

The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

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E: office@ramseyacademy.com W: www.ramseyacademy.com

Headteacher: Mr C Appleford



Weekly family communication. Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Families

As we reach the end of another busy and successful week at The Ramsey Academy, I would like to share some of the many positives taking place across our school community.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to host our Year 10 Jack Petchey event in school. It was fantastic to see students showcasing their work and engaging so positively throughout the event. The enthusiasm, commitment and achievements on display were a real credit to our students and staff, and it was wonderful to celebrate their successes together.

We also enjoyed a vibrant and welcoming Open Morning with Richard de Clare Primary School Year 6 pupils and their families. It was a pleasure to meet so many prospective students and parents, share what makes our school special, and provide a glimpse into life at The Ramsey Academy. The energy and excitement from our visitors were evident throughout the morning, and we look forward to welcoming many of them again in the future.

Today, we concluded our **Courtauld Charity Week** with a non-uniform day (more information about the fantastic events held throughout the week is included within this communication). I am incredibly proud of our students and their achievements in raising money through the wide range of activities that have taken place over the past week.

We have also today hosted a safeguarding review. The review provided very positive feedback regarding the school's safeguarding practices and procedures. Safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do, and it is reassuring to receive recognition of the strong systems, culture, and commitment that exist across our school to ensure students are safe, supported, and able to thrive.

Bus Service Update - Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete the bus survey. If you have not yet done so, please do complete it (information and links within this communication), as any additional comments and feedback will be extremely helpful. The responses we have received so far have been invaluable in helping us understand the concerns being experienced by families. I have a meeting with the management team at Central Connect next week and have already outlined the issues that have been raised. I am hopeful that these concerns can be addressed and resolved before any further steps need to be considered. We will continue to keep families updated as discussions progress.



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Richard de Clare Open Morning

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome the Year 6 children from Richard de Clare and their parents to a special Open Morning at The Ramsey Academy.

As many of the students were away on a residential visit during our Open Evening, we wanted to ensure that families still had the opportunity to experience everything our school has to offer. The event provided a warm and informative introduction to life at the Academy and was very well attended by both students and parents.

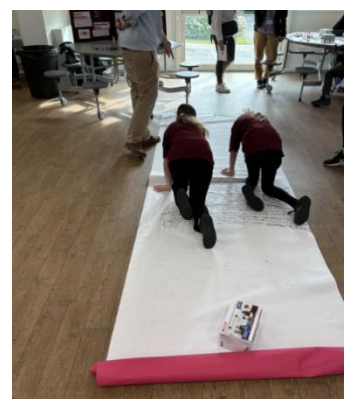


The morning began with a presentation from our Headteacher in the hall, giving families an insight into our values, curriculum and the opportunities available to students. This was followed by a guided tour of the school, allowing visitors to see our facilities in action and experience the positive atmosphere around the site.



Families then enjoyed a showcase of activities from a range of faculties in the dining hall, where they were able to meet staff, ask questions and learn more about life at The Ramsey Academy. One particular highlight was visiting our Year 10 Food Technology students, who were busy preparing some fantastic dishes and demonstrating their impressive culinary skills, as pictured.

It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with Richard de Clare families, answer their questions and help them begin their transition journey to secondary school. We would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to such a successful morning.



We look forward to welcoming these students to The Ramsey Academy in September and supporting them as they begin the next exciting chapter of their education.



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Courtauld Charity Week

It has been wonderful to launch the first Charity Week under our new House system.

This week, **Courtauld House** has been raising money for **Cancer Research UK**, a charity chosen by the house members themselves. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated purple-themed items for our Purple Hamper Raffle. Your generosity has been truly amazing, and the hampers look fantastic.

Throughout the week, students have enthusiastically taken part in a range of fundraising activities, including hot chocolate sales, *Guess the Sweets in the Jar*, a Halloween Quiz and a basketball competition. These events have brought students together in support of a great cause while creating plenty of fun and friendly competition along the way.



The week has been full of energy, enthusiasm and community spirit, culminating in a fabulous Non-Uniform Day to round off the celebrations.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported Courtauld House this week. We are delighted to announce that we have raised £1017.24 for Cancer Research UK. Your contributions will make a real difference, and we are incredibly proud of the commitment and generosity shown by our school community.

Home-School Agreement

Please see a link and reminder regarding the home school agreement.

- <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/Home-School-Agreement/>



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Year 11

As we approach the first series of mock exams this year, students in Year 11 participated in an 'Ace your Exam' session with the company Elevate. The programme focuses specifically on helping students prepare effectively for examinations rather than simply revising harder, and its core message is that exam success comes largely from preparation rather than what happens in the examination room itself. The presenters spoke to students about the importance of focusing on structured revision, analysing past performance, seeking feedback from teachers, and creating clear revision plans. Students were universally positive about these sessions, and we hope they can apply the lessons learned in them when sitting their November mock exams.

Our October half term revision timetable for Year 11 is now live on our website. Please find it under 'Learning' and 'Year 11'. This page also contains a wealth of revision material for students to access.

- [The Ramsey Academy - Year 11](#)

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

On Wednesday 14th October, all Year 10 students took part in the **Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge**, delivered by **The Speakers Trust**. Throughout the day, students engaged in a range of activities designed to develop confidence, communication and public speaking skills. Working individually, in pairs and in groups, they explored strategies to overcome nerves, communicate effectively and engage an audience.

Led by an experienced trainer, the workshop provided a supportive environment in which students were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, whilst also developing active listening and constructive feedback skills. As the day progressed, every student planned and delivered a speech on a topic they were passionate about, demonstrating increasing confidence and maturity.

The event culminated in the selection of **22 finalists** who will represent their workshop groups in the **School Final on Thursday 17th December**. Overall, the day was a tremendous success, with students demonstrating Aspiration, Resilience and Mutual Respect throughout. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and look forward to supporting them in the next stage of the competition.



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This week's sporting results.

🏐 Year 10 & 11 Netball - Both teams were in action last night and played some amazing netball. The Year 10s produced a brilliant performance, coming away with a fantastic 26–6 victory. The Year 11 game was a much closer contest. The team battled brilliantly throughout but unfortunately fell just short of the win.

⚽ Year 11 Football - The only other fixture this week, was our Year 11 football team against Clacton County High on Monday. After a below par first half and a quick reality check at half-time, the boys responded brilliantly. They produced a much-improved second-half performance and came away with a 5–1 victory, putting them through to the next round of the County Cup!

A massive well done to all the students who represented Ramsey this week. Some fantastic performances once again! - Mr Farrelly

Bus survey

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 19th October** – thank you in advance – Mr Appleford.

- [Bus & travel concerns – Fill in form](#)
- <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Yds-38ML6E-qVwR-3Zfy4Kd6sQ0SMNRKqbAGHRtDZNIURDVRUFJHTURFN00wVikzVzMzOFpBN0ZaVi4u>

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.



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

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](#)
- <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Yds-38ML6E-gVwR-3Zfy4Kd6sQ0SMNRKqbAGHRtDZNIUQzJEUKY0SINMNIpHRkdHTU9ZMUgzUEZNOS4u>

Halloween Attendance Raffle!

Students who achieve **100% attendance over the set three-week period (next week is the third and final week)** 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!** 🧛 🎃 🏆

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



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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.

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

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

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

Please note there is a **£15 non-refundable booking fee**.

Places are limited, so early booking is recommended.

Careers

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

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



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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. Workshops will be running from the 27th to 29th

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/>



October Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp for Children aged 9 – 14

Wilderness Foundation will be running their Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp on Friday 30 October, from 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. for young people age between 9-14 at £80 per participant per day.

The Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp is for young people experiencing challenges with mental health, behaviour and neurodiversity needs. Many young people can present with all these challenges together and we are increasingly aware that we need to support those with neurodiversity in a more dedicated and focused way. The camp aims to develop personal skills, resilience, communication, social skills and a lot more. We cook on an open fire, are creative, adventurous and accepting. A range of outdoor activities that may include one of the following, cooking, art, bushcraft, nature walks, and crafts. We will also encourage positive social engagement and group skills, using a strength-based approach which helps participants become more aware of what they do well. It will be a small group with no more than 8 participants and advance bookings are required. For more information and booking form, please visit <https://wildernessfoundation.org.uk/neurodiversity-holiday-camps/>

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mr. C Appleford
Headteacher



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