



Ramsden Hall
Academy



Hello and welcome to the first Summer newsletter!

It's been so lovely to finally enjoy some sunshine. We've got lots of exciting new feathered friends in Animal Care, new areas being developed in the Heritage Building, reward trips, Ready to Learn outings and much more! I hope you enjoy reading and seeing all the things we've been up to this half term.



This term saw the completion of the final Jack Petchey Achievement Awards of the 2023/24 year. The Jack Petchey Award is awarded to students, nominated by staff and their peers, to celebrate young people's achievements however big or small. Each young achiever is awarded a medallion, certificate and £300 grant to spend to benefit other young people in school .



Finley Williams was presented the award for his initiative idea running a successful enterprise project and his commitment to Pupil Voice, Trievi Gittos for his consistent positive attitude and resilience and Zack Morris for using his time in boarding to learn how to swim, whilst supported by his peers. Students chose to distribute these grants to departments across the school, with Zack kindly rewarding the other winners and those who have helped him to learn how to swim with a trip to Oxygen trampoline park in Rayleigh.

Students were a credit to the school and this kind act is a true reflection of the ethos reflected in the Jack Petchey Award.

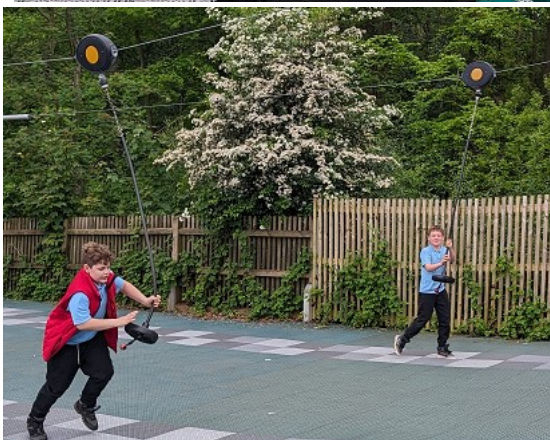
Dodgeball Tournament

5 KS4 boys took part in SESSSA (South Essex Special Schools Sports Association) dodgeball tournament. The boys performed exceptionally well losing only one game throughout the day and coming out as overall winners. Well done chaps!



Ready to Learn—Social and personal development

Part of the focus in the Ready to Learn area is helping students to develop their personal and social skills with a focus on working with others and building friendships. Students have a double lesson on a Monday where we take part in activities that help to support students develop these skills. We've planted seeds, run drama workshops, crafts, games, turn-taking activities, walks in the woods and more recently trips to local parks to run off steam.



Spotlight on Animal Care

Those of you who have been to the school will know we have a fantastic Animal Care area run by Hannah and Jo. Animal Care helps the students to develop good empathy, responsibility, social skills, team work and helps our students learn how to manage changing situations. Our students are passionate about the animals that live here at Ramsden and work well to help care for them.

The animals that we currently have are; two male Guinea Pigs called Tigger and Loki, two Rabbits called Lily and Milo, a dwarf hamster called Rupert, a Syrian hamster called Rosie, four Corn Snakes called Amber, Autumn, Ghost and Gucci, a Python called Noodle and four Leopard Geckos called Hagrid, Dobby, Ron and Harry—can you guess the theme? Outside there are two ducks, Cheese and Quackers and our resident cats Rocco and Luna. And now we have successfully hatched seven chicks that will live and roam in the outside area for animals, with the potential for a few more on the way.





Basketball Friendly Against Langham Oaks

At the start of the month, KS4 took part in a friendly basketball match against Langham Oaks. Although the team lost 38-20 to Langham, the boys were excellent and showed good sportsmanship and resilience. Well done!





Redwood News



Our Ready to Learn Redwood group have had lots of adventures this half term. As part of our water safety topic in Life Skills they enjoyed a super day in sunny Southend where they walked up the pier to the RNLI Lifeboat station. Jerry was our tour guide and he was fab! He told us all about the equipment the rescuers wear and use. He then showed us the lifeboats they have at Southend- so cool! And we got to finish the trip off with a much needed, well deserved ice cream!



The group also went to Danbury forest for Forest schools. We had great fun exploring the woods and climbing trees. Kai was the ruler of the forest and sat majestically on his throne. All Hail Kai!





DT, Construction and the Heritage Building



Over the last few months DT have been working away in the Heritage Building to make it lesson ready for September. Art, DT and the Gym will be moving into their spaces ready for the new school year. It's been great to see students taking part and getting involved in the work, it has allowed them to take real ownership and responsibility of their work.



Forest School



Students have been enjoying the burst of nature that spring brings as well as the drier, warmer climate for adventures in the woods. This half term students have been experimenting with art, using the natural resources at hand they created some Hapa Zome pieces.

This is Japanese art form which uses hammers to transfer the natural pigment of the plant onto a piece of cloth. As you can see Ronnie created a very impressive piece!



Gymnastics

Students have continued to work hard at Basildon Sporting Village for their weekly gymnastics sessions. Students have been honing their parkour skills as well as more traditional gymnastics training. This week they have been working on their fitness levels! Phew, I was tired just watching them!



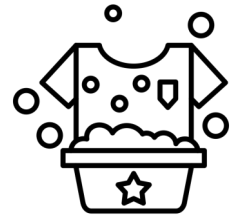
The Diana Award—Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Four of our students were involved in the Anti-Bullying project as part of the Diana Award. The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Programme raises awareness of bullying behaviour and supports schools and young people to tackle it across the UK and beyond. Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with our facilitators giving young people the skills and confidence to become Ambassadors to tackle bullying in their schools long after the training has finished. Our anti-bullying work is recognised as world-class thanks to this sustainable and youth-led approach.





Residential



It's been another busy half term for our boarders who enjoy a selection of activities throughout the week. With the warmer weather students have been getting outside, building dens in the woods and toasting marshmallows on their homemade fire pits. Students have been encouraged to become more independent with valuable life skills such as washing their clothes and changing their bedding. They have also been enjoying Documentary Tuesday as well as swimming, youth club, takeaway evenings and much more!





Reward Trips

Once again our half term reward trips have headed out this week and students have enjoyed Indi Rock indoor climbing wall, Colchester Zoo, Bowling and Nandos and Thriftwood Activity Centre! Students are awarded for their work towards the 4 R's; resilience, respect, repair and reflect. These skills will help them in their lives beyond Ramsden Hall.





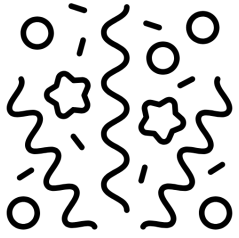
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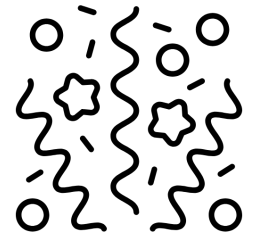
Horticulture



Harvey enjoys his Horticulture lesson on a Monday and Friday. Harvey has a pleasant and calm attitude when he is doing gardening. He always asks what he needs to do and shows a willingness to take part in gardening chores. Harvey has taken the plant pots to DT to drill holes so that he could plant up some cucumbers and courgettes in the next Horticulture lesson.



Well done!



100% Attendance

- Aiden K
- Carson W
- Johnny M
- Will B
- Korey H
- Patrick W

Points

Top KS3 Points

- 1st - Korey
- 2nd - Louis
- 3rd - Zack

Top KS4 Points

- 1st - Finley W
- 2nd - Nick
- 3rd - Nathan

WELL DONE!!!

Boarding Family Hub

Dear Parents/Carers of boarders,

Please remember that we run a service called "Family Hub" where you can come to see us for support and ideas if you are struggling with your son.

We can talk about what works in boarding, the points system and we can also arrange training in topics such as ADHD and Autism if it would help too. To find out more or get involved please contact Tara Cordrey or a member of the Care Team.





May half term clubs with Essex ActivAte GO LIVE!

Our half term programme welcomes school aged children (4-16yrs) who are eligible for benefits based free school meals or from `low income` working families. Essex ActivAte offers a range of engaging and enriching activities for children and food education. While the programme is designed (and free) for children who are eligible for benefits-based free school meals and those from low income working families, the offer is universal paid spaces are also available.

To book a place at a local club families contact the club directly, copy the link below into your browser

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/halfterm-club>

FREE! ONLINE COURSES

- Starting School & Nursery
- Getting Your Children School Ready
- Starting Secondary School
- Anxiety & Meltdowns
- Assertive Parenting
- Managing Big Emotions
- Raising Boys
- Setting Boundaries
- Sibling Rivalry
- Surviving The Summer For Parents
- The Teen Brain
- Understanding Children's Anxieties
- Understanding Neurodiverse Children
- Zones of Regulation

call our friendly team on 03330 321 017

Search 'Family Learning' at aclessex.com

Email Queries aclfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk

FIND OUT MORE

ACL Essex County Council

Does your child have a Mobile Phone?

Parental controls can help limit potential risks, such as installing passwords, blocking certain websites or apps, and setting time limits and spending limits. For further information on how to set up controls on a phone, visit [Internet Matters' Smartphone Guides](#).

Talk with your child about their understanding of the risks when using a phone. Ask them what they would do if something happened, for example, if they experienced cyberbullying. Decide together on what they should do if that happened, for example, take a screenshot and tell an adult. A [family agreement](#) can help you have these conversations. Explore safety tools such as blocking and privacy settings together and help your child set up these up where necessary.

Make sure your child knows to speak to a trusted adult immediately if anyone they only know online (a stranger) asks to meet up, for their personal information, or for photos or videos of them.

Find out more advice to managing specific risks at;

[Online issues - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

**Have a great half term and we'll see everyone back
in school on Monday 3rd June!**

