



Ian Ramsey Church of England School

Message from the Head Teacher



As a very busy Spring Term draws towards a close the examination season approaches. We wish our Year 11 students every success as they begin their countdown towards GCSEs and BTECs, acknowledging their hard work and thanking them for all they continue to contribute towards the school. We held a successful Study Skills Evening recently, well attended by Year 11 students and parents, as part of preparation for exams. Many thanks to Mr Irving, Head of Year 11, for organising this.

Thanks are also due to Year 9 parents for your tremendous support this term as we have held a number of events in preparing Year 9 students for Key Stage 4 courses.

The Curriculum Presentation Evenings and the Shop Window Evening were extremely well attended, as was the Parents' Consultation Evening. Senior staff held one-to-one interviews with all Year 9 students in order to give advice and guidance.

A group of Year 9 pupils took part in the NHS Careers Schools' Competition. The aim of this national competition was to raise awareness of career opportunities within the NHS. Entrants were required to design a job advertisement, a job description or a CV for one of the NHS careers. Four Year 9 pupils won the national prize, and were each presented with a Netbook. This is the second successive year that the school has won this prestigious national award. We also won the North-East Regional prize. Many congratulations to all involved, and a big thank you to Mrs Cairns for organising the initiative.

One of the highlights of the past term was the Licensing Ceremony for our recently appointed School Chaplain, Reverend Paul Johnson. The service was led by the Bishop of Durham, and attended by representatives of the Diocese. We were delighted that our Year 7 students were able to share this very special occasion, along with many members of staff and governors.

A number of key appointments have been made in readiness for the coming academic year. By Easter we will have appointed new colleagues in Science, PE and Humanities, as well as a Learning Mentor and Teaching Assistant. We have appointed a new Assistant Head, with overall responsibility for English and Literacy, as well as three more English Teachers. We are confident that our investment in these appointments will enable us to speed the progress of our students in English.

Issue 9
April 2012

*Opportunity
and
Achievement in
a
Christian
Environment*

Security

*Access to North
Site is strictly for
authorised
personnel and
deliveries only*

*All visitors to sign
in at Main
Reception on
South Site*

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**Ian Ramsey Newsletter
is available to view or
download by searching
on
www.ianramsey.org.uk**

Head Teacher's Message Continued

We are happy to recommend to you a service called Child Locate. This relatively inexpensive service enables you to track and locate your child's mobile phone and keep in touch. You can find out more about the service by searching online for Child Locate.

School will end early on Friday 30th March, at 2:30. School transport will be re-arranged accordingly.

Parents are also reminded that Friday 27th April is a Staff Training Day, and therefore students are not required to attend on this day. Following the Easter Break students will be required to wear Summer uniform.

Thank you for your continuing support and, on behalf of the staff and governors, may I convey our very best wishes for the Easter break.

Student Leadership

A 21st Century Vision for Ian Ramsey School

Student Leadership, formally known as Student Voice, has been redesigned to meet the ever-changing needs of Ian Ramsey's students. It aims to develop our pupils as effective young leaders, whilst encouraging a commitment to making a difference to their own lives and the lives of others. In the midst of the current economic climate, we feel it is our responsibility to ensure all students leave school with the flexible skills needed in today's job market.

Evidence has shown that increased student leadership within schools is beneficial not only for the individual, but also for the school as a whole. Progress is improved through the transferable skills acquired in student leadership and this leads to whole-school improvement.

Just some of the student roles that will be available are: sports ambassadors, peer mentors, student interviewers and a charity team. More detailed information on the new roles and the election process will follow shortly.

This is a fantastic opportunity for all students to be a part of; so let's start encouraging students to get involved as a young leader of tomorrow, today!

Dates for Your Diary

30th March	End of term (2.30 pm finish)
30th April	End of Spring Term
2nd-13th April	Easter Holiday
16th April	Summer Term begins
23rd-24th April	GCSE Art Exam
25th April	Ramsey's Got Talent
26th April	Year 8 Junior Maths Challenge
27th April	Staff Training Day
4th May	Year 8 reports to Parents
8th-11th May	Year 9 Exams
10th May	Year 7 Parents' Evening
14th May	GCSE Exams begin
14th May	HPV Vaccinations

Art



Art and Design staff have been working hard to uphold Ian Ramsey's idea of offering 'opportunity and achievement in a Christian environment.' There have been over, a number of weeks, fifty Year 9 pupils invited to attend after school workshops run by the art and design staff to introduce them to the experience of working with clay.

The pupils have explored the process of making artefacts, using clay, through the work of artist Sally MacDonnell and have each made a highly patterned, personal clay mask which can be hung on the wall. The masks have been fired to a high temperature to turn the clay to pot and have had oxides added to give the effect of an ancient artefact. The pupils have enjoyed the experience and have achieved a great deal of understanding and development of skills in a very short time. Well done to all who attended.

Miss Turner and Mrs Devenney

Gifted and Talented

This month we have 3 of our Year 8 gifted and talented mathematicians taking the opportunity to be part of the Royal Institution Mathematics Master classes at Teesside University. **Isabel Neish** (8N), **Joseph Moore** (8N) and **James Winship** (8I) are attending the series of 5 themed classes on Saturday mornings with Mr Yiannoulis.

The Delancy UK schools' Chess Challenge 2012 is underway and in its 6th round. The current leader is **Fintan Devenney** (9E), closely being followed by **Aaron Sinclair** (7Y). This is the third year Ian Ramsey has competed in this nation-wide competition, the first leg of which is held in school during the Easter term. Friendly games are still occurring alongside official tournament games, so if you want to learn, get an early lunch pass from Miss Errington or Mr Smith for Tuesdays at 12.40 in room 48.

Maths Puzzle Winners: January

Puzzle A: Ethan Fordy

Puzzle B: Ian Brookes

Congratulations!

Miss Errington

Creative Writing Club

What happens when certain words are placed in front of other words? That's right, creative writing! Ian Ramsey is now running a Creative Writing Club for budding storytellers, poets and novelists. If you want help creating characters, thinking of where your plots go next, writing techniques or just enjoy the cut and thrust of penmanship and the fun to be had in quill-dipping then pop in.

The club runs from 12:45pm-1:15pm every Tuesday in Room 9.

See Mr Harrison or Mrs Barraclough for more information.

Sports News



As the winter season starts to draw to a close we would like to thank all those pupils who have represented the school this year and committed their time to both training and fixtures. We have had some outstanding performances throughout the year but more importantly teams have worked together through both wins and defeats to become stronger and more mature sides. As ever the pupils have always travelled to other schools as fine representatives of Ian Ramsey and we would like to commend them for this and the contribution they have made.

RUGBY

The under-15 squad recently competed in the first stage of the area tournament where two games were played. They stormed their first game against Grangefield securing a convincing 17–0 win with tries coming from Marc Masaoy and Jacob Richardson, who also got a conversion. The team then came up against a strong Nunthorpe side where they suffered a respectable defeat 5-10, with a good try coming from Ben Phillips. As this is a cumulative competition the next stage was held on the 20th March at Stockton RFU, which resulted in two wins for Ian Ramsey, 10-0 against Egglecliffe and 5-0 against Nunthorpe. The next stage is on March 29th at Acklam RFU. Many thanks to the players who all performed very well. We are all looking forward to seeing how you get on at the next event!

The Year 9 squad have had an excellent end to their season securing a semi-final place in the Durham County Cup – watch this space for the results in the next newsletter!

FOOTBALL

The Year 8 team set out to their quarter-final against Grangefield where they won in convincing style 5–0! Special mention must go to Will Mackie for his superb 4-goal blitz – we are hoping for him to dazzle again in the next round! The team now have to gather themselves for the semi-final which is to be played against Conyers – the result of which will be reported on after Easter.

VOLLEYBALL

There is now a volleyball club being held on a Monday lunchtime which is open to any boys in Year 7–9 who would like to learn how to play. No need to book – just turn up on the day!

GCSE / BTEC SPORT

Revision classes for all GCSE and BTEC students will take place during the Easter holiday. All pupils wishing to attend must return their slips asap after they are issued.

Miss Capell is also running GCSE revision sessions every Friday lunchtime in room 8. Please see either her or Mr Howe for a programme of topics to be covered. This revision session is invaluable to any of those pupils not currently meeting their target grade! Can you afford to miss it???

Keep an eye out for the next newsletter – we have lots of upcoming end-of-season tournaments and cup finals still to be played! Good luck to all those who will be competing!

PE Department



Languages



This term we have already seen the return visit to Meppen, Germany, as part of the German Exchange. This year's visit was co-ordinated by Miss McCarthy and Mrs King and both accompanied Mrs Wilson on the visit to Johannesschule. The exchange was a huge success and many new friendships were formed. In particular Mrs Wilson was able to see what life in a school in Germany was like and also able to meet Herr Jansen, the Head teacher at Johannesschule and his Leadership Team.

Frau Fuest, the German lead teacher had planned her usual action-packed programme of events for our students including skiing and a memorable visit to Osnabruck. The exchanges we run form an essential part of the language learning experience we offer at Ian Ramsey School, and participation in them is not restricted to those studying that language.

As we approach Easter we are all well underway with arrangements for our other visits for Years 7 and 8. Here is a list of visits and those teachers who are leading them. If you have any questions relating to any of the visits please do not hesitate to contact me or the member of staff leading the visit.

Year 7	Köln	Mrs Joyce
Year 7	Boulogne	Mrs Richardson
Year 8	Rhine Valley	Mrs King
Year 8	Paris	Mr L'Hoiry

In addition to our work within school several members of the Languages Area headed by Mrs King have also been to Durham University to lecture on language learning and teaching to both primary and secondary students completing their teaching certificates.

Finally, I would like to pass on our congratulations to all those students from Ian Ramsey and our other partner schools who have successfully passed their Latin examinations in January. We run Latin classes here in school on a Wednesday evening and anyone wishing to take part should contact me here at school. Classes start from Year 8 through to Year 10 when they sit their GCSE examination. Mr Evans and the Languages Area

We wish you all a happy Easter! Frohe Ostern! ¡Feliz Pasqua! Joyeuse Pâques!

Meppen erstaunt englische Schüler aus Stockton on Tees



Mit „Welcome to Meppen“ sind 13 englische Schüler und ihre Betreuer aus Stockton on Tees von Meppens stellvertretender Bürgermeisterin Annelene Eivers und Regina Holzappel im historischen Rathaus begrüßt worden. Die Schüler der Klasse 9 aus dem See-

hafenort am Fluss Tees im Nordosten Englands tauschen sich mit ihren Altersgenossen aus der Johannesschule in Meppen aus und absolvieren während ihres Aufenthalts in Meppen ein abwechslungsreiches Programm. Im Rathaus wurde ihnen ein Film über

Meppens Geschichte und über touristische Angebote im Emsland vorgeführt. Die Gäste und ihre Schulleiterin Janet Wilson waren überrascht, dass Meppen, „das in England ganz unbekannt ist“, so viel Kultur, Geschichte und Attraktionen zu bieten hat. Zur Meppen-

er Johannesschule besteht eine enge Verbindung. So besuchten 20 Meppener Schüler mit Schulleiter Georg Jansen im vergangenen Herbst die englische Hafenstadt. Für die englischen Schüler bietet das Emsland einige Überraschungen. „Besonders das

Frühstück mit Brötchen, Käse oder Nougatcreme hat uns gut gefallen. Auch die Häuser sehen anders aus als bei uns, und die Schüler der Johannesschule brauchen keine Schuluniformen zu tragen“, wunderten sie sich.

Foto: Gerd Mecklenborg

School Sports Co-ordinator Report

Olympic Mascots



The highlight of this half term has been visiting our primary feeder schools to deliver assemblies about London 2012. How much do you know about the mascots?

Wenlock

Wenlock is the official mascot for the London Olympic 2012 Games. His name was inspired by Much Wenlock in Shropshire, a town that held the first modern Olympic games in 1850. The shape of Wenlock's head is based on the shape of the Olympics Stadium roof. His eye is a camera lens, the three points on his head represent the places on the podium and the light was inspired by London's black taxis. The bracelets on his wrist are friendship bands, in the colours of the five Olympic rings.



Mandeville

Mandeville is the official mascot for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. He is named after Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire, the birthplace of the Paralympics. On his head are three prongs which represent the three parts of the Paralympic emblem. Like his tail and his hands they are aerodynamic. Mandeville has a personal best timer on his wrist.

Hockey Leadership

Congratulations to 9R for leading a fantastic hockey tournament for Year 4 primary school pupils. The festival took place on Tuesday 6th March at Power League, Preston Farm.

The Ian Ramsey pupils umpired and managed 18 teams. Primary pupils learned more about the Olympic sport in a fun, competitive atmosphere.



PHSE/Careers/Citizenship

Over the last two terms Ian Ramsey School has offered students a large number of experiences. These have been through both face-to-face task force meetings, whole class sessions and year group assemblies.

Year 7 have worked through personal safety, puberty and worries, and enterprise and have sessions still to come on relationships and thinking skills. The sessions have offered students the opportunity to work in teams, present to others, learn about finances, both group and personal, and time to discuss issues.

Year 8 have worked on careers, e-safety, enterprise and relationships education. The sessions have given students time to reflect on their online safety, what budgets and working life could be like and had time to reflect during role-play scenarios.

Year 9 have worked through careers, enterprise and all option based career days. They have developed their skills in personal finance and increased their awareness of their skills and attributes and what their future may look like.

Year 10 have worked on enterprise and career and employability skills/works experience. They have had time to reflect on career paths, needs for work and personal and group finances. They have had time to assess the needs of employers and match their skills and attributes to roles.

Year 11 have had input on sex and relationships. They have taken part in revision technique sessions and master classes, listened to motivational speakers and taken part in study skill sessions.

These sessions have been a balance between increasing aspiration and pace in the lead up to exams and helping students to prepare mentally for exams.

Year 11 students have also had the opportunity for careers advice from Connexions in one-to-one sessions and have access to independent careers advice in drop-in sessions offered to students and their parents.