

# The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Colne Road, Halstead, Essex CO9 2HR. T: 01787 472481 F: 01787 474267  
E: [office@ramseyacademy.com](mailto:office@ramseyacademy.com) W: [www.ramseyacademy.com](http://www.ramseyacademy.com)



Headteacher: Mr C Appleford

## Weekly family communication. Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Dear Families

What a fantastic week it has been at The Ramsey Academy, with so much to celebrate across our school community. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly last night's Key Stage 4 Awards Evening, where we had the privilege of recognising the outstanding achievements of both the Class of 2026 and our current Year 11 students, the Class of 2027. It was wonderful to celebrate their hard work, commitment and success alongside their families. I would again like to offer my congratulations to all our award winners. Their achievements are a testament to their **aspirations**, determination and **resilience**, and they should be incredibly proud. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the parents and carers who attended the evening. Events such as these remind us of the strength of our school community. As we reflect on this year's successes, we already look forward to seeing which students will be collecting next year's prizes as well as looking forward to the Key Stage 3 awards evening in December.

This week has also seen the successful introduction of our new morning monitoring processes. I am pleased to report that we have already seen a noticeable decrease in morning lateness (bus services aside), which is helping students make the most positive start to their day and maximise learning time in lessons.

Beyond the classroom, our enrichment programme continues to thrive. There have been numerous sporting fixtures taking place throughout the week, alongside a wide range of clubs and activities that provide students with opportunities to develop new skills, pursue their interests and represent the school with pride. Further personal development was also seen within cultural capital sessions and our assemblies where Mr Anderson delivered a series of engaging and inspiring presentations as part of Space Science Week. Our students have greatly enjoyed learning more about the wonders of space and scientific discovery, and the assemblies have sparked curiosity and enthusiasm across the school.

### **Bus survey (reminder from email sent on 08/10/26 - thank you to those families who have already shared feedback)**

Following the change in bus provider at the start of September, we are seeking feedback from families regarding their children's experiences when travelling to and from school. As many families will be aware, changes were made to several routes without prior communication to the school, including some services now operating as public routes. Since then, we have received reports of buses not arriving, students not being collected, buses driving past designated stops, and students not being dropped off at the correct locations. Your feedback is extremely important in helping us build an accurate picture of the issues being experienced. The information gathered through this survey will be used to support discussions with a range of external stakeholders and transport providers as we continue to press for improvements and seek a resolution that ensures our students can travel to and from school safely, reliably, and without unnecessary disruption.

Please do fill in the survey if your child travels on a bus to school **by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October** – thank you in advance – Mr Appleford.

- [Bus & travel concerns – Fill in form](#)



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## Key Stage 4 Awards Night Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Last night, we were delighted to celebrate the achievements of the **Class of 2026** at our very special **Ramsey Academy Key Stage 4 Awards Evening**. It was a wonderful occasion, recognising the hard work, dedication and success of a cohort that achieved the best GCSE results in recent Ramsey history.

Throughout the evening, our Heads of Faculty proudly presented subject awards to deserving recipients, celebrating excellence across the curriculum. It was also a special opportunity for the Class of 2026 to hand the baton on to our current Year 11 students, the **Class of 2027**, who we know will continue to build on this legacy of success.

The evening was enhanced by a fantastic programme of student performances. We were treated to an outstanding piano and vocal performance from **Kayden and Cameron**, a beautiful solo piano recital from **Kayden**, and a stunning dance performance by **Emilie and Hannah**, all of whom showcased the exceptional talent within our school community.



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The night concluded with the presentation of several prestigious awards, many of which are deeply connected to the history and traditions of The Ramsey Academy:

- Outstanding Contribution to Sport Award
- David Fielding Award for Outstanding Creative Writing
- Alan Dyer Memorial Award for Most Improved Mathematician
- Old Colonians' Association Prize for Languages
- The Milburn Drama Plate
- The Lucy Jordan Plate
- The Christopher Holmes Prize
- The Newell Award
- The Elizabeth Ward Memorial Trophy
- The Mel Kendal Science Award

A particularly poignant moment of the evening was the presentation of the **Mel Kendal Science Award**, established in memory of Mel Kendal, who sadly passed away last year. Mel was a much-loved Science teacher and Head of Year whose passion, kindness and dedication touched the lives of so many students and colleagues. We were honoured to be joined by Mel's family, with her mother, **Teresa**, presenting the award to the very deserving **Angel S**. It was an emotional and fitting tribute to a remarkable teacher whose legacy continues to inspire our school community.



We are incredibly proud of all our award winners and of every student who has contributed to school life throughout their journey at Ramsey. Their resilience, aspiration and mutual respect make our community a very special place, and we look forward to seeing all they achieve in the future. Congratulations to all involved in a truly memorable evening.



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## Future Ready Trips

On Wednesday, a group of year 9 students visited Braintree District Council at their offices in Causeway House. As well as a tour of the building, they were given an introductory talk by four different departments and completed a relevant activity for each one. Operations asked the students to decide what rubbish should go in which of the household bins, marketing and advertising asked the students to create their own anti-litter campaign for outside the school. Landscaping and urban architecture had the students designing their own high street, including one with a 'Lazy River' feature, and ex Ramsey student Molly gave a talk on data and surveys and had the students moving around the room deciding if their survey questions were biased or not.



On Friday, a group of year 9 students visited Transporter Engineering in Gosfield. They were treated to breakfast, a tour of the whole site, including wearing hi-vis vests and safety goggles, and then being driven in a vehicle up onto the top of the transporter trailer. A Q&A took place with five members of staff from the various departments at the site, including welding, vehicle painting and accounts, and the green and sustainable practices the company use were explained to the students in detail, including that they have over 49,000 solar panels on the site generating enough energy to heat 690 households: the same number of households in Gosfield.

## Parent Survey (reminder from email sent on 08/10/26 - thank you to those families who have already shared feedback)

As we begin the new school year, we are keen to hear from families about their experiences and views. As a school, we are committed to continually developing and improving the support we provide, and your feedback plays an important part in helping us to do this.

We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete this survey and share your experiences **by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**. It is important for us to hear what is going well, as well as how families feel about different aspects of school life.



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If you do have any concerns, we would always encourage you to contact the school directly in the first instance before completing. This allows us the opportunity to work collaboratively with you to understand the issue, provide support where needed, and seek a positive resolution together.

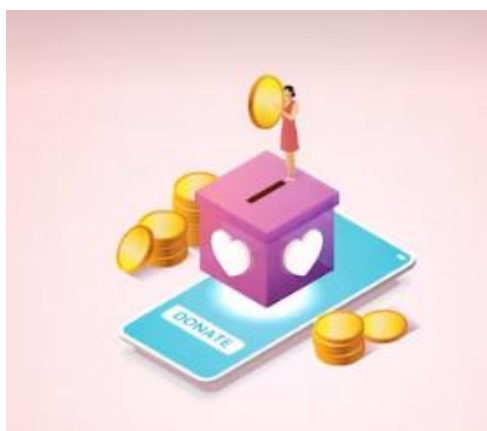
Thank you for your time, feedback, and ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated. - Mr Appleford

- [Ramsey Academy - Parent Survey - Autumn Term 2026 – Fill in form](#)

## Courtauld Charity Week 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October 2026

A reminder that Courtauld House are hosting a charity week next week, from **Monday 12th to Friday 16th October**.

Following a vote by students, **Courtauld House** has chosen to support **Cancer Research UK**, with an overwhelming majority selecting this worthwhile cause. Cancer Research UK funds vital research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, helping to save and improve lives across the UK. Many members of our school community have also been affected by cancer in some way, making this a charity that is close to the hearts of both students and staff. Students will need to bring in small amounts of cash to support these events.



We have an action-packed week planned, with plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved and raise money for this fantastic cause. Events will include:

- Staff vs Student Basketball
- Guess How Many Sweets Are in the Jar
- Cake sales
- Non-Uniform Day
- Charity competitions and activities throughout the week
- And much more!

We are looking forward to seeing the whole school community come together to support an important cause while demonstrating our Ramsey values of **Resilience, Aspiration and Mutual Respect**. Please encourage students to bring money in, to join in with the fun, and support this excellent cause.



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**Please see the details below regarding our Non-Uniform Day and Purple Hamper Donation.**

Every contribution, no matter how small, will help make a difference and support the incredible work of Cancer Research UK.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity. Together, we can help make a real difference.

## Courtauld Charity Week Purple Hamper Donations

Thank you to everyone who has already donated to support our Charity Week fundraising efforts. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our students and families, and your contributions are helping us create some fantastic Purple Hampers in aid of Cancer Research UK.

There is still time to donate, and we will continue to accept purple-coloured items on Monday. No matter how small, every donation is greatly appreciated and will help us create exciting hampers to be raffled throughout the week, raising even more funds for this important cause. Thank you for your continued support.

Some ideas for purple-themed donations include:

- Dairy Milk chocolate bars
- Milka chocolate
- Parma Violets
- Purple sweets or lollipops
- Blackcurrant squash or drinks
- Grape-flavoured treats
- Purple stationery (pens, notebooks, highlighters)
- Purple hair accessories
- Purple bath bombs or toiletries
- Small purple teddies or novelty gifts
- Purple mugs, socks or keyrings
- Purple gift wrap or small gift items



Every donation, no matter how small, will help us create fantastic hampers and raise even more money for this deserving cause. Thank you for your support and generosity. 💜



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## Non-Uniform Day Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October

To round off a fantastic week of fundraising, we will be holding a **Non-Uniform Day on Friday 16th October**. Students are encouraged to wear **purple** to show their support for **Courtauld House** and **Cancer Research UK**. This invitation is open to **all students**, regardless of which house they belong to.

To take part, students should bring a **£1 donation**. Students who do not wish to participate will be expected to attend school in **full school uniform**.

Whilst students may wear non-uniform, clothing must remain appropriate for a school environment. Please ensure that:

- Clothing is suitable
- No crop tops, belly tops or low-cut tops should be worn
- Clothing must not display offensive language, slogans or images.
- Students continue to follow the school's jewellery expectations, with only **one piercing in each earlobe** permitted for safety reasons.
- Footwear must be safe and practical for moving around the school site. Sliders, flip-flops, slippers and high heels are not permitted.

We look forward to seeing a sea of purple across the school as we come together to support a very worthwhile cause and raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research UK.

## Halloween Attendance Raffle!

We have launched our **Halloween Attendance Raffle!** Students who achieve **100% attendance between 5<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October** will be entered into a prize draw, with a range of exciting prizes to be won. Every day in school counts, and regular attendance gives students the best opportunity to succeed both academically and socially.



- **Attend every day, be entered into the raffle, and you could be one of our lucky winners!**
- Remember: **Miss a day... scare your chance away!** 🧛 🎃 🏆



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## Sports Round Up

This week's fixtures started in disappointing fashion, with both the Year 11 fixture on Monday and the Year 10 match on Wednesday being postponed.

The action did get underway with our Year 9s in cup action. Unfortunately, their cup run came to an end, but special recognition must go to Kayden H., who produced a standout performance despite the result.

There was much better news for our Year 7s, who benefited from a last-minute fixture against Hedingham. Hedingham brought two teams, allowing a fantastic number of students to represent the school. It was great to see so many pupils pulling on the school shirt and making their first appearances of the season.

Our long-awaited Year 11 fixture against Hedingham, which had originally been postponed on Monday, was cancelled once again on Friday. However, Hedingham were unable to fulfil the fixture, and the result was awarded to Ramsey, meaning the Year 11s progress with a victory despite not getting the opportunity to take to the pitch.

Thank you to all staff who have supported fixtures this week, whether through transport, supervision, coaching, or simply encouraging our students. Your support continues to provide fantastic opportunities for so many young people to represent the school. - **PE Department**

## Request from Richard de Clare Primary School

Richard de Clare Primary School are currently transforming their playtimes but have a limited budget and need a lot of resources. They would be grateful for:

- Any old wearable wellington boots - all sizes but particularly for the older children - so that all their children can be outside in all weathers.
- They would also be grateful for any toys that can be donated.

Please take any donations to Kirsty Howlett at the school.

## Attend Well Study launches to develop support for school attendance difficulties

The University of Cambridge are inviting parents/carers to take part in a study about Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA).

Participants can contribute valuable information about why school attendance difficulties are increasing, what support is available/missing, and what could help young people to re-engage with education. The five-year project will develop a whole school approach to improving school attendance.

To learn more: visit the Attend Well website: <https://attendwell.org.uk/> or email [attendwell@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:attendwell@medschl.cam.ac.uk)



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## The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshow

**Date:** Monday 12 October 2026

**Time:** Drop in anytime

- 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (all ages)
- **Quieter times:** Prefer a quieter visit? Pop in after 11:30 a.m.
- **Location:** Wickham Bishops Village Hall, Church Road, Wickham Bishops, CM8 3JZ
- **Cost:** FREE

## What to Expect:

Have questions about your child's needs and the best support available? The SEND Roadshow brings together a variety of professionals under one roof, including local support groups, education professionals, health teams, and social care teams.

You can:

- access support and information
- understand the different services available
- discover local support, such as parent groups and inclusive activities
- attend free talks

For more information on the event - including who will be there- take a look at: [Mid Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshow | Essex Local Offer](#)

## Year 6 -7 secondary admission round for September 2027 (for families & friends with children in Year 6)

The new secondary school admission round opened recently, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027.

- The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.
- Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2027-28 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.



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## October Half Term Bikeability Courses

Essex Bikeability has a range of cycling courses available, including:

- Bikeability Level 1
- Bikeability Level 1 & 2
- Learn to Ride
- Child Bike Workshop & Learn

These courses are designed to help children develop confidence, improve their cycling skills and learn how to ride safely in a fun and supportive environment.

- **Venues:** Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow and Witham
- **Book online:** [essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking](http://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking)

Please note there is a **£15 non-refundable booking fee**. Places are limited, so early booking is recommended.

## Half Term Theatre Workshops at The Quay Theatre, Sudbury

This October half term, the Quay Theatre will be hosting a three-day long course of workshops, exploring a range of specialist performance skills.

These workshops are open to young people from ages 8 to 18. They will be split into older and younger groups to ensure the workshops run at a good pace for all involved. Skills covered will include stage combat, SFX (including stage blood), technical theatre (sound, lights and stage management), puppetry, magic, and costume design. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity for young people to try out skills they may not have before, and get expert advice on areas they might be particularly interested in. I am personally very excited to offer this lineup of activities to our local young creatives!

Workshops will be running from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October, from 10:30 to 15:30. More details and a booking link can be found at the following link:

<https://quaysudbury.com/events/youth-theatre-specialist-skills-workshops/>



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## Local Parent Support Hub

**Team Dandelion** is a local parent support hub offering support to parents and carers of neurodivergent, fostered, and adopted children. They provide free coffee afternoons where parents can come together to access support, advice, a listening ear, and a sense of community.

A range of local professionals and organisations also attend these sessions, including Essex Family Forum, Families in Focus, and the MAZE Group.

The **Halstead Coffee Hub** takes place on the second Tuesday of every month, and the **Braintree Coffee Hub** is held on the third Tuesday of each month. Both sessions run from **1.00–2.30pm**.

## HALSTEAD

**St Andrews Church Hall, Parsonage Street, Halstead, CO9 2LD**

- Tuesday 13 October
- Tuesday 10th November
- Tuesday 8th December

**BRAINTREE - Braintree Baptist Church, Swan Side, Braintree, CM7 3DA**

- Tuesday 20th October
- Tuesday 17th November
- Tuesday 15th December



## Careers

Please access our careers Padlet for up-to-date information, advice and guidance

<https://padlet.com/alex2536/ramsey-careers-newsletter-polnaluxwpqmtl>

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mr. C Appleford  
Headteacher



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