

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

Our Values in Action – A Principal's view

Welcome to Bulletin 3. This month, I will begin by using a quote from the sporting arena:

'You are only as good as your last game'.

What does the quote actually mean? What has this got to do with our Academies? Bear with me... basically, the sporting quote refers to someone's sporting performance, and asks how a person or team has fared in their most recent match. Of course, in simple terms, that could have been a good performance or perhaps a bad one.

It is quite likely that people who witnessed that sporting performance will draw a conclusion about that person or team and then judge them and possibly their reputation.

In this day and age, it is quite possible that the judgement or opinion, either good or bad, will end up being shared on the internet in the form of a post on social media. From here, it is then that the wider world can see the post and add comments or opinions on a performance that perhaps they didn't even see.

Similarly, it is also common place for our Academies to experience such judgements and comments. Some of these are also being posted online. Just like the example of the sports person or team, all stakeholders will have an opinion about our performance, which is of course entirely acceptable. However, when our stakeholders share sensitive or even negative comments about us in the public domain, it can be quite damaging and distressing and is not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community.

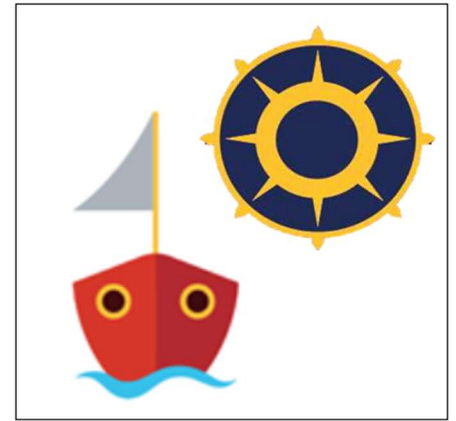
At Raleigh and Admirals Academies, we are working very hard to give our children the very best education we can, and we are well aware of the changes that we need to make to address some historical underperformance. As a staff team, we desperately want to make a difference to the lives of our pupils, and we all realise that 'making real change' can sometimes take time. However, at this stage of our journey, we really do hope that our community can see the improvements that have been made.

Support and optimism from the wider community are key ingredients in helping us fulfil our potential. Comments or concerns that are shared directly with us when using the appropriate channels can be addressed quickly. This can be achieved by speaking to the class teacher, the appropriate member of the leadership team or the Chair of the Academy Council. It is far easier for us all to work in partnership, and for all those concerned, it is always our aim to deal with issues fairly, appropriately and effectively. Understandably, our Aspiration, Respect and Kindness (ARK) values are there for everyone to follow.

We are, of course, 'only as good as our last game', but I genuinely believe that we are getting better. So please do help to spread the word!

Have a great half-term holiday,

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 2022/23

Monday 20th February

Spring Term resumes

3rd – 18th April

Easter Holidays

Monday 17th April

PD day, Academies closed

Our Academy Improvement Priorities

Leadership within the Academy secures sustained improvement in all areas

Across the Academy, pupil outcomes demonstrate a sustainable improving trend

Improve teaching, learning and assessment in order to secure good and better rates of progress for all pupils

Embed a high standard of personal development, behaviour and welfare

Congratulations!!!

Zak Pullen from Year 5 recently competed in the Norfolk Athletics Association Indoor County Championships. Zac raced in the 60m sprint and was awarded a silver medal for his second place finish. Well done Zak!!!!

Young Voices – A visit to the O2 Arena, London

The Largest Children's Choir Concert in the World
O₂ Young Voices – A review by Maizie (Year 6)

On the 24th January 2023, Year 6 enjoyed a once in a lifetime trip to the O₂ Arena in London. We went to London to be a part of "Young Voices choir 2023, the Largest Children's Choir Concert in the World. The day started early and it took us 1 hour and 30 minutes to get to the capital city. We travelled on a coach, which was extremely exciting.



It was an absolutely humongous choir because there were roughly about 10,000 children, and in that didn't include counting the adults (teachers or leaders). When we arrived, some of us just couldn't believe our eyes, it was a huge place and it was extremely busy.

Once we all got ready and got into our seats, we had to rehearse the songs and dance moves that we had been practicing back at the Academy. Some of us got a Young Voices t-shirt and a LED torch to use in the show. The best part was the actual show was when we danced with Urban Strides and sang with Heather Small. We sang her famous song called 'Proud'.



We also learnt how to 'beat-box' with the amazing Beat-Box Collectives, and we watched a famous violinist. The whole experience linked well to children's mental health week, as I really feel like we connected through the music. I had the best time ever and I will never forget this experience.

We would all like to thank the parents and staff who came with us, it was a very late night and we couldn't have gone without them!



TROX UK – Supporting our future

We have been extremely fortunate to receive another financial donation to support the purchase of resources for our 'Calm Ports'. The staff of TROX UK, based here in Thetford, part of a global subsidiary with 34 sites worldwide, donated funds collected through their staff Christmas raffle. We were delighted to welcome Clare Pulham and Mick Placzek from the TROX UK HR team, who visited us for the morning to understand more about our Academies and how the funds will be spent. TROX UK is a lead designer and manufacturer of building services components and air conditioning systems. We look forward to welcoming Clare and Mick back to visit when our 'Calm Ports' are fully furnished.



Raleigh & Admirals Eco-Council

In our last bulletin, we were incredibly proud to announce that we have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark. Nationally, over 400 Primary Science Quality Marks were awarded to schools this month to celebrate their commitment to science teaching and learning excellence.

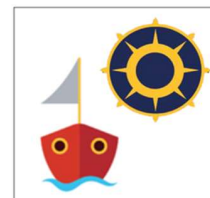
The Primary Science Quality Mark is a three-year school improvement program for primary science. As part of our ongoing commitment to raising the profile of science and looking after the environment, we have launched our Eco-Council, which Mrs Bishop will oversee. Each class, from reception to Year 6, has elected a council member who will lead the Academies to become more eco-friendly. They will devise our Eco-code and meet regularly to launch Eco-projects for both academies. Work has already begun as the committee begins to work with the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers landscape partnership, which will support both Raleigh and Admirals to start a wildlife and green care project. We look forward to hearing about the impact of their work! Our Eco-council members are:

Pelican	Alice
Golden Hind	Elijah
Mayflower	Diya
Victory	Evan M
Beagle	Jacob
Cutty Sark	Alexander
Discovery	Joshua
Mauretania	Isabella

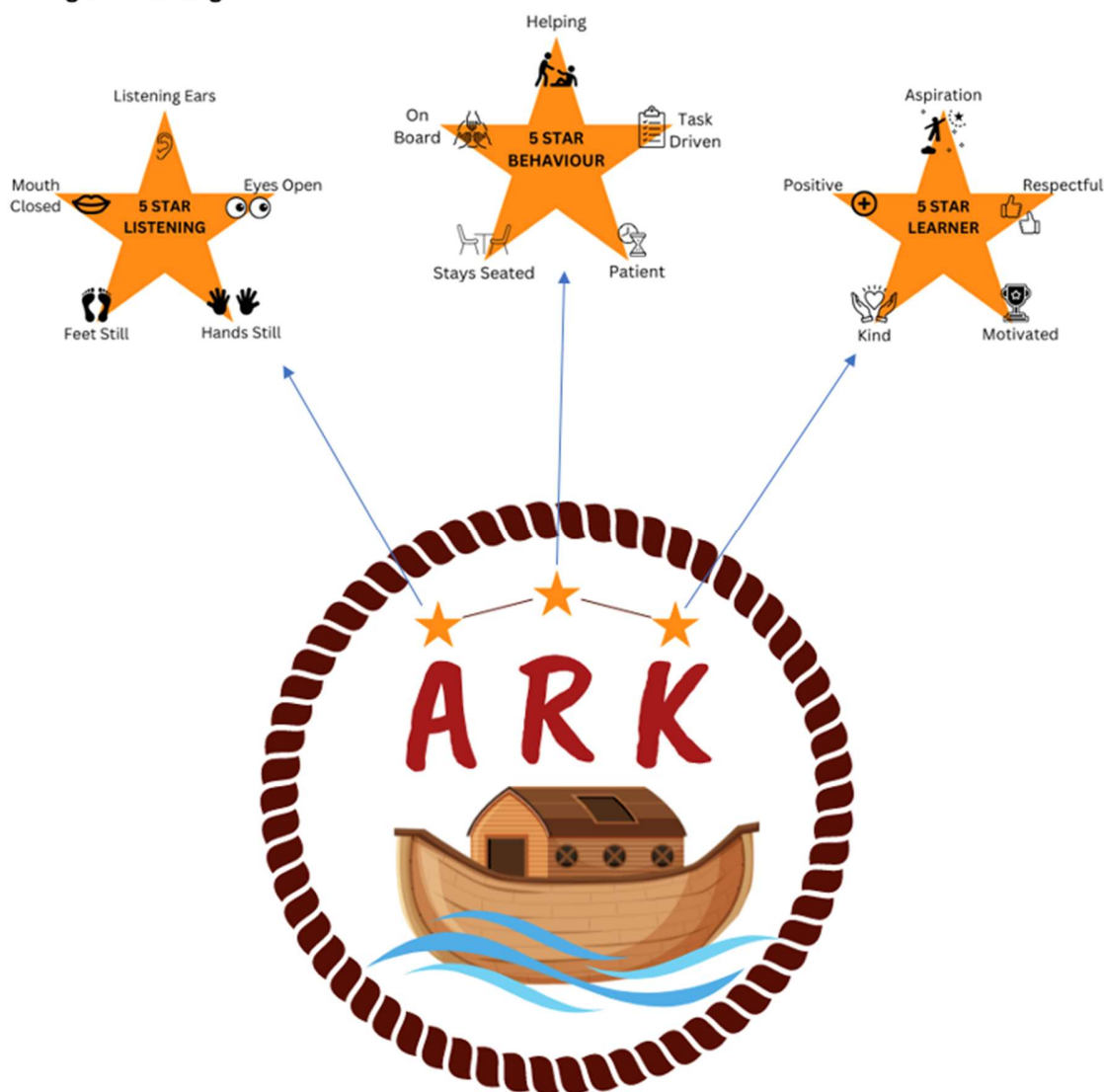
Nimrod	Cerys
Terranova	William
Ark Royal	Auguste
Endurance	Sofija
Turbinia	Gabriel
Britannia	Genevieve
Canberra	Verners

Teaching and Learning at Raleigh and Admirals

Our teachers have recently been reviewing our teaching and learning policy, ensuring that teacher lead approaches in our classrooms are the same for all of our pupils. So, in addition to our ARK values, we have now introduced the next phase of our guiding principles that will further support our learners in navigating their way through their learning.



We support our learners to benefit from great teaching. Our guiding principles of great learning are:



As needed, all adults, whether they are teaching or supporting learning, will be able to refer to our guiding principles of 5-star learning, 5-star listening and 5-star behaviour. In addition, children will be rewarded for demonstrating the characteristics of great learning, listening and behaviour!

Introducing our House Captains



Layla Thomson – Biscay house captain



Ozan Hurkardas - Biscay house captain



Theo Veldtman – Fastnet house captain



Evija Burnauska – Fastnet house captain



Emily Oxborough – Britannia house captain



Harry Chrystal – Britannia house captain



Libbi Barrett – Trafalgar house captain



Henry Sharland - Trafalgar house captain

We are pleased to announce that our House Captains will represent the pupils of both Raleigh and Admirals. The staff are looking forward to involving our chosen Year 6 pupils in important decision-making. Congratulations to them all!

Year 2 History – The Thetford Heritage Project

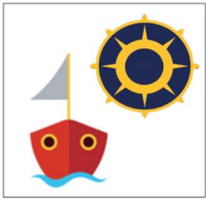
Year 2 has been participating in The Thetford Heritage project this half term. They visited the King's House in Thetford. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children. They could see where the Thetford town council met, experience what it would be like to be the mayor and discuss changes they would like to make to the town.



Year 3 History – Anglo-Saxon Village visit

This half term, year 3 visited West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village to enhance further their knowledge and understanding of the Anglo-Saxons and how they lived. During their visit, the children acted as historians for the day, using their observations to predict what life was like during this time period. They started the day by looking closely at the reconstructed houses, identifying their purpose, how they were built, and what we know about Anglo-Saxon life. After spending time in the village, the children spent some time in the museum exploring and handling the artefacts and trying on clothing. Overall the children had a wonderful day and are ready to build on this next half term when learning about the Vikings.



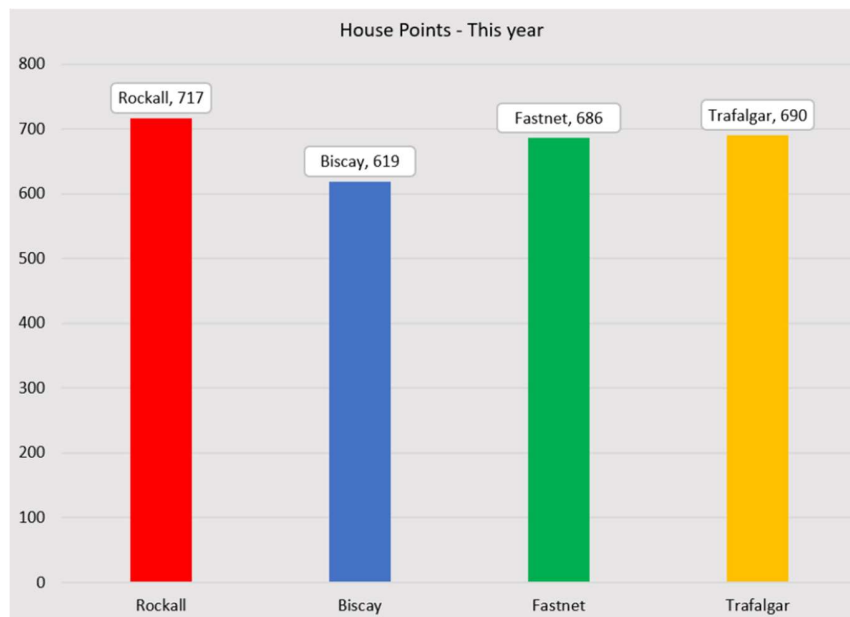


An apology to Jack...

In our last newsletter, we were very pleased to congratulate Bethany Last in Year 6 for achieving certificates in all three of our ARK values. However, we didn't report that at the same time, **Jack Williams** in Year 5 also achieved the same feat. He was also rewarded for demonstrating qualities that align with our Aspiration, Respect and Kindness values. We are sorry Jack... a belated well done and congratulations! Now, of course, even more children have joined Bethany and Jack in achieving 3 certificates and we will celebrate all of those pupils in our next newsletter!

House Points... the totals so far!

Raleigh:



Admirals:

