



Ramsey Voice

Updates Newsletter

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Notes From the Head

Welcome to the final edition of this year's Ramsey Voice. I hope you have enjoyed sharing in the experiences of the students, staff and governors throughout a very busy and successful year. We have not only provided a huge range of opportunities for our young people locally, but our active engagement with several national projects has allowed us to access a range of offers that would not normally be available.

This term we bid farewell to our Year 11 students, who completed their GCSE examinations and are awaiting their results in August. They celebrated the end of their time at Ramsey with a 'Leavers Assembly' and the now traditional 'Prom'; held at the Essex Golf & Country Club. A report and photographs is featured on page 7. It was a great evening and a fitting way to finish their school career. We wish them good luck for the next stage of their education or training.

The students are our best ambassadors and we are delighted with the number of positive comments we receive when either visitors come to the Academy or the students have supported local events, charities or participated in visits. Recently they have helped

several primary schools organise their sports day, attended mock job interviews, participated in Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, as well as representing us in a number of trips and sporting fixtures.

Politics has dominated the news in recent weeks and we have also had the opportunity to be involved. Following an invitation from James Cleverly, our local MP, Mrs Price, completed a week's internship in Parliament and as a result numerous activities will be arranged next year to raise the awareness of the role of young people in politics.

Voting in school resulted in the election of our new Head Boy & Girl, Oliver Benson and Lucy Stokes. They will have a key role along with involving the Student Management Team and other students working with the Senior Leadership Team to implement our School Improvement Plan.

We are delighted that so many of the students have embraced the 'growth mindset' approach which we have encouraged during the year. Many have risen to the challenge often being taken outside their comfort zone; but have been willing to take risks and learn from their experiences. We want students to broaden their horizons and be prepared to try new experiences. We will endeavour to provide the opportunities for this to happen.

On behalf of the students and staff I would like to thank those in the local community who have helped us provide a wide range of opportunities and ask if you feel able to offer support of any kind, then please contact us. The continued involvement and expansion of networks with local organisations and businesses will contribute to us achieving our aim of being 'an outstanding school in the heart of the community.' - Mr R James

Head Boy and Head Girl

Our names are Oliver Benson and Lucy Stokes and we are the new Head Boy and Head Girl at The Ramsey Academy. We are both very grateful and excited to be appointed to these important school positions. As Head Boy and Head Girl, our job is to support and connect the students with our Senior Leadership Team and wider school community. To do this we will be asking students, parents and teachers for suggestions on what they think should happen to improve the Academy further.

Our roles include: representing the Academy; making presentations to parents, staff and students; supporting teams within the Academy and acting as role models for younger students. We look forward to working closely with the Academy over the next year and feel we are trusted and confident in representing our school positively. We would like to thank Mr James and The Ramsey Academy for giving us this excellent opportunity. We won't let you down! - Oliver Benson and Lucy Stokes



Send my Friend to School

Year 7 students are speaking out about the vital need to deliver education for the 37 million children who are out of school in countries affected by war and natural disasters and other emergencies. Thousands of young people across the UK will be taking part in the Send My Friend to School campaign during 2016, which is expected to involve over half a million young people.

Worldwide the numbers affected by emergencies is at an all time high displacing more children than ever before from their homes and schools. As part of the Global Goals agreed in September 2015, world leaders have made a commitment to deliver quality education for every child until the age of 15.

Mrs Perrins said: "Year 7 students have been learning about the barriers to education for the tens of millions of children who are out of school in countries affected by war and conflict, natural disasters and health emergencies. They are so passionate about the need to give these children an education and provide them with a safe place to learn and give them hope for the future."

"They have now created paper rucksacks symbolizing the journeys that children have to take when they have to flee in an emergency. They have filled them with things they would pack if they had to leave their school behind and have covered them with messages asking for urgent action to ensure that no child anywhere in the world is left behind on education. They will be sending the rucksacks to Mr James Cleverly MP to deliver to No 10 to remind the UK government of the new goal of quality education worldwide for every child up to 15."

Some key facts

- 37 million children are out of school in countries affected by crisis (22 million primary aged children and 15 million secondary)
- 24 million children are missing school due to war and conflict - that's 1 in 4 children across 22 conflict countries
- 175 million children are affected by natural disaster every year, disrupting schooling for many. In 2015 in Nepal 1 million children were left out of school after two massive earthquakes destroyed 32,000 classrooms.
- In Sierra Leone nearly 2 million children were forced to abandon school because of Ebola.
- In northern Nigeria the violence from Boko Haram has displaced 1.4 million children from their homes and destroyed 900 schools.
- Less than 2% of aid in emergencies goes towards education
- Girls are two and a half times more likely to be out of school in conflict countries than if they lived elsewhere (EFA GMR 2015)
- 90% of children with disabilities in the developing world are missing out on school (UNICEF - Global Initiative on Out-Of-School children)



Year 10 Mock Interviews



Holmes & Hills



This half term, 30 Year 10 students have been challenging themselves by attending mock interviews with local firms: Halstead Leisure Centre; Greenfields Community Housing; Maycast-Nokes Precision Engineering Ltd; Braintree District Council, Sainsburys and Holmes and Hills Solicitors. Many thanks are extended to the companies who extended this great opportunity to Ramsey students. Mrs M Gibbs and Mr M Child

Although initially nervous, students reported the great value of being able to attend a trial work interview in a real business situation. Below is an account from a participating student:

On Monday 4 July I went to my interview at Halstead Leisure Centre. When I was picked to do the interview I felt excited because I thought it would be a good experience for my future. I got to the interview a bit early to make a good impression. I felt quite nervous before the interview. I didn't understand all the questions the interviewers asked me and I felt under a lot of pressure, but they made me feel very comfortable.

From this experience I learnt to always research the company beforehand and to prepare for possible questions. I also recommend that your contact information is correct and always to have an alternative phone number because I've learnt that if they can't get in touch with you, they won't offer you the job. When going for an interview I advise you to always look presentable to make a good impression.

I recommend this experience to other students as it will help them in their future. This experience will help you practise for interviews when you are looking for a work place. It also will give you an idea on what to put on your CV. - Jonathan Morris

Ready-or-Not Tot

Chelsea Ackroyd Blight has kindly donated the money she won with Jack Petchey to the House Office.

The House Office has decided to buy a 'Ready-or-Not Tot' to support students in Years 9 and 10. They will be able to take the baby home for a weekend and will learn what hard work babies can really be! The baby has a programmable computer and he will require feeding, changing and entertaining even throughout the night.

Students will receive instruction on how to care for babies and a preventative talk on how to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

Students will be encouraged to take the tot in pairs, but if anyone wanted to be the sole parent then this could be arranged.

These 'Ready-or-Not Tots' are used commonly in schools worldwide and are thought to have a much bigger impact than a classroom based lesson.

The baby remains nameless and I am looking for inspiration to name the child. - Mrs J Ayres



Design Faculty Visit Richard de Clare Year 5s

A teacher, technician, and two Year 8 students paid a visit to Richard de Clare Community School in Halstead. Our aim was to introduce them to some of the skills they would be acquiring when they join us in a year's time.

We designed, prototyped, and adapted a design for a pencil holder. It was in the shape of a giant pencil on a stand. The year 5 students worked their way through a number of processes - sanding, joining with glue (with the assistance of mallets!), and staining with wood dyes.

Everybody completed the project to an excellent standard, and they all went home with a finished pencil holder. - Mr S Pittuck



Building Works Update

As work continues on the tower block, we would like to keep you updated on the progress and time scales.

The first stage of asbestos removal has taken place and is set to continue each weekend until the summer holidays when it will change to weekdays. On 25 July, the first windows will be removed on the north elevation. Works on the elevated levels are likely to be finished by early September.

We have kept disruption to a minimum for staff and students and feel confident that the end results will be worth any short term inconvenience. - Ms K Holroyd

Teachers' Institute Internship

I was fortunate enough to be selected to participate in a Teachers' Internship Programme run by the Parliamentary Education Service. This involved me spending a week in Westminster from 4 to 8 July, with 68 other teachers from the whole of the UK. We were there at a particularly interesting time as the Conservative Party leadership, the Labour Shadow Cabinet reshuffle, the Chilcot enquiry and Britain's future outside the EU were all being debated at the same time.

The programme involved a packed week of meetings with MPs and a whole range of people involved with Parliament. These ranged from the Speaker, Right Honourable John Bercow MP, to Sarah Chapman, a House of Commons Senior Doorkeeper. We also had fascinating talks by Steven Ayres who is a Library Statistician on voting and elections, and Lord Lisvane, a parliamentary expert who has recently been given a peerage for the House of Lords. Highlights of the week included a full tour of the House of Commons and House of Lords, and I even got to stand at the dispatch box, in true Prime Minister Style. I watched Prime Minister's Question Time, and watched many debates in the House of Commons and Lords, as well as visiting Select Committees, and the Supreme Court.



UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

We also had a talk on e-petitions, from the powerful e-petitions which have changed legislations such as the recent debate on women wearing compulsory high heels; to some more trivial matters, such as the man who set up an e-petition to make Cadbury's Crème Egg Easter Eggs as a larger replica of the smaller ones, rather than simply hollow!

As well as being an incredibly interesting week, this will hugely benefit the students. The programme was aimed at Citizenship education in all Key Stages, and will be invaluable to the political lessons delivered to students at Ramsey. The school now has direct communication to the Education Service at parliament, and we now have access to a huge amount of stimulating and challenging resources. The school is aiming to visit Parliament soon, so students can experience the history, power and debates all for themselves. - Mrs H Price



Cheri Root - The role of a governor

About a year and a half ago I became a governor at The Ramsey Academy to make a positive contribution to education in my local area. As a parent of a student at the school and someone who has lived in Halstead for almost 30 years, I also wanted to get involved in helping the school to develop and grow as part of the community.

My role is to work alongside other governors to provide support to the Academy's leadership team in raising standards by monitoring and challenging, and to provide direction to help the Academy to achieve its goals.

As governors, we meet regularly to discuss a wide range of issues concerning curriculum, standards, finance and school policy. To help us to understand more about how the school operates, each of us has a link with a particular subject area and meets with the Subject Leader to talk to them about the key developments and achievements in their area, the challenges they are facing, and what support they would like from the governing body.

What was apparent to me from the very first meeting I attended was the enthusiasm and ambition that the whole team has for The Ramsey Academy. Teachers demonstrate a real passion for their subject areas and I have seen how this can inspire the students to share that enthusiasm.

There are significant changes happening to the curriculum nationally, and each teacher I have met has demonstrated a clear commitment to do everything that they can to support students through these changes. Teachers make learning opportunities varied and fun for the class and provide individual tailored support to help each student reach their potential.

I have seen some fascinating work in a number of areas from the growth mind set programme that supports the curriculum and encourages students to adopt an approach of lifelong learning and improve their resilience, to the improvements that the Academy is making as well as the learning environment.

We also have the opportunity to share in some of the great successes and events at the Academy by attending awards ceremonies, concerts and shows and seeing students working hard in their normal school day through our visits and learning walks.

Every time I visit the school and see the range of things going on, or look at the website, I cannot help but be amazed by the achievements and attitude of The Ramsey Academy students. This edition of Ramsey Voice has even more examples of this, making me proud to be associated with our school and its place in the community.

When I took this role on, I was not quite sure what to expect, but I can genuinely say that it has been a surprising and rewarding experience that I thoroughly enjoy. - Cheri Root

Gardening Club

There has been an explosion of activity on our allotment site this term! The extremes of rain and sun have boosted plant growth. Everything is green! Weeding has taken place on an industrial scale.

After weeks of watching the weather, a one day window of opportunity opened and we replaced our damaged Polytunnel cover. James, Noah, Oliver, Josh and myself worked in hot and humid conditions after school. What a professional team - well done lads! Again, our thanks to Halstead WI for funding the new cover.

Last newsletter we reported our success in the RHS Schools Gardening Five Star Awards, achieving levels 3 and 4. The certificates and prizes have arrived.

Level 3 gives us boxes of growing plants for the next three terms - we will be getting redcurrants, gooseberries, raspberries and much more in September.

Level 4 is a Raspberry Pi with a camera facility to make time lapse films of plants growing. When we have worked out how to use it we will be posting our films online. We aim to complete our level 5 award early next year. A joint community project with 'Halstead In Bloom' will provide the final evidence we need.

On 22 July, the final day of term, we will be visited by the 'Anglia In Bloom' judges as they tour the town. Our club members will present the site to the judges. This year we are entering the 'Grow Your Own' category. Daisy Reader has used the 'square foot' planting system growing twelve different salad/herb/vegetable crops in a raised bed. This will go towards her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Ivan and Zack have both planted potatoes. Ivan has used a raised bed. Zack has planted his in plastic containers. Zack's have been harvested already, and Ivan's are well on the way.

We completed the RHS Rocket Seed experiment. One set of seeds outperformed the other in speed of growth and size by 20%. We did not expect this! The stronger seeds were from the 'Blue' packet, and were indeed the ones that Tim Peake had taken to the International Space Station.

We lose four of our Year 11 members this term. James, Joe, Tom and Dan are off to college. Our best wishes go with them and also our thanks for their hard work supporting the Gardening Club. - Mr S Pittuck



Hardwood Donation

The Product Design Department has been fortunate to receive a massive donation of hardwoods and softwoods. A parent of one of our Year 9 students works for Essex Woodcraft Ltd in Colchester. They are a specialist joinery company supplying the construction, fit-out, shop-fitting and heritage markets. They use the highest quality materials for their projects and due to the nature of their work, produce large amounts of offcuts which they cannot use. The Academy has been given two large pallets of excellent quality wood.

We filled a large transit van to the roof, loading with a forklift and then taking an hour to unload!

Our Year 10s and 11s now have access to wonderful resources with interesting tactile properties. These will support them when designing their final pieces for GCSE. They are already excited and coming up with ideas. The donation also brings home the message of recycling and sustainability.



We have enough good wood to keep us going for a couple of years. Grateful thanks to Essex Woodcraft Ltd. - Mr S Pittuck

All That Jazz - Wednesday 29 June 2016

On Wednesday 29 June The Ramsey Academy, Halstead proudly presented a music and dance show called 'All That Jazz'. It was a show that included singing, dancing and music from popular films and musicals.

The Colchester Band and The Halstead Community choir came to perform in the show. We would like to thank them for their brilliant performances and hope that they will want to come and perform with us again in future shows.

The show was a great success and we sold almost 200 tickets. The dance performances were fun and energetic and included Grease, High School musical, Camp Rock, Chicago and Dreamgirls. Beth Curnock and Bridget Clegg sang solos from Les Miserables and Lolly Cooke sang 'All That Jazz' from Chicago. Some ex-students also came back to sing and dance and were amazing. We would like to thank everyone who came to support the show. - Shadelle Nelson

Jack Petchey Winners

Congratulations to the recent Jack Petchey Award winners. Students and staff nominated students who they felt deserved recognition for their efforts and commitment to the school or local community.

Sam Hawes and Charles Mallett received the award for their commitment and effort in running the Year 7 football team.

Molly Gerrard received the award for her commitment to extra-curricular activities and her leadership roles within the clubs.

Emma Gooden gained the award for her commitment and dedication to her role as Head Girl and for her leadership throughout a number of subjects, especially MFL.

Chelsea Ackroyd -Blight was recognised for all the hard work and effort she has given to the Endeavour Charity week alongside her commitment to helping her peers who have English as an additional language.

Finally Lucy Stokes was acknowledged for her voluntary efforts and commitment to the school community as well as using her leadership skills effectively to help other students.

The Awards are really unique and special to receive. We would once again like to thank the Jack Petchey Foundation for all their support of our youngsters and we look forward to more students gaining recognition for their efforts throughout the new academic year.

£1763 Raised for The Smile of Arran Trust

The Smile of Arran Trust received a generous boost from The Ramsey Academy students and staff when Mrs Tosh was welcomed to their assembly to collect a cheque for £1763 - the proceeds raised by Aspiration House during their charity week earlier in the Summer term. Mrs Tosh said "I am overwhelmed by the support and caring nature of the Ramsey students who had all given so generously of their time and money to raise money for such an important cause. I am so pleased that Arran



has become their inspiration." She was delighted that the students had chosen unanimously to support the Smile of Arran for the second year running and had exceeded their total from last year! The Smile of Arran Trust was set up in memory of Arran Tosh who sadly died as a result of a brain tumour at 13 years old; further details about the Trust can be found at <http://www.smileofarran.com>.

During the charity week, students and staff joined in a Lip-Sync Battle, a Y-Ball contest, baked and sold cakes, added their finger prints to a Smile of Arran Tree canvas and walked or even ran miles at lunchtime in a Sponsored Walk.

The cheque is being presented by Mr Rob James, Head Teacher, Mrs Sims, Aspiration Raising Standards Leader and Lauren-Mae Cooke to Mrs Alison Tosh.

Ramsey Academy Orienteering Team

On Sunday 19 June, The Ramsey Academy Orienteering team had their last Schools League event for the season, for the Year 11's it was their last ever run for Ramsey. Once again we came home with medals, with Thomas Turner winning silver for his age category, and myself (Lucy Edwards) winning gold in my age category. As always the competition was strong and Callum Turner, along with others just missed placing in the top three.

This season's orienteering has been very successful, with many of our squad being asked to run for Essex and East Anglia. Recently we had the Yvette Baker final, in which we had most of our squad running. As a small club we did very well and without our Ramsey Team this would have not been possible.

The past 5 years at Ramsey have been amazing. Our Orienteering started off as 3 or 4 students from St Andrew's primary school, and has grown into a squad. At the East Anglian School Championships last year we had the most successful ever day for Ramsey. Having to take two minibuses because of the amount of students taking part, we came home with every age category winning a medal, including Gold, Silver and Bronze. This shows just how good our team can be! However none of this would have been possible without the help of Julie Edwards our squad leader, who organises every event and training session to make sure we get there on time and prepared. I would also like to thank Simon and Sharon Turner who help organise and drive us to the events. To the Ramsey Orienteering team, thank you for your continued participation and support, you should all be proud of what you have achieved over the years through the sport. I wish the other Year 11's well and hopefully they continue to take part in orienteering, be it as an individual or for their new colleges.

I am proud to say that I was part of this team for many years, and I will hopefully see Ramsey continue to thrive at orienteering events. - Lucy Edwards



Leavers Prom 2016

Time to party and put on the style at the Essex Golf and Country Club! Ramsey Year 11 Leavers pulled out all the stops to celebrate the end of an era on Thursday 14 July. Large crowds gathered to watch them arrive in a spectacular range of limousines, vintage cars, an Army truck and even a quad bike with outriders. The girls looked so elegant in their beautiful dresses and towering heels, but were equalled by the boys who were all suited and booted in style! The students and staff enjoyed an evening of entertainment during their 3-course meal, posed for photos and then danced the night away. Naturally the important vote of the evening was eagerly awaited: Prom King, Owen George, and Prom Queen, Kaitlyn Draper, were crowned on their thrones and 'Best Dressed' awards were given to Jack Hawes and Halimah Babor. - Mrs R Sims



Colchester Institute Art Trip

On Monday 10 July Year 10 Art students went to the Colchester institute. The trip was free of charge! We joined in with four workshops run by the University of Colchester and the Colchester institute.

When we got off the coach we went straight into a lecture room where a lady told us what we were doing for the day. Firstly our group went to print making where we drew the outline of our chosen emoji, then we made up a colour and used the printing machine to create three screen prints.

Secondly our group went to Photography where in groups of three we organised and took photos of our shoes to reflect our identity / personality. We used a Polaroid camera which meant our prints were instant. After that we took a quick tour round the Photography department then back downstairs to enlarge and compose our large photo.

In Art History we talked about art, money and what money is to us / represents. Using decommissioned money and photocopies we used our origami skills to construct new art forms. This was really fun and everybody produced something different.

Finally we went to ceramics; here we made ceramic portraits and experimented with imprinting clay and joining clay to make a face. We were also allowed to add colour using coloured slip (a type of glaze)

Just before we left we went back to the lecture room to fill out a survey of what we thought of the day. I think that everyone enjoyed it because it helped us to understand college life and the variety of different creative courses that are on offer - Charlotte Sweeney



Spitalfields and Camden Lock Market Trip



I am in Year 10 and chose Catering as a GCSE as I really enjoy learning about the different ways that countries produce their food. I also like getting ideas about how to present different styles of dishes.

On Monday 4 July we left school at 9.00 a.m and travelled by coach to London to visit Spitalfields and Camden Lock Market in order to see all the different varieties of food available.

Spitalfields had lots of different restaurants and we did a survey in which we wrote down the names of different restaurants and what their menus consisted of. We did this so that in our Year 11 coursework we can use this trip and what we learned from it in our research.

We then got back onto the coach to drive to Camden Lock Market half an hour away. It was a really great experience; as well as trying different foods (and buying the tastiest one for lunch!) we got to watch how the chefs made different dishes behind their stalls. This gave us great ideas for our GCSE practical exam in January. There were lots of places to choose from and we also got to explore in little groups, including going outside of the market to explore other places. Don't worry - the teachers made sure we had the school's number on our phones in case we got lost! (But luckily this did not happen).

Overall it was a really good day, and I would recommend other students definitely to go if they get the opportunity to experience this trip. - Bethany Salmon

Open Evening

Thursday 29 September 2016

6.30 - 9.00 p.m

Join us for our Open Evening when we invite you to:

- Meet and talk to our students, staff and governors
- View the wide range and high quality of work undertaken by our students
- Encourage your child to participate in activities which demonstrate stimulating learning and teaching styles
- Find out about the full range of extra-curricular activities available
- See the wide range of resources available including our extensive ICT facilities and state of the art Science, Drama and Music suites
- Listen to a talk from our Headteacher, Rob James, at 7.00 or 8.00 p.m. outlining the exciting new developments in the Academy.

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead, Colne Road, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2HR



My D of E Experience

Friday 8 July 2016 - 09:00 - When the rest of my class were in English studying 'Lord of the Flies', myself and seventeen others set off in the mini-bus to begin our final Duke of Edinburgh expedition. We started in Chelmsford and walked all the way to Little Baddow in just under six hours. The route we took was beautiful, with a barge-filled river and a glistening lake. We walked through fairy-tale-like woods and rested by the river.

After arriving at camp we all put up our tents with much more ease than the first time. By this time we were all starving hungry and quite tired, so, for the next few hours we sat back, relaxed, and cooked our food using little gas cookers called Trangias. At around seven, two fires were built; we cooked marshmallows and talked whilst we warmed ourselves by the dancing flames. By ten o'clock, the fires had died out and we were sitting in near darkness; it was time for bed.

On Saturday morning we left at dead on nine and began to walk, using our GoPro camera to record our journey like we had the day before. It was about one o'clock when we started coming into towns and villages, where there were more people. Many of them wished us luck with our expedition.

When we came to the over grown footpaths, Sholanda used her stick to whack away the devilish stinging nettles which attacked everyone they saw; I got stung 23 times on the legs, arms and hands! We had walked from one side of Maldon to the other in about two hours and all we wanted was to have a good night's sleep. The only thing that kept us going was the thought of our warm and cosy beds.

FINALLY! We'd made it and, yet again, we were the first ones there! We talked with the assessor, who told us we had all passed, much to our delight.

Doing this has made me feel like I can achieve anything if I put my mind to it; also, I feel like I've become closer to my friends and we've all grown as people. Even though it seems challenging at the time, it is really worth it for the memories and the experience. I, like many others, feel proud that I have completed it and advise others to do it too. - Phoebe Bruce



District Sports

On Thursday 16 June, Mr Child and Mr O'Gorman accompanied a group of 46 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 to the annual District Sports event. District Sports is a regional athletics event in which our students get to compete in a variety of track and field disciplines. The event was hosted by Tabor Academy, Braintree who are lucky enough to have some tremendous athletics facilities. Throughout the day, both track and field events overlapped one another. Mr O'Gorman commended the students who were not participating for supporting those who were. Despite a heavy downpour, students were in good spirits all day and our young ambassadors represented The Ramsey Academy very well.

Stand out performances of the day included Oliver Brooker's 3rd place finish in an extremely competitive 100 metres. Dominic Emmerson also ran a fantastic race in the 200 metres and Jake

Miller picked up 2nd place in the 800 metres. "My experience from coming to this event in Year 7 really helped me in the race as I'm more familiar with the distance and the atmosphere of competitive racing", said Jake, "I'd recommend the younger students getting involved in Year 7 so that they can get used to competing against other schools and also because it's a really fun day out."

The Year 7, 8 and 9 girls really shone in the field events. Becky Howard was disappointed not to beat her personal best in the shot put event, but threw extremely well in a particularly tough section. Ellie Hood was another stand out performer, representing Ramsey Academy in the Junior Discus event. Despite having less experience than many of her competitors in this event, Ellie did herself and the school proud.

Mr Child and Mr O'Gorman were Both very pleased with the students who came along on the trip with Mr Child adding that he "was delighted to see so many students keen to represent their school." Special thanks also must go to Mrs Stenson, Miss Giorgio, Mrs Neale and former student Becky Neale, for all their assistance on the day.

Mr D O'Gorman



Year 11 GCSE PE Revision

Over the last few weeks, Year 11 GCSE PE students have been revising for their theory exam. Following good practical and coursework results, staff and students felt it was vital that this was backed up with positive theory results as well.

Over the years, across the whole country, the theory side of the course has always been the most challenging and staff have consistently used a wide variety of different revision techniques to try to capture the imagination of students.

This year, for the first time, revision t-shirts were used. Students were each given a t-shirt which they could decorate with different aspects of the theory side of the course. Some chose to focus on the body systems and drew and labelled the cardiovascular and respiratory systems in great detail whilst others decided to get as much information on their t-shirts as they could.

The level of focus and interest in their work was excellent, with students producing extremely high quality designs. These were then worn, and added to, during the final countdown revision session before the exam.

After much deliberation between Miss Linsdell and Mr Charlton, five students were selected to receive prizes for their t-shirt designs. They were Melodie Dadds, Aiden Harding, Alex Morrison, Jack Preston and Amy White. Well done to all those who worked so hard on their designs. - Miss R Linsdell



Sports Day

On Friday 24 June, The Ramsey Academy held its annual Sports Day. Fortunately, the rain held off and everything ran very smoothly thanks to the efforts of all the staff, the Raising Standards Leaders, the PE Department and the outstanding behaviour and contributions of our students. Students competed to earn points in order to have their House crowned the winners.

The majority of students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 took part and earned points for their house in a variety of sports including netball, football, rounders, tennis and athletics.

Student participation was excellent and the atmosphere and excitement surrounding the event was fantastic. After a hard fought day of activity, competition and fun, there were only 12 points which separated our winning team.

Diversity finished in third place with 72 points, Aspiration came second with 76 and Endeavour won with 88 points! It just goes to show that every point counts and every student's contribution was important.

The students' support and encouragement throughout the day helped to make the event a huge success. The Raising Standards Leaders did an outstanding job organising their teams and encouraging them at all times. Every single student who took part in the event should be proud of what they achieved. - PE Department



White Water Rafting

On 6 July, a group of nine Year 10s spent the day at Lee Valley White Water Centre located just outside London. After arriving we had time to look around and see the wide range of activities the centre offered before we collected our life jackets and helmets and headed out to the boats with our instructor. We listened as he went through the safety procedures and took us round to the practise river so we could all individually jump in and swim through a rapid to show we could cope if we did fall out of the boat. All of us survived, some getting swept along further than we should have and having to be rescued by someone with an oar, but we all eventually got out safely.

When we were taken on to the real rapids we worked well as a team and surprisingly got down to the bottom with us all still inside the raft. We made our way down 3 times, only just making it on the third as we repeatedly crashed into a block. The whole time everyone was laughing and it was clear we were definitely the most vocal group there.

After the white water rafting we made our way round to do some kayaking which meant we could do something individually. Again laughter could be heard from a mile away, however most of us were tired from the previous activity so used this as a time to relax and float around on the water.

The day was a great experience and even better because the weather was brilliant the whole time. Thank you to Mr Taylor for organising, Mr O'Gorman for supervising and Mrs Pudney for taking us and helping with the day. -Jessica Leach, 10D2





Family Tennis Tournament

On 22 June, The Ramsey Academy hosted a family tennis tournament for Year 7 and 8 students and their families. It was a doubles tournament and ten pairs entered the competition. The aim of the competition was to promote tennis further and to celebrate the start of Wimbledon. We played mini red tennis and it was a great evening.

The Year 9 Tennis Leaders organised the whole event and officiated on the evening. It was a very close final between Molly Gerrard and her brother William, and Mia Charles and Danny Saffer. Mia and Danny won and their prize was a free tennis lesson with our coach, Richard Dupree. After the tournament everyone stayed to play tennis and we even had strawberries and cream. Thank you to all that took part; we hope to have another family tournament in September. - Year 9 Tennis Ambassadors

Trip to Wimbledon

On 28 June the Year 9 Tennis Ambassadors went to Wimbledon. We travelled to the tournament by mini bus and underground train. We had an amazing day and watched a men's singles game on court 1. Stan Wawrinka beat Taylor Fritz in the fifth set. Murray was also playing on centre court so we sat on Henman Hill and watched him beat Liam Broady. We ate strawberries and cream and bought lots of souvenirs. Luckily the sun held out long enough for us to enjoy our day, it rained as we were walking back to the station and we got very wet! Our favourite part of the day was watching Andy Murray - it was a great atmosphere. We would like to thank the School of Tennis project for giving us the opportunity to go to Wimbledon and to Mr Child and Miss Patching for taking us on the day. - Hannah Peters, Elena Gower, Amelia Juniper and Chiara Di Paola, Hannah Peters, Elena Gower, Amelia Juniper and Chiara Di Paola



Touch Tennis Tournament - 13 July 2016

On 7 July, myself (Year 8), Ellie (Year 7), James (Year 9) and Tom (Year 9) went to Roehampton to play in a National Schools Touch Tennis Tournament, meaning we had to depart from school at 6.00 a.m. The four of us representing The Ramsey Academy, were sponsored by Chelsea Football Club, and had to play against other schools across the nation sponsored by different Premier League football clubs.

I really loved the tournament because it wasn't full court tennis with hard balls, which meant that you were able to hit the ball a lot harder and it would still be in. There were some really good teams there so we didn't manage to get into the final, but we still all played really well and came third in our group. Stoke, the reigning champions, won in the end. (It was also really good because we were right near Heathrow Airport; we got to watch all the planes take off!)

After this, we were provided with free lunches and a bag full of Premier League gifts: pencils, pens, a ruler, a bottle, a notepad, and some really cool earphones!

Once we'd all finished eating our lunch, we were provided with tickets to go to Wimbledon. I was so excited! (My brother was very jealous; he loves tennis as much as I do!) Myself, Ellie, James and Tom went to watch the end of the women's doubles on Court No. 1 - we missed the first half. I was so fascinated by the speed they hit the ball. When you first go into a court, it takes some time before your eyes can actually focus on the ball! At the end of that match, Ellie and I went for a walk and bought some souvenirs, whilst James and Tom stayed. We came back in time to watch the semi-final of the men's doubles - they hit the ball even harder!

I was really quite annoyed when we had to go because I had had such a lovely time. This once in a lifetime opportunity has encouraged me to play more tennis, and I am very grateful I was picked to represent the school on this occasion. - Molly Gerrard

Dates For your Diary...

18 July - 22 July - Strasbourg Trip

25 July - Summer Holidays

5 September - First day of Term

