



Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to our summer newsletter. It has been another busy term with lots of activities taking place, including some great sporting achievements. GCSE examinations are in full swing; our Year 11 pupils are working hard every day and we wish each of them good luck over the next few weeks. Hopefully, all their hard work will have paid off when they receive their GCSE results on Thursday 23rd August 2018. I would also like to say good luck to our Year 10 pupils who have prepared for their GCSE English Literature examination this summer. I have been very impressed by the determination and perseverance they have shown this year. Over the next few weeks, we will be interviewing the current Year 10s for our 2018-19 Pupil Leadership Team. We will also be inviting in the Year 6 pupils who are joining us in September for their transition days. We have an exciting range of activities planned for them so that they can feel more confident when they join us in September.

I am sure you will find the other articles in this edition of interest, and that they will give you a flavour of all the things that are happening at Ian Ramsey Academy.

Best regards,



Mr Janes
Head Teacher



Pupil Dances with English Youth Ballet

Well done to Annabel Livesey in Year 9 (pictured left) who performed recently in English Youth Ballet sold-out production of Coppélia at the Darlington Hippodrome.

The following day, she auditioned and won a place on the cast to perform in their next production in September.



Ian Ramsey CE Academy
Exhibition
of
KS4
Art & Design
work

Please join us for the Private Viewing
on
Wednesday 20th June 3.30pm-6.30pm

Uniform Change

Further to our letter to parents/carers regarding a small uniform improvement, please find details below regarding the changes for September 2018:-

- The PE kit, for all pupils in the current years 7-10, will change. All pupils will need the new polo shirt for Sept '18 and we would ask that sock/shorts and rugby tops are renewed for Sept '19.
- The daily uniform will not change for the boys but, for the girls, the skirt is changing. All girls wishing to wear a skirt will need the new one for Sept '18. Letters have been sent to parents explaining the changes and further details are on our website.
- We will be holding a number of 'pop up' shops with Elizabeth's Embroidery at school. This will give you the opportunity to purchase new uniform.
- At the moment, they are offering discounts of 15% in May, 10% in June and 5% in July.

A full list of prices are listed on our website.

Elizabeth's Embroidery

8-10 Richardson Road
Stockton on Tees
TS18 3LJ

Tel: 01642 674 973

Website: elizabethsembroidery.co.uk



Summer Concert

The summer concert will be held on Tuesday 3rd July.

All proceeds will be used to support our work in Lesotho.

Lesotho 2018



In October 2018, eleven Year 10 and 11 students will be going to Lesotho to visit our link school Boqate, God's Love Children's home and host a child-headed household weekend, for children from rural villages who do not have parents.

You could support this trip by donating items that we can take. We are collecting toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel and deodorant, clothes such as socks, gloves, hats and scarves and stationary.

As you know we are changing the academies PE kit, if your old PE kit is still in good condition and you are getting a new one it would be greatly appreciated if you would donate it to be taken to Lesotho.

Milly Ogden, Year 9





Ramsey Dance Leaders Take Part in Festival

Key Stage 4 dance leaders (above) took part in the annual 'Teesside Primary Dance Festival' on Tuesday 17th April, running a variety of different workshops for over 200 pupils. Dance styles included tap, jazz, street, ballet and musical theatre. The girls had a great day working with the pupils and are already looking forward to next years event!



Pupils take part in Tennis Tournament

The Hearing Impaired Students were invited to take part in the tennis tournament (below) by the Hearing Impaired Service and Cleveland and Durham LTA at David Lloyds. Students with a hearing impairment were invited from the North East of England, 60 students took part in the day. The students that took part were Kate Arnold (Y7), Mehak Ishaq (Y7) and Rhodri Davies (Y8).

The groups were split between girls and boys and in age groups and they played matches all morning, in small groups (of approximately 6) to determine who would go through to the semi-finals. They had a great day.

Prince's Trust Visit



A group of Year 10 pupils went to a call centre business called First Source in the centre of Middlesbrough on 18th May 2018. The pupils went there to be given a mock interview for a place at their firm. First Source is an international firm with offices in various places around the world. As part of their Prince's Trust course they have to complete a module called Career Planning and as part of that module they have to prepare and then take part in an interview.

All the pupils worked hard to ensure they knew what they had to say and how they had to conduct

themselves. It was a very valuable experience and First Source were very complimentary about the pupils. In fact a couple of the pupils were told that if it had been a real interview they would have got the job.

It was a pleasure to take the students as they were a real credit to themselves and to the Academy."



Thank you to Emily Hulyer in Year 11 who has written the two pieces below; some beautiful creative writing.

Seasons

We started our garden in spring. Eager for the seedlings to fully bloom, we nurtured them like they were our young. Day in day out we'd water the roots unsure of what they'd grow into - but we hoped it would be worth the wait. As time progressed, our budding seeds grew, bursting free from their shells; feeling the warmth from the rising sun.

Summer arrived. Expecting buds grew stronger, roots entangling deep under the soil. The first flower revealed itself in June; blushing colours of pastel pink and orange. The others were not shy to follow. Before we knew it our small garden was a meadow home to butterflies and new flora that neither of us had ever seen before. Flowers began to bloom as soon as they were planted, dancing under the glowing sun. Together we'd watch each new flower open, exposing its petals in confidence, no longer hiding under enclosed leaves. Sweet fragrance filled the air, as we'd walked through the haven we had created, listening to the soft buzz of life.

The first weed appeared in autumn. Its pointed dark leaves creeping up our green stems stealing light and warmth from the pretty blossoms. It went unnoticed at first - but it could not be ignored. You stormed into the garden and tore it out with your hands, assuring me it would be the last... it wasn't.

More began to pierce the surface and we gave up battling them; we could do nothing. No amount of water or support could prevent the waves of bitter winds that came next, sweeping away our delicate petals. The flowers you promised were evergreen turned brown, the once soft beds turned dry and cracked, separating the final roots that clung desperately to each other.

I stood alone in winter. I watched as the ice came to claim our last sapling. I watched the frost stalk across its leaves, taking each petal separately; until the last remained. I sat impatiently as it refused to let go, gripping to its roots, hoping for spring to arrive again...it didn't. I looked at the small-uninhabited plot of land around me and tore away the stubborn petal myself; allowing myself to feel its pain and swearing to never build another garden again.



Falling in Love

As a child, I've always been drawn to the allure of 'Disney' princesses - but when I watched 'Aladdin' with my four-year-old daughter, I was horrified by the misogynistic message hidden beneath long thick hair and pastel colours. The entirety of the film orientates around forced marriages, male dominance and lies; not a message I want portrayed to my children.

Underneath the 'love' that Aladdin and Jasmine have [in a matter of days] is a relationship built upon lies. Aladdin felt the need to have a whole new identity because he was so insecure about who he was that he wanted to hide behind cashmere robes and a silk carpet. Young children should not feel like they need to change themselves to win the affection of others.

Even after all the lies unfold, Jasmine manages to ignore them completely and fly off into the sunset with him; whether this be because of 'love' or wanting to rebel against the rules of the patriarchy. This romanticised

manipulative relationship should not be shown to children and called 'true love'; what message does this send? Young children shouldn't be taught that this kind of relationship with someone is normal; the key to love is honesty and acceptance. Where is that message?

By publicising these kinds of films we are trivialising the message of feminism that our ancestors have died for. Princess Jasmine is clearly an oppressed woman; whose problems all melt away when the idea of marriage arrives. Young females need to be taught their value and worth as an individual. They are not weak without the love of a man, and they do not need a prince to save them.

Ideals that Disney portrays in the form of Jasmine are unrealistic. With a midsection smaller than a toothpick and a seemingly hairless physique, Jasmine's physical traits are unhealthy and impossible to meet. I do not want our children obsessing over these unrealistic body types rather than

loving who they are. Why are the more realistic body shapes reserved for villains and the wicked? It's time that a Disney princess has a curvaceous waste larger than a size four.

Disney needs to accept what is real and stop sending these negative messages that seem to end in 'happily ever after'. As from now, I will teach my daughter to look at everyone with acceptance and an open mind, rather than obsess over the fantasies that films like 'Aladdin' bring to life. We need to address the real world issues and stop constricting our children to gendered socialisation. A princess can save the day, a Prince can be in need of help; stop teaching children to conform to old worldviews.

Teach them to love themselves.

Physical Education & Sporting Achievements

Wheelchair Basketball

Year 11 pupil Chloe Holdforth (*right*) is part of Tees Valley Titans wheelchair basketball team. She recently played in the Stockton School Games (more on the games below).

Her team placed a respectful 3rd in the competition earning her a fantastic bronze medal.

Well done Chloe!



Stockton School Games



On 16th May, 43 students represented Ian Ramsey Academy in the Stockton School games. This is an annual event held at Marsh House Sports Centre and Bede 6th form college. The students competed in volleyball, futsal, dodgeball and cycling.

The students worked their socks off in some difficult weather conditions and at the end of the day the boys volleyball and the boys futsal came home with silver medals and the academy placed third in the 'big school' competition.



Netball Tournament Winners

Huge congratulations to the 8B netball team who won the Stockton Netball tournament this month.

Absolutely fabulous girls.

Well done!!



Physical Education Continued

Year 11 Pupil in Competes in Cross Country Championship

Year 11 pupil, Henry Mitson recently competed in the New Balance English Schools' Cross Country Championship 2018 held at Temple Newsam Park, Leeds.

Henry was representing Cleveland in the national championships against the best U17 runners in the country. He finished in a very respectable 228th in a time of 20.31mins against boys older than him.

An absolutely fabulous achievement Henry.

the year 8 and 9 teams are also through to the semi final of the Durham Cup. Good luck boys!



Year 8 Progress through to the County Cup in Style

Well done! Huge congratulations to the Year 8 Rugby team who have reached the final of the County Cup. In horrendous weather conditions they beat English Martyrs by a very impressive 50-5! Fabulous achievement boys!

The year 8 team were also runners-up in the Stockton district competition so they are now through to the Tees Valley finals. Both the year 8 and 9 teams are also through to the semi final of the Durham Cup. Good luck boys!



Ian Ramsey Host Netball Tournament

Ian Ramsey hosted the end of season year 7 netball tournaments last week. In very cold conditions, the two teams gave some good performances, showing how much progress they have made this year.

Special thanks to Libby Besterfield and Anna Wheeldon (Y10) for being team managers and also umpiring during the tournament.



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Football News

Year 7 pupil, Lewis Aspin represented the Stockton district football team in a very impressive 6-0 win against Newcastle.



Well done Lewis!