

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

The Power of Pupil Voice – A Principal's view

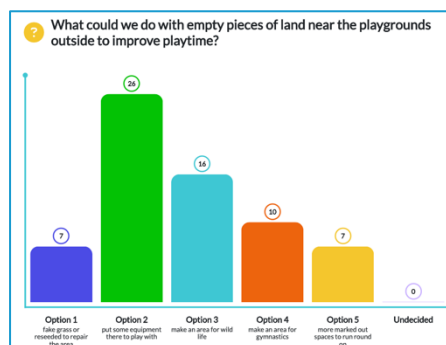
Welcome to Bulletin 7

Over recent months at Raleigh and Admirals, we have put an effective system in place to provide opportunities for our pupils to have their say on matters that affect them. We wanted to ensure that all of the children are listened to and that their views are taken into account, allowing them to ultimately influence Academy-wide decisions.

Research tells us that pupil voice can contribute to a school's improvement journey, and it is because of this that our children are now part of our planning and decision-making processes. We have implemented a system where every child is listened to, and they can offer input and feedback every week. The children gather in groups, providing them with equal opportunity to comment and vote on topics such as Academy policies, procedures and systems that directly impact them.

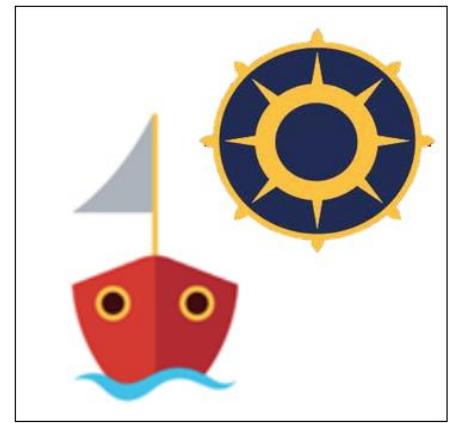
Under the leadership of Mr King, we have started to develop a culture of pupil leadership where some older children take on leadership roles and responsibilities within the Academy community. The children lead and manage a programme called 'Smart School Council' where they can record, collect, collate and share details of their meetings, thereby providing the staff with an accurate view of their opinions, thoughts and feelings that will ultimately drive the change they want to see.

A recent example of child-led change driven by our younger pupils in Raleigh can be seen during morning break time. They unanimously voted to join the children in Admirals for their morning break time, allowing them to access the larger play space and mix with their older friends and siblings. This has proved to be a huge success and has brought the Academies closer together. The children in Admirals have also influenced their break time by voting for a new tuck system where they can pre-order and pre-pay. This prevents them from missing out on snack items that may run out while patiently queuing. It also means they don't miss out on their valuable playtime!



As we continue to develop our outdoor provision, this week has seen construction activity begin on our 'Bringing the Brecks in' project. Our KS2 communications team within the Smart School Council came up with their question regarding the project and provided several feasible options for the children to vote upon. Given the nature of the project, we know that we will be able to offer precisely what the children would like to see by including more play resources linked directly to the green scape design. As we move forward, we will continue to seek our children's views on all manner of things, with our next focus being the curriculum! Exciting times ahead!

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 2023/24

Monday 15th April '24

Summer Term begins for pupils

Mon 27th to Fri 31st May

Summer Half Term '24

Friday 19th July '24

End of Summer term '24

Our Academy Improvement Priorities for 2023/24

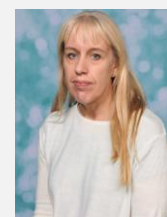
Leadership within the Academy secures sustained improvement in all areas

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

Welcome & Farewell



We are pleased to welcome Mrs Boulton to our staff team on a permanent basis. She joins us as a specialist teaching assistant working with our children in Shemera class at Raleigh Infant Academy. We say farewell & thank you to Mrs Mudd, who leaves the post of finance assistant within our Admin team. We wish her well for the future.

Celebrating Success...

Bell Ringing Quest For Max

Since the age of four, Max Thomson from Thetford and a pupil at Admirals Academy has had a huge interest in clocks and church bells as well as a fascination in the history of Big Ben in London and in April 2023 this is when Max began his journey into bell ringing. After searching to find a bell tower that would take Max as a learner to ring church bells, the family were fortunate to find Bardwell Church Tower in Suffolk. Since starting at Bardwell Church Max's weekly commitment to attend and to succeed as a bell ringer has enabled him to pass his Level One Certificate in Bell Handling after only a few months. This then resulted in Max being nominated and elected as a member of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.



Deborah Blumfield presents Max with his Bell Ringing certificate at Bardwell

Max has become a competent and skilled bell ringer and has rung at many church towers in Norfolk and Suffolk with many experienced ringers. Bell ringing, or Campanology as it is traditionally known, is one of England's oldest traditions and it is wonderful that a young person like Max and his fellow bell ringers are keeping the tradition alive.

One of Max's goals is to be able to ring the bells at St Peters Church in Thetford and for them to be rung again on a regular basis. When Max was asked what one of his ambitions in life was, he said, "It would be to have the keys to his 'home' tower at St Peters Church in Thetford so I can ring the bells for the people of Thetford". Fingers crossed this will happen one day soon.

This article was featured in 'About Thetford' Magazine, January 2024

National Centre for Computing Education Quality Mark

We are immensely proud and privileged to announce that Admirals Academy has been awarded the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) Quality Mark.

The award is in recognition of the quality of the computing curriculum that is delivered here at Admirals. Our curriculum that has been implemented by Mr Harris has been bench marked against strict criteria by assessors who validate the quality of what we offer the children and how it is taught.

Claire Garside, senior lead facilitator at the NCCE, said: "Congratulations to Admirals Academy on becoming an NCCE 'Computing Quality Mark' school! They're among the schools leading the way to deliver high standards in computing education. The Computing Quality Mark recognises the quality of their provision to ensure all students receive the computing skills and knowledge so valuable for today and in their future careers."

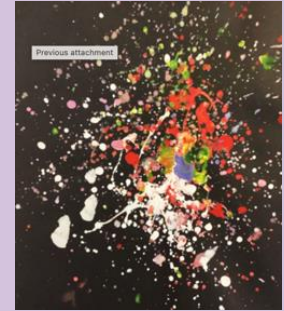
Thank you and well down to Mr Harris!



A focus on Raleigh Curriculum time

Reception out in Space

Reception have had an 'out of this world' half term, growing their knowledge of Space. We enjoyed immersing ourselves in the topic with planetarium experiences, astronaut food tasting, and imaginary walks on the moon! The children have also loved finding different ways to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, including writing non-fiction texts, painting galaxies inspired by Jackson Pollock, and more. The children continue to impress us as they demonstrate their abilities to know more and remember more, making progress across all areas of the curriculum. It turns out the stars aren't just found in Space, but also in the reception classroom too!



Our busy Year 1



Victory class have worked very hard this half term! They have worked so hard on their independence with different learning tasks. This half term has many highlights: we enjoyed creating our gargoyle pots in art and composing our dinosaur music in our music lessons. In science, we really enjoyed working scientifically. We made predictions and performed experiments. One highlight from our writing lessons was sending Mrs Ottley letters from all of us to ask her to visit us with her baby! We can't wait for her reply after half term.

Year 2 Local History

This half term Year 2 have been taking part in the Thetford Heritage Project, learning about Allan Minns, the first black mayor in Britain. They learned about the changes he made to Thetford, including providing the town with a fresh water supply and improving workhouse conditions. During the visit to Kings House, the children met Stuart Wright, the current mayor of Thetford. They had the opportunity to ask him questions and gave him suggestions on improvements they would like to make to Thetford.



We then had a trip to the river, where we walked from Button Island down to Lady Gentle Meadow to spot the wildlife that lives there and discuss the importance of continuing the work of Allan Minns by looking after our town by picking up rubbish and not vandalising public property. We also conducted a water filtration experiment that showed us how much litter and plastic ends up in our rivers.

Our Chicks go viral...

To support our Year 5 pupils with their science curriculum learning of 'life cycles', Mrs Bishop, our Science leader, introduced 'hatching chicks' into the Academies this half term. Our entire community was overjoyed and full of excitement when the unhatched eggs arrived.



Children and staff watched with bated breath for the first chick to hatch, and everyone was excited at the sight of our first feathered friend. We all had to wait over 24 hours for more to hatch, but luckily, an audience was waiting as the hatching continued during our parents evening!

Mr Harris helped set up a live stream so that our chicks became YouTubers and claimed instant fame, with many pupils and parents watching 'chick-cam' 24/7. The Year 5 classes enjoyed their science lessons more than ever,



with their learning being brought to life with live observations of the chicks, real-life handling, and accurate recording and reporting of a life cycle.



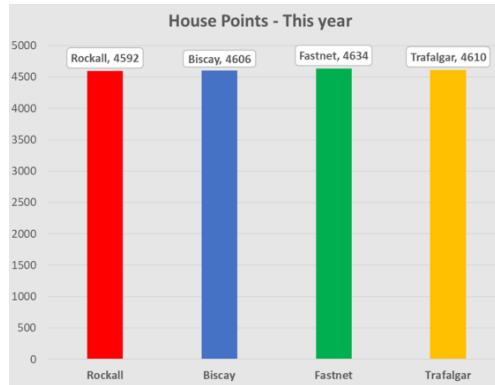
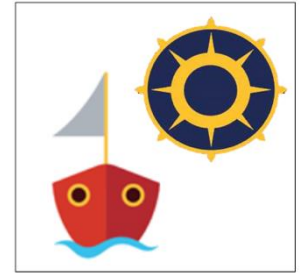
The chicks were also a great tool for improving 'well-being' during the very grey and cold month of January. All classes visited the chicks regularly and the joy of witnessing 'new-life' was

something to behold. Mrs. Denniss, the original mother hen, and all of the children will be *eggstatic* to hear that we have more chicks coming again next year, how *eggciting*!





House Points – The Grand totals after Spring 1



Street Dance & Tag Rugby

This half term, the children of Admirals have been fortunate enough to attend some excellent sporting events. Children from years 3 and 4 participated in a street dance event at Thetford Academy, where they learnt street dance choreography and isolation movements. The children enjoyed collaborating with other primary schools from the town to make one performance incorporating some of their own movements. The children were fantastic at sharing ideas and getting involved. We have some talented dancers!



Some Year 5 and 6 children attended a large Tag Rugby event held at Thetford Rugby Club. The children took part in a series of activities led by senior sports leaders from Thetford Academy and Thetford Rugby Club volunteers before going into a competitive match against other Thetford schools. The children showed excellent teamwork, great skills and sportsmanship. Not only this, but they also achieved a 2nd place finish! The children were fantastic representatives of our Academies! We cannot wait to take the children to more of these planned sports events.

And as promised.....ROCK KIDZ Returned !!!!!!!

