



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

"Aspiring to be the best you can be"



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Notes From the Head

Welcome to the second edition of the Ramsey Voice. If you missed the first edition and want to keep updated on some of the events that have taken place during the year, it can be found on our website.

Despite the cold weather, work has started on the first phase of refurbishing the cladding and windows of the Tower Block and is scheduled to be completed by April.

We want the school and students to be an integral part of the community. Numerous clubs and groups already use our facilities in the evenings and weekends, but we feel it is important for us to go out into the community as well. Recently we have been involved with Greenfields Community Housing and Halstead in Bloom. In addition, all students have been participating in the consultation for the proposed new Community Hall, including a representative group attending a meeting with the architects and planners to put forward the views of young people who will be using the facility in the future.

Congratulations to Bridget Clegg, Hannah Birch and Ali-May Brown, who have been elected to represent our area in the Young Essex Assembly. I am sure they will make a significant contribution to developing the community.

To encourage our students to 'aspire to be the best you can be' there have been a variety of extra-curricular events taking place. A visit to the University of Essex 'Big Bang' event proved very popular, especially as HRH Prince Charles was also in attendance. In addition, a highly entertaining, interactive presentation in school was given by Gerry Blake, from the Institute of Physics. This gave students a greater insight into the practical applications of science.

The importance of effective community cannot be underestimated, whether it be school, town, county or country as this quotation by Paul Ryan illustrates: "Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together".

At The Ramsey Academy we want to ensure our young people have as many opportunities as possible to engage and contribute to different communities. If you feel you are able to contribute in any way to increase these opportunities please contact us.

- Mr James

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

In September last year The Ramsey Academy launched The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, with 32 students from Years 10 and 11 signing up to take part. This was very promising, being the first year it was run. All of these students have now completed the majority of their sections since the expeditions in the summer and, from the 32 signed up, 10 students have already completed all sections of the Bronze Award and received their certificates. The remaining students are very close behind with only a few hours on their final sections to complete.

Pictured right are some of the students from the current Year 11 cohort who completed their expeditions in the summer and were presented with a certificate for this by the Earls Colne and Halstead Educational Charity. The Charity helped finance the start of the scheme for the Academy by awarding the school with a grant to help with the purchase of tents and other expensive expedition gear. This enabled students to undertake the walks with safe and correct equipment.



Photographed from left to right are: Hannah Page, Rose Barrow, Rebecca Hawes, Karen Mead, Saffron Hewitt, Ellie Walker, Rebecca Neale, Adam Peakall, Chris Webb, Thomas Street, Lewis Gibson, Suraj Roopnarine, Sam Woods, Ben Winter and Josh Clancy.

We are very proud of all students involved with the Award last year and want to thank them for their dedication. This year we are once again running the Award and already have over 60 students interested.

So, if your son/daughter is in Year 10 this year and would like to get involved, they need to register their interest in the next few weeks if they want to participate in this scheme.

- Mr Lugton

Meet our Head Girl: Rebecca Neale and Head Boy: James Walker



Hello, we would like to introduce ourselves as Head Boy and Head Girl at The Ramsey Academy, Halstead. We are proud of our roles which have presented us with new challenges and opportunities. Being a voice in the school has opened many doors for us and enabled us to have an impact on how the Academy works and progresses. We have represented the school in many ways, including speaking at events and conducting tours for prospective parents and interview candidates. There are great advantages to being Head Boy and Head Girl, for example, the Mayor's Tea which we were invited to attend along with many other privileged people of Halstead. Our proudest and most moving moment was on Remembrance Day in November when we laid a wreath on behalf of everyone at the Academy.

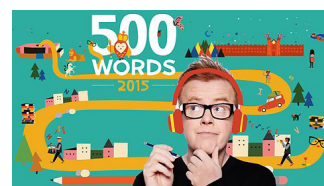
Sometimes we are asked how and why we became Head Boy and Head Girl. We had to apply to become prefects at the end of Year 10, writing about our achievements and why we would be good role models to other students. Staff had to share their opinions of each student and whether or not they deserved to wear the prefect tie. After becoming prefects, we decided to go further and apply to be Head Boy and Head Girl. At this point, all students and staff were able to vote for one boy and one girl. We were shortlisted along with 4 others and interviewed by senior staff. Thankfully, we were successful.

The success of the Academy has been phenomenal and we are incredibly proud to be Head Boy and Head Girl here.

- Rebecca Neale, James Walker

The BBC Radio 2 '500 Words' Competition

The BBC Radio 2 '500 Words' Short Story Competition is in full swing with Years 7 and 8. Launched and co-ordinated by Ms Williams, this is an exciting national competition that runs each year.



This fantastic competition has two categories: under 9 years old and 10-13 years old. Children have to submit their own creative story of 500 words and entries are judged as part of the Hay Festival 'Hay Fever' children's programme. This is a great opportunity to let the imagination run wild. The closing date is 26th February 2015 and the school will also be running an internal House competition of our entries. If you would like to know more about the competition and read some of the previous years' entries, including winners' stories, use the following link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

- Mrs Gibbs

The Jack Petchey Awards Evening

Congratulations to the students who collected their Jack Petchey medallions on 27th January 2015. Jack Gooden for leadership in table tennis; Noah Parkinson for his effort and commitment to the Gardening Club; Hannah Page for her work and commitment to the Aspiration House Charity Week; Callum Turner for his effort and commitment to the orienteering team; Jack Edwards for his leadership and commitment to the Primary Athletics Club; Eleanor Walker for her leadership and support with the Primary Science Club and Robert Starkey for his work in developing Literacy within the school.



- Mr Taylor



Big Bang Essex University - STEM Experience

Students from Year 10 joined The Prince of Wales in exploring Science and Technology. The fair showcased the exciting opportunities offered by Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

At the fair, students were able to interact and engage with leading employers such as BT, Network Rail, Royal Navy, Selex, BSKyB and Bloodhound SSC, as well as brushing shoulders with The Prince of Wales.

Our Year 10 also managed to gain an academic insight into oil disasters at sea, communication networks and the Global spread of tropical diseases. The trip was extremely enjoyable and gave students an insight into STEM subjects, as well as experiencing University life.

- Mr Taylor

Ski Trip

This February half term we will be taking a group of 9 Year 11 students to the heights of Zauchensee, Austria to experience some proper snow! We are going with a group from Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form on a skiing adventure. Students are currently (or at least should be) completing leg exercises so there will be no excuses for tiredness whilst out on the slopes.

It will be a long journey there (24 hours by coach) and 6 full days of skiing, as well as evening activities, before a hopefully quieter coach on the return journey. We look forward to telling you about our trip in the next edition of Ramsey Voice.

- Mr Murray



Visit from Halstead Butcher

In November, local Halstead butcher, Andrew Callaghan, came to The Ramsey Academy to show Year 11 Catering students some butchery skills. He demonstrated how to debone a whole chicken and then set the students to task with having a go themselves.

Year 11 catering students are encouraged to demonstrate skills in meat and poultry preparation for their GCSE practical. This includes: boning, mincing, filleting and shaping meat items.

Mr Callaghan has kindly offered to return soon to demonstrate the art of sausage making!
- Mrs Bushell



Gerry Blake Science Visit

On Monday January 12th Mr Gerry Blake from the Institute of Physics visited the Academy. He gave a presentation to a number of students in Years 8, 9 and 10. One Year 10 student, Sian Adams, wrote about this presentation:

'On Monday Mr Blake taught us the Physics behind the Earth's atmosphere getting thicker and the Earth heating up. He showed us many demonstrations of what is happening to our atmosphere. The one that intrigued us the most was a small tub filled with polystyrene balls. This represented our original atmosphere. Mr Blake then added larger, coloured balls to show what we are adding to our atmosphere and how it is affecting it.

Using two volunteers, he also showed us a model of how far the Earth is away from the Sun and how small we are in comparison. This was fascinating.'
- Mrs Sterland

Gardening Club

You might think that things would quieten down over the winter. Not so! The greenhouse has been a hive of industry. We have changed the way we work to get the most out of our time. We have nursed 100 pots of Tete-a-Tete Narcissi and 20 pots of Hyacinths in the greenhouse, for the last two months. They should flower in the next six weeks, ready for us to sell. We have sown dozens of pots of eleven types of herb. In six to eight weeks we hope to supply the cookery class kitchens. As we get into spring, more and more seeds will be started off under cover.

Our members have spent long hours processing old wooden pallets into usable planks. These are now being made into large cold frames, which will be placed next to the entrance of our allotment site. We will soon be able to properly harden off our young plants, releasing space in the greenhouse to plant even more seeds.

The club has entered the school into the 'Use The Plot' competition organised by 'Edible Essex'. The entrants have to devise a project with a budget of £500. The task is to benefit the school and community by growing food in the garden. Our project is to build a 28ft by 14ft Polytunnel alongside our fenced allotment plot. The winners get to implement their project. Here's hoping!

Steve Pittuck, our adult organiser, has been asked to speak at the AGM of 'Halstead In Bloom'. They want to hear more about our Gardening Club and our plans for the future. The Gardening Club is keen to welcome new members, both students and staff. Volunteers from the community are also much appreciated, especially if they can give us the benefit of their gardening experience. It is going to be an exciting time, building on the success of last year!
- Mr Pittuck



Christmas Concert Review

On Wednesday 17th December over 40 musicians took part in The Ramsey Academy Christmas Concert. Seasonal favourites such as 'Merry Christmas Everybody' and 'Winter Wonderland' shared the programme with recent songs such as 'Santa Tell Me, and 'Let it Go'. Each half of the concert was led by the Year 10 dancers: Izzy Jay, Georgia Gower, Georgia Smith, Amy White and Jessica Maddocks. Superb solo work followed from: Maisie Smith, Lilly McKean, Leanne Jones, Beth Curnock, Bridget Clegg, Phoebe Bruce, Chloe Chaplin, Terry Shortt, Finley Crussell, Morgan Wilkin, Morgan Finlayson, Pearl Knight, Kira-Nerys Freeman, Tiannah Nelson, Jessica Maddocks, Bailey Hamilton and Jessica Surman. These performers were joined by Aishah Forster, Estelle Hewitt, Alisha Humphrey, David Mead, Shadelle Nelson, Holly Taylor, Carlin Marshall, Georgia Thornhill, Leanne Bedlow, Malachi Chiverton, Olivia Vinter, Rosie Shackell, Emily Williamson, Freya Walker, Millie Oxley, Phoebe Warren, Hanna Birch, Emily Wood, Mr Parr, Mr Maddocks and Mr Lewis-James in the choirs and ensembles. Well done to Jessica Maddocks and Bailey Hamilton who were the compères for the evening. A perfect start to the festive period!
- Mr Lewis-James

Bugsy Malone - SHOW TIME!

There is a real buzz of excitement as the Main School Musical Production of "Bugsy Malone" draws near!

Show dates are: Thursday 12th March, Friday 13th March and Saturday 14th March 2015 with a start time of 7:30pm. Tickets cost £8 full price and £6 concession.

Set in 1929 New York City, Bugsy Malone captures the world of gangsters, recession, showgirls, and wannabe stars! Fat Sam, owner of Fat Sam's Grand Slam Speakeasy, battles it out with Dandy Dan, mob boss, to maintain their racketeering ventures and gain control of the new-fangled "Splurge Guns". Alongside would-be singer, Blousey Brown, glittering girlfriend, Tallulah, and soft shoe hoofer, Fizzy, Bugsy Malone tries to keep his head down and everyone happy. Comedy hoodlums, live music and flashy beauties abound in this bubbly musical.

Keep your eyes out for tickets on sale soon!

- Mrs Barnes

12th, 13th, 14th March 2015

BUGSY MALONE

Full: £8
Concession: £6

Start:
7.30pm



Ramsey Academy, Halstead Presents...



Premier League 4 Sport - Table Tennis

Students from the Academy represented Chelsea FC in the Premier League 4 Sport Table Tennis competition at BATTs Table Tennis Club in Harlow. Jack Gooden, Oliver Watts and Ashley Bird put on the Chelsea strip and competed against players from West Ham United FC, Tottenham Hotspur FC, QPR FC and Portsmouth FC.

The boys put in an excellent day's play, winning a number of matches in their sections. Jack Gooden was the most successful player, picking up a bronze medal. The competition was a celebration of all the hard work the students and football clubs/coaches have put in over the weeks. The boys were a credit to the school, playing the game in true sportsmanlike fashion and they thoroughly enjoyed the day.

The school's club, run by Dean Andrews and funded by Chelsea FC, is still running on Mondays 3pm-4.30pm and all ages and abilities are welcome.

- Mr Taylor

Greenfields Community Housing Art Competition

Greenfields Community Housing held an Art competition to source work for display in one of the transformed older persons' schemes in Halstead. The artwork had to reflect an aspect of Halstead, such as a street scene or landscape. Students could use any media they wished to showcase their skills effectively. Students produced a wide range of quality responses.

First place went to Shona Morrison-Kemp who won an iPad mini. Runners up Caroline Mathews and Bethany Wheeler won Amazon vouchers. The winning students received a framed copy of their artwork. You can see the original artworks on display in Symonds Court. Every student that entered the competition received a box of chocolates.

- Mrs Tyler



Dates For your Diary...



Feb

13th - 20th - Ski Trip
24th - Return from half term
26th - Closing date for '500 Words' Competition

March

9th, 10th - Bugsy Malone Rehearsals
12th, 13th, 14th - Bugsy Malone Production
20th - Year 11 Photographs
23rd - Year 10 Parents Evening
26th, 27th - Year 11 Art Exam
27th - Last day before the Easter Holiday

Jack Petchey Awards

On Tuesday 27th January 2015, students from The Ramsey Academy, Halstead, performed at the Jack Petchey Awards at the Braintree Arts Theatre. They gave a beautiful performance of "Tomorrow", a number from the forthcoming musical production of "Bugsy Malone". With



heart-wrenching singing from Maisie Smith (Yr 7) and lyrical choreography from Beth Curnock, Libby Thompson, Jodie Tyler, Holly Taylor and Lucy Stokes, they proudly represented The Ramsey Academy and the show. We congratulate them all!

- Mrs Barnes