

Happy New Year! Hello and welcome to the first Spring edition of the Ramsden News Letter. It's been another busy half term with lots of fun experiences and adventures for our students. We've got new fish in Birch and plans to get an axolotl, 4 Rs reward trips, personal development trips out, work experience for our year 10s and 11, gymnastics, sporting events (which we won!) a new gym and a new technology room opening soon! Phew! All this in 6 weeks.

## Gymnastics

Birch and Redwood students have been working hard at gymnastics this half term learning new skills and refining what they already know.

This is a great experience for our students who learn physical discipline, team work and resilience as part of the sessions.



## New Gym

Our new gym is taking great shape and is looking to be opened after half term.

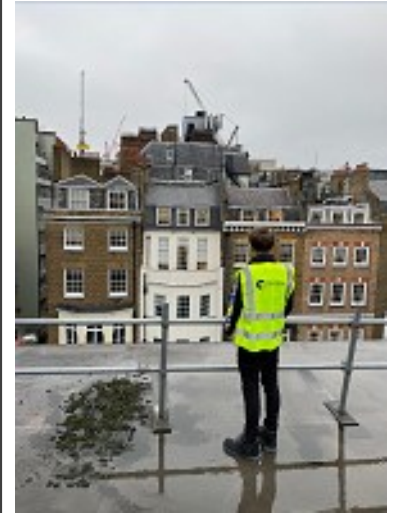
Reece, Milford and their teams have worked hard to get the work done, creating a well-equipped area for our students to develop their knowledge of health and fitness, as well as learn new skills such as boxing in a dedicated space. As you can see, it's been quite a transformation!



## Work Experience

Fourteen of our year 10 and 11 boys completed a week of work experience from 13<sup>th</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> January. We are delighted to say that every single one of them was successful and had positive feedback from their employer. This is great for them to put on their CVs and will stand them in good stead for future college and employment applications. It gives a real taste of what to expect from employment and develops independence. A number of different industries took part including vehicle mechanics, equestrian centres, plumbing, electricians, primary education, community radio, gyms, roofing, commercial refurbishment, animal care centres and retail.

Some of the employers have shown an interest in working alongside the school so we are hoping that more students can benefit from trips and visits to learn more about employment opportunities available. This is only because the boys taking part conducted themselves so well and represented the school so positively. Well done boys!



## Sports Fixtures

### Football

Our year 8, 9 and 10 students played against Langham School and won a fantastic 6-0! Well done boys! The students were great ambassadors for the school and worked well together to claim an excellent result.

### Boccia

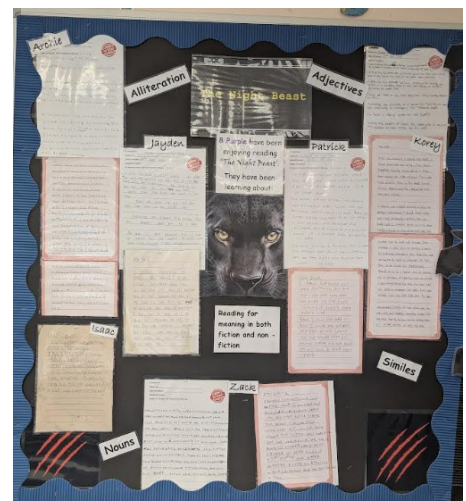
We attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> SESSA Boccia tournament and our gallant team were again victorious. We have now won all three Boccia events!

The boys did very well showed good sportsmanship and were very well behaved which is difficult when there are times when they had to sit and wait for their game.



## Ferocious Feline Strikes Fear in Locals

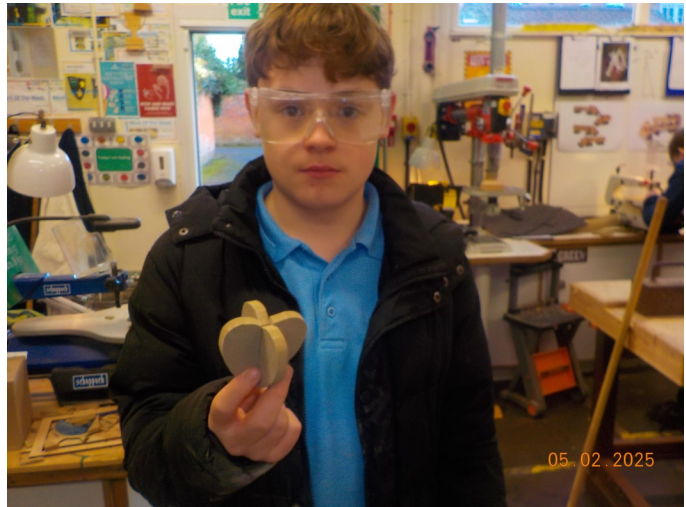
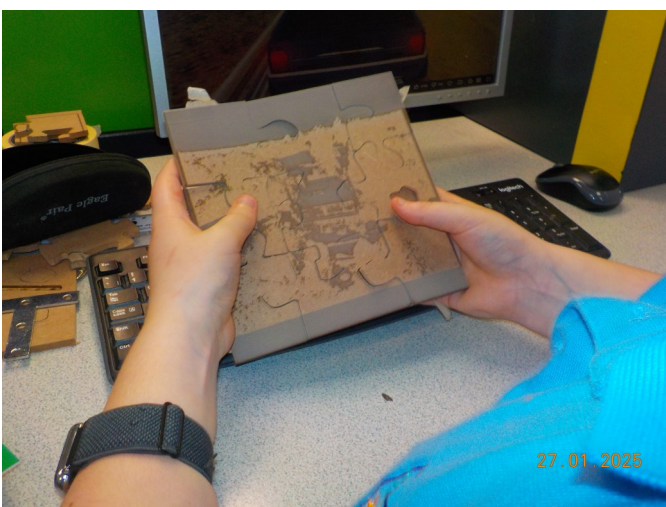
8 Purple have been reading about a mysterious and terrifying beast that has been on a killing spree, terrifying the local neighbourhood. It turns out the beast is in fact a Smilodon (or sabre-toothed tiger) recreated from frozen DNA by a scientist and has escaped the laboratory! As part of their work, the class has written reports and diary entries about the beast's killing spree.



## Design Technology

This half term students have been working on their DT skills by developing their experience of working with a rule, coping saw, vice, jig saw, laser cutter and general DT skills.

Here you can see some of the finished articles!



## Attendance

Huge **congratulations** to the following students who have achieved 100% attendance for this half term. William, Caine, Carter, Ciaran, Cameron, Sam, Osca, Dylan, Zack, Junior, Finley, Harry, Taylan.

And a **MASSIVE WELL DONE** to the following students who have achieved 100% for **THIS YEAR!** Ciaran, Trievi, Korey, Isaac H, Dylan and Josh.

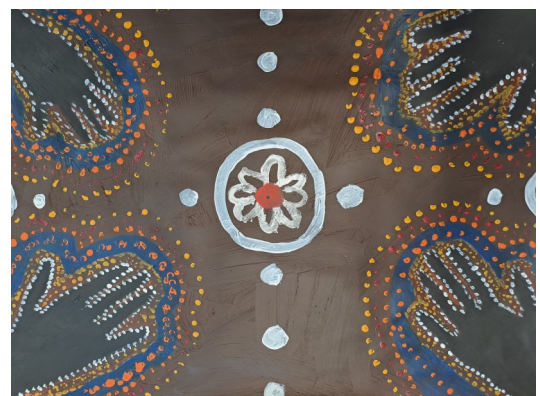
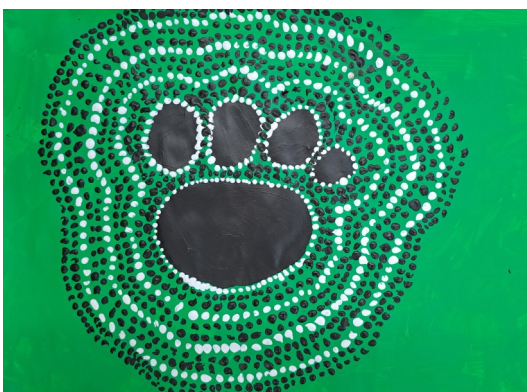
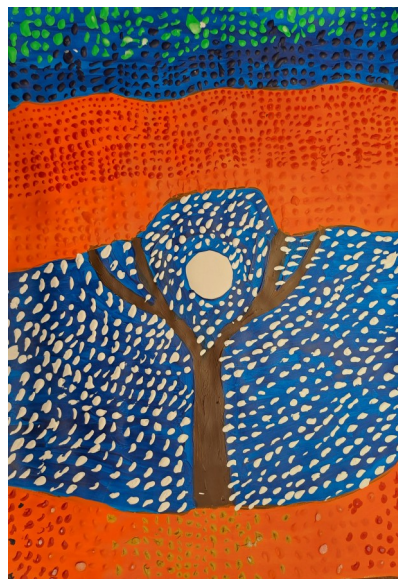
All students are entered into the attendance lottery for a chance to win a voucher!



# Focus on Art

Art is a popular subject here at Ramsden Hall. Our students enjoy creating projects and learning about artists and artistic styles.

This half term year 8 students have been working on aboriginal art and have created pieces based on their own interpretation of the style.



# Redwood and Birch

Redwood and Birch have had a busy half term getting out and about for Personal Development lessons. Here students get to develop their social skills and build relationships. We've been to the local park, Barleylands, Swallows (to get class fish), Danbury Woods and Hanningfield Reservoir.

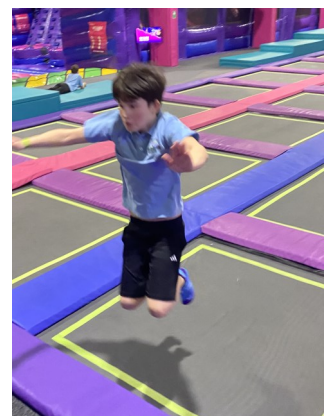
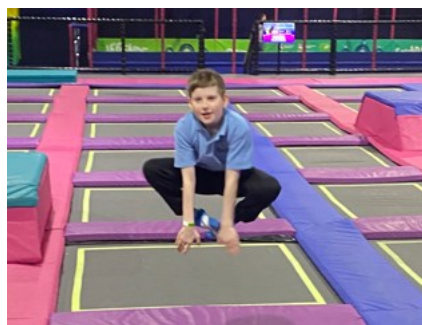
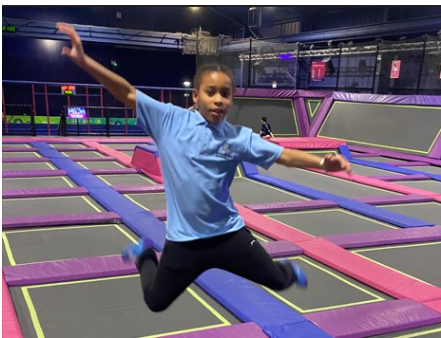
The Birch students have made Alison feel really welcome as their class teacher and have enjoyed getting to know how to look after fish. Redwood have been going into the science lab to learn how to conduct experiments and use the apparatus.



# REWARD TRIPS

If you are an avid reader of the newsletter you will see that each half term we run reward trips for students who have achieved good points throughout the half term. This half term we have slightly changed the way that we do this by looking at a students overall achievements in lessons, including things like attendance to lessons, negative behaviours, positive behaviours, tutor targets (which are individual to each student), points and uniform.

Students were rewarded by going ice-skating, Oxygen trampoline park, cinema and Barleylands. As you can see this is great way for students to recognise and celebrate their achievements.



# Residential

This term the boarders have been having lots of fun looking after the schools animals, doing some cooking, going ice skating and learning valuable life skills including ironing, making beds and shopping.



## Top KS3 Points

1st - Cameron

2nd - Ralph

3rd - Taylan

## Top KS4 Points

1st - Nathan

2nd - Claran

3rd—James

## A Word from the Head

Once again, we have had a very full and productive half term. Both our pupils and staff have started the year with such enthusiasm and positivity. It's been a joy to see everyone so engaged in their learning and extracurricular activities.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the incredible effort of our **Construction and Fitness classes**, who have worked exceptionally hard this term in setting up the new gym in the Training Centre. We are all excited for its opening, and I look forward to seeing both students and staff benefit from this fantastic new space.

Additionally, a big congratulations to all students who completed their **work experience** this term. They were a credit to their families and to the school, demonstrating professionalism and dedication. In fact, some of the employers have been so impressed that they've expressed interest in supporting the school again next year.

We also introduced a new **phone and mobile device policy** this term. I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support in helping make this change a success. While the transition hasn't been without its challenges, the positive impact on learning and focus has been clear to see.

### **Upcoming Changes and Due Diligence**

As many of you will already know, Ramsden Hall Academy will be leaving the Parallel Learning Trust within the next year. The **Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT)** is currently conducting what's known as **Due Diligence**, which involves a comprehensive review of the school before presenting their findings to the Parallel Learning Trust Board. This process will help determine whether Ramsden Hall Academy will join their trust in the future.

Over the next few months, representatives from TSAT will be visiting Ramsden to carry out this review. In the first two to three weeks of the next half term, we will send out a questionnaire to parents and carers to gather your views and answer any questions you may have regarding the potential change. Your feedback is invaluable, so I really encourage you to complete the questionnaire. If you need assistance with this, please don't hesitate to raise it during the tutor calls you receive each week, and we will be happy to help.

### **Outstanding Achievement in Residential Care**

I'm also thrilled to share the fantastic news that for the **second year in a row**, our Residential Team has received an **Outstanding** grade from Ofsted in all areas. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Tara and her team, as well as the unwavering support from everyone at Ramsden Hall Academy. It's a real reflection of the high standards we maintain for our students.

I hope you all have a well-deserved and restful half term, and I look forward to seeing you when we return on Monday.