

Hi All and welcome to the last newsletter for 2024! Well, this year has flown past and we have celebrated another fantastic half term here at Ramsden! We've had weekly personal development trips where students have got out and about in the community, trips to garden centres and animal care shops to support students in their social skills, attendance rewards, 4 R's reward trips, Athletics and Timetables rock star trips as well as all the fun lessons.

I hope you like reading about what our students have been up to and seeing the fantastic pictures!

Enjoy!

Gymnastics

Students have been getting back into gymnastics this half term. We've been taking some of our Birch and Redwood boys each week so that they can develop their skills in gymnastics and parkour. The students have been put through their paces and have worked hard to show their resilience in learning new skills. We'll be giving a new group a chance to do this each half term as we go through the rest of the academic year.



Mathletics and Times Table Rock Stars Reward Trip

Students were rewarded for their excellent work on Mathletics and TTRS this half term with a trip to Oxygen where they got to bounce around and burn off some energy for a couple of hours. The students had a great time and are now keener than ever to get those points in!

Animal Care

Our chickens have been busy laying eggs in Animal Care which the students love collecting from their nests and staff like taking home! The chickens have a lovely outdoor space and enjoy the attention from our students who have learnt how to look after them as well as the other animals in our animal care area.



Football

Latimer League:

We have been an integral part of setting up a Football league with 6 other special schools with fixtures throughout the year.

We started with an exciting 5-4 win against Grove House followed up by a 6-2 win against Marketfield. Unfortunately our 3rd game was a narrow 2-1 loss to Langham Oaks.

We currently sit 2nd in the league behind Langham .

The league table and results can be found on the F.A. Full time website should you wish to follow our progress.

Our Year 11's had a fixture against YMCA PRU another hard-fought game which we ran out 2-1 winners we have a re match with them booked for January.

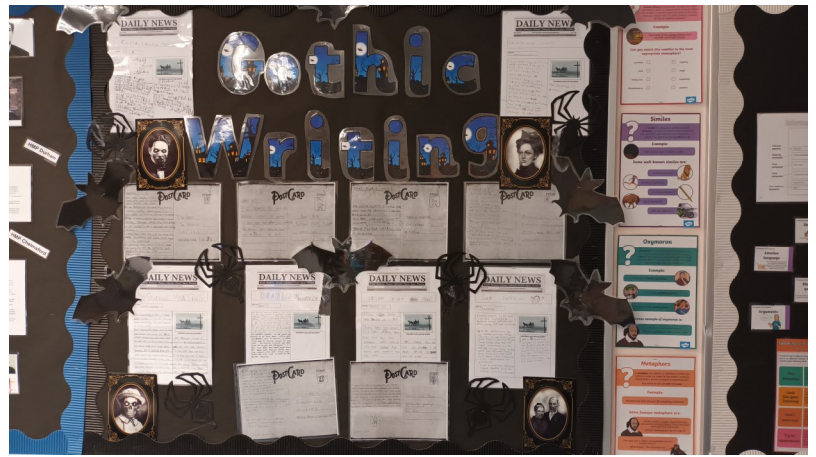


****NEWS FLASH****

After many years of use we are getting a New football kit this should be with us early February

English Gothic Literature

This half term year 8 have been studying gothic literature and have read a variety of texts including Hound of the Baskervilles and the Woman in Black. As you can see they've created some great pieces of work!



DT

As well as creating our fantastic Snow Family at the entrance to the school DT have also been teaching students how to make festive rein-deers. As you can see this has been very popular with our students and they have had a great time developing these skills as well as learning to use the lathe.



Ready To Learn Christmas Party

Last Friday Ready to Learn got a special surprise with not only a Christmas Party but a visit from the man himself, Father Christmas! Students got involved in lots of activities such as pass the parcel, reindeer cakes, loo roll snowmen, biscuit decorating and lots of other fun and games! Students had a great time.



Focus on: Redwood and Birch

These are our nurture groups in Ready to Learn and follow more of a Primary model in that they have a singular base room where they do the majority of their lessons.

In Science, they have been learning about the human body. As part of this topic, they have been finding out about the heart and lungs. Both Redwood and Birch have been looking at bones of the body and were able to explore some skulls and bones from different animals.

The classes have also been out and about during Personal Development to local parks, ice cream as a special treat, Barleylands and Maldon Prom!





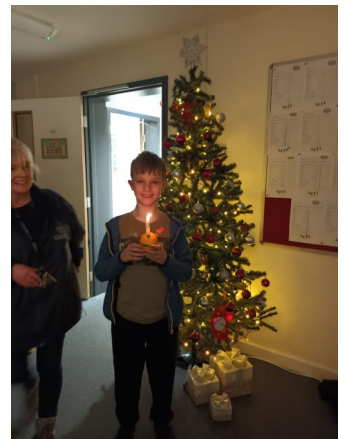
Presidents Lunch

At the start of December our Redwood and Birch groups got to go to Barleylands to take part in the Presidents Lunch. Here the students got to meet sporting legends..... And enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner. The students had a great time and were blown away by the experience. The students then wrote thank you letters to the organisers, expressing their gratitude at being invited to such a great event. It was fab! It was the largest group we have ever taken and the behaviour was outstanding and everyone had a great time. Caine won a trophy for his outstanding resilience and effort in using a range of strategies to help him focus on his learning. Well done Caine!



Residential

Here in the residential we have been doing some brilliant things in the run up to Christmas. We love to get outside even in the freezing cold to get the fire pit going and to roast some marshmallows. We also did some Christmas baking and made a Christingle. We finished the term in the best way possible with a Christmas party! We enjoyed party food, games, pass the parcel, music and of course finishing off with a Christmas movie.

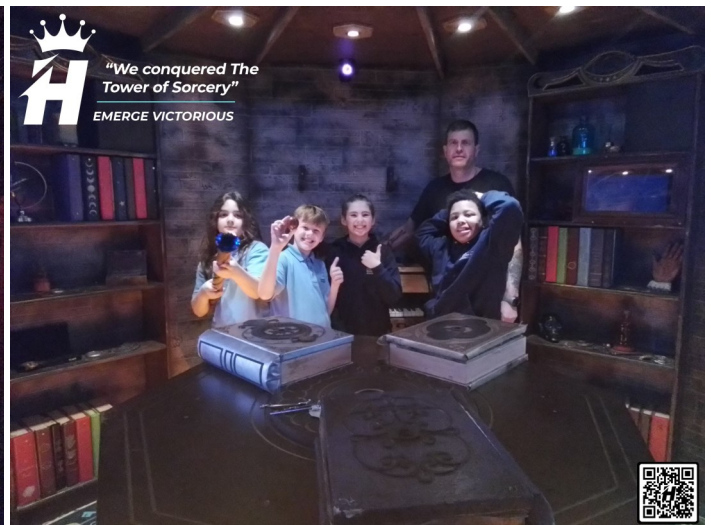




Reward Trips



This half term we have celebrated the students achievements with 4 R's trips to Hackers Escape Room, Thriftwood for axe throwing, Barleylands and Cinema and MacDonalads! We also got to celebrate the 100% attenders with a MacDonalads breakfast and rollerskating! Phew, what a way to end a half term!



Word from the headteacher

It has been a long but fun half term, and we are all looking forward to some down time over the Christmas break. I've been impressed with the students' resilience this half term and I've enjoyed seeing their great achievements.

As you will be aware, in January we are operating a no phone policy in school. We understand that there will be a period of adjustment to this new policy and can offer parents support in helping their young person to adapt to this change. We thank you in advance for your support with this measure.

That just leaves me to wish you a wonderful break and I look forward to welcoming our students back in January.