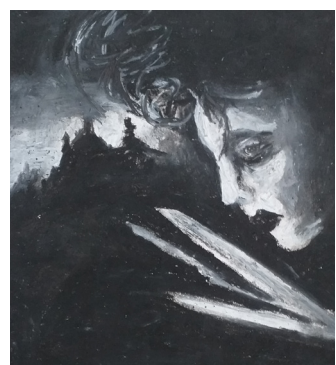
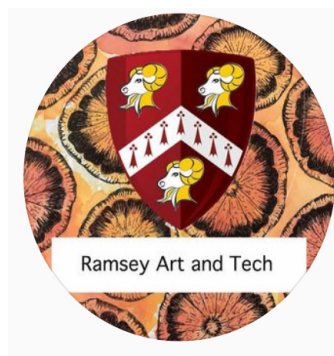
Year 11 Textiles Final Pieces



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Year 11 Art GCSE Final Pieces

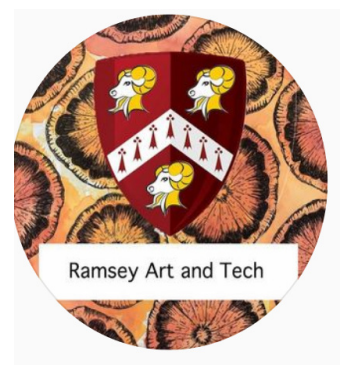
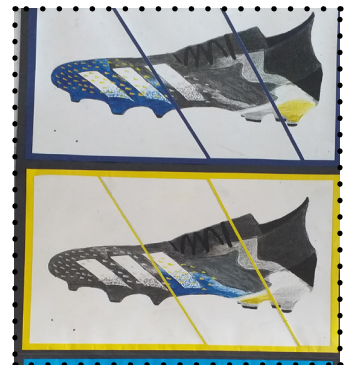
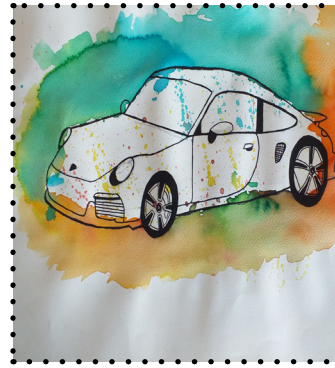


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Year 11 Art GCSE Final Pieces



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One Year On - Callum Leys Memorial Pitch Dedication

We can't believe that a whole year has gone by, since the Calum Leys Memorial Pitch was officially opened at Halstead Leisure Centre, by Mr Leys' wife Lorraine, as well as Ramsey Academy' School Captains and Under 11s Halstead FC Players. This facility is certainly an amazing school and community facility, which can be enjoyed by many, in memory of our wonderful Mr Leys.



GCSE Results Day information and advice



Just received your GCSE results? Need some help?

The following information will point you in the right direction...

For Colchester Institute – remember to upload an image of your results before the deadline!


Local Colleges and Sixth Forms:

The Colleges will be offering support after GCSE results - Please phone or check websites for further details as some offer an appointment-based system.

- * Chelmsford College – Tel: 01245 265611 - www.chelmsford.ac.uk
- * Colchester Institute/The College at Braintree – Tel No: 01206 712000 – www.colchester.ac.uk
- * Colchester 6th Form College - Tel No: 01206 500 700 - www.colchsf.ac.uk
- * Stansted Airport College – Tel No: 01279 868000 www.harlow-college.ac.uk
- * Writtle University College – Tel No: 01245 424200 – www.writtle.ac.uk
- * Heddingham Sixth form – 01787 460470 – www.heddingham.essex.sch.uk

Apprenticeships and Traineeships:

Check out the following websites for the latest apprenticeships and traineeship vacancies.

 www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/traineeshipsearch

Schemes for young people who are unemployed:

There are a variety of schemes that will support you if you don't have a next step – for further details of these schemes and for additional support if you are unemployed please contact: Essex Employability and Skills Team on 0800 7076384. They will put in touch with a local adviser.

The National Careers Service can help you with your career, learning and training choices – you can access this service on the phone or via webchat – for more details please visit their website – www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

Alumni News

Former Ramsey Academy student, Owen Smith, recently got in touch to share his experience of studying in 6th Form at the Royal Hospital School, having secured a Mathematics scholarship. Owen was aided in applying for the highly prestigious 'De Neumann' Mathematics Scholarship, by Ramsey's Mr Everett and Mrs Perrins, who came across the scheme and approached Owen with the idea for consideration. Here is what Owen had to say about securing the scholarship and what he's been up to at Royal Hospital School in the past couple of years since leaving us.

"It seems like only yesterday I was given a leaflet about a Mathematics scholarship at the Royal Hospital School. I decided I would give it a shot and was lucky enough to be successful in the process and become the very first "De Neumann Maths Scholar". Never would I have guessed that this decision would have had such an enormous impact on my life. I would just like to share with you what the past two years have meant for me and let you know what I've been up to.

Unlike most schools, RHS started in a semi full swing and I was soon introduced to some of the traditions, such as the "Divisions Parades". This is when the school do a marching parade in a military sailor's uniform. Despite having no knowledge of how to march or even how the parades worked, I decided I was going to tryout for the "elite" squad called the "Guard" and amazingly was successful to get in. I think its very cool! (we get to carry rifles whilst we march!).

Unfortunately sports fixtures were unable to go ahead during the first year at RHS, however there was an internal cross country race held at the school. I had recently rediscovered my love of running, so I decided to give it a go and came 1st in my year and 5th overall. Year 13 however, saw many fixtures go ahead. I represented the RHS' Rugby team throughout the first term having many victorious matches. The second term, saw multiple cross country fixtures take place, and despite never entering a proper competition before, I managed to work my way up to county level and represented "Suffolk Schools Athletic Association" at the East Anglia Cross Country Race. More recently I took part in the school's "Mini Marathon" involving a 10 mile run. This is the furthest I have ever run and managed to come 2nd and then at the school Sports Day, I also won the 400m race.

Despite many events being cancelled due to Covid, my first year at RHS was amazing. I made many new friends, discovered many new strange things, unique to the school, and to wrap it up, was awarded with the "Maths Prize" at the end of the year! My second year was even better, having every event going ahead that was possible including traditional military dinners and Sixth Form Balls.

I have become a much more confident, more enthusiastic, and have higher expectations for my subjects and more confidence in my academic abilities. I have discovered my passion lies in Aeronautical/Aerospace Engineering and am hoping to go to Southampton University to begin my study next year in an Engineering course.

As I begin my final week at RHS, there will be one more Divisions Parade on Saturday 2nd July. This is a special parade, as it is the Leavers Parade, marching off the Year 13s as they move on to the next stage in their life. Attached are some photos from my past two years here at RHS, I have made many amazing memories and am forever grateful for this opportunity."- Owen Smith



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Important information for Year 11 students and their families

Although it seems impossible to believe, you will soon be coming to the end of your GCSEs. The coming months will be exciting, but sometimes a little daunting. Below is a School Leavers Fact Sheet with information and contact details that can help you to navigate the next steps in your lives. There are useful contact details to support you whatever the outcome of your results. Good luck and I hope you find it useful!

 Essex County Council

YOUTH SERVICE

School Leavers Options Guide Summer 2022 – Mid Essex

Employability and Skills Team

A guide to support a young person's next steps.

We have produced this guide to support young people. The way that these opportunities are delivered may be subject to change.

Many of you will expect to achieve the grades needed and will be staying in your school sixth form, have secured a place at college, or have a start date agreed for an apprenticeship. If you do not have any firm plans in place then please read on:

Planning

When considering your next steps, it can seem confusing as there are so many options to choose from. Whether you are looking at further education, apprenticeships, work or training, we recommend that you research thoroughly. There are several websites listed in this resource which can help you to explore courses and careers. In addition, it is important to identify existing skills as well as your hobbies and interests to help you to make a good match. You could also speak with school or college staff, careers advisers and family networks to help you to make a strong choice. Remember to have a backup plan.

Extension to Child Benefit

If you are a school or college leaver, under 18, unemployed and do not have a course or training programme to start in September 2022, your parent/carer may be entitled to claim Extension to Child Benefit. There is a time limit in which you can register your claim. For more information contact the Employability and Skills Team on **0800 707 6384** to be put in touch with an Adviser in your local area.

College and Further Education options

If you have not already applied, then we suggest that you make applications quickly. There are broadly two different types of college course:

Academic Courses (e.g. A levels/ International Baccalaureate)

- Usually involves studying multiple subjects. This may provide increased progression options at the end of the course.
- Assessment is usually weighted towards exams with less emphasis on continuous assessment.
- Entry Criteria: Typically, applicants will be expected to achieve at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4. The specific requirements vary across schools and colleges.
- Some schools and Sixth Form Colleges may offer GCSE resit options for young people that have narrowly missed out on GCSE grades.