

## Raleigh & Admirals Academies

### Ofsted Reflections – A Principal's view

Well, that was a busy year and one that was capped with the inspection of Admirals by Ofsted, the national Office for Standards in Education. The last time Ofsted inspected Admirals was in January '22, when the Academy was judged to be *'requiring improvement'*. It was from that report that we framed the necessary actions to ensure that all aspects of performance at Admirals were addressed to allow things to quickly improve.

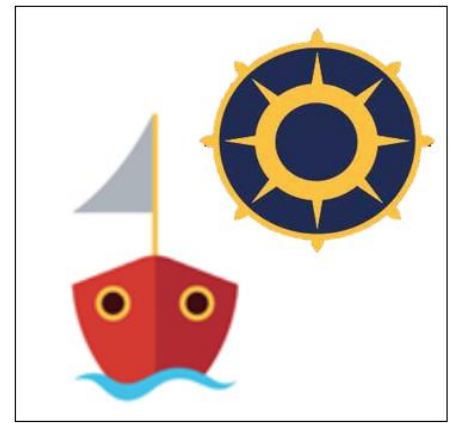
Raleigh Infant Academy had already been inspected back in September '22, achieving a judgement of *'GOOD'* having previously been categorised as *'inadequate'*. Given that the academies are always attempting to work together, we knew that the foundations of what we have been trying to achieve in Admirals were already in place at Raleigh. Therefore, when the notification telephone call came through the morning before the two-day inspection, we already knew that Admirals Academy had significantly improved over our 22-month journey.



Our internal monitoring demonstrated that behaviour had improved, the quality of teaching and learning had improved, and the Curriculum we delivered was strong and engaging. Over the two days of the inspection, the Ofsted inspectors carried out a range of activities such as subject lesson observations, listening to children read, an evaluation of safeguarding, a review of attendance, speaking with a large number of children and looking at their work, met with staff and trust leaders, and reviewed high-level documentation. They also reviewed parent feedback. As you can see from the comprehensive list of inspection activities, the Ofsted inspectors left 'no stone unturned' and gathered a very clear view of the Academy. As a result of this, we are delighted to have received an overall judgement of **'GOOD'**, meaning that in their view, we now offer a good quality of education to our children. However, it was also recognised that pupil's **Behaviour & Attitudes** were judged as **'OUTSTANDING'**, and our children's **Personal Development** was also recognised as **'OUTSTANDING'**. This means that our provision in these two categories is seen to be exceptional, achieving the highest judgement possible.

The final Ofsted inspection report states that **'The school has the best interests of pupils at the centre of everything it does'** and that **'Pupils flourish at Admirals Academy'** with children being **'proud of their school'**. As a staff team, we are delighted with these statements; they epitomise everything that we have tried to achieve for the children, for you, the parents, and for the wider community. Congratulations to everyone, and thank you for your ongoing support. Have a fantastic summer break!

**Greg Sadler, Executive Principal**



### Upcoming Term Dates 2024/25

**Wed 4th Sept '24**

Autumn Term '24 begins

**Friday 20th Dec '24**

End of Autumn Term '24

**Friday 25th Oct '24**

*Academies closed - staff training day*

**28th Oct - 1st Nov '24**

Autumn half term week '24

### Our Academy Improvement Priorities for 2024/25

**Leadership at all levels within the Academies secures sustained improvement in the delivery of the curriculum**

**Across the Academies, outcomes for all pupils demonstrate a sustainable & improving trend**

**Continue to embed high quality teaching & learning, ensuring that assessment in all subjects informs curriculum delivery**

**Continue to embed a high standard of pupil welfare which promotes pupil independence and responsibility**

### **Farewell & thankyou Mrs Ellis**

Sadly we say farewell and thankyou to Mrs Ellis who will be leaving us at the end of the Summer term. Mrs Ellis leaves us and returns to University to undertake training to become an Art therapist. We wish her all the very best for the future and thank her for all of her work in supporting the children of Raleigh Academy. She will be missed !!!



# Curriculum Time...

## Year 2 Science



This half term, Year 2 has been studying astronomy and investigating our solar system. We demonstrated how Earth rotates whilst orbiting the Sun using hula hoops and balls. The children also investigated constellations and discovered that the names of the constellations come from myths and



stories told years and years ago. They got to draw the constellation for their star sign. We became astronauts, bravely travelled to the International Space Station, and learnt about its importance to space exploration. We explored the different planets and made discoveries that we shared with our fellow astronauts. One of our highlights was using Oreo biscuits to show the different

phases of the moon – it's a shame we couldn't eat them afterwards!



### Author Visit by James Campbell



We had the absolute pleasure of hosting James Campbell, the brilliant children's author, storyteller, and comedian at our academies.

James captivated us with his engaging and hilarious stories, using actions and expressions that had the children and staff in fits of giggles.

His tales of school and family life resonated with all of us, and his books have become instant favourites throughout the school.

James's visit has truly inspired us all to dive into the world of reading and writing, sparking creativity and enthusiasm among our students and staff.



*'Strong relationships between staff and pupils help foster positive learning attitudes' Ofsted '24*

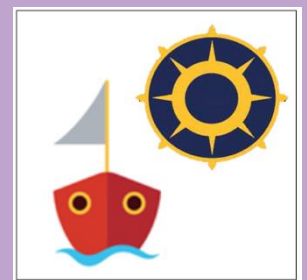
## Year 5 at the Ancient House Museum

Our Year 5 children enjoyed a trip to the Ancient House Museum, where they learned more about life during the Victorian era. As part of this trip, the children played Victorian board games, washed some clothes using Victorian methods, reenacted a steam engine, and learned about life as a soldier. The children mostly enjoyed the washing experience with 'Angus', where they grated solid soap into a bucket before spinning the clothes and spraying water everywhere with a range of washing tools.



## Year 3 cookery

During the second half of the summer term, year 3 participated in their final DT day of this academic year. The focus for this unit of work was cooking! The day started with the children making their bread. They worked in teams of 3 to mix and knead the bread before allowing it to rise. The children were fascinated with how the bread changed over very little time. The children then made their pasta bakes; this included peeling and chopping vegetables and mixing the sauce. Whilst some were busy preparing this, others made their butter! This was the most exhausting part of the day as it involved lots of shaking to mix the cream and salt. At the end of the day, we sat outside and tried our food – it was a hectic day but with lots of great learning taking place.



## Year 1 Design & Technology



Year 1 have had a jam-packed half term and have done some great learning. The children have grown in their independence this half term, and I know they are more than ready for year 2. One of our favourite days this year has got to be our D.T. Day. In D.T., we were tasked with the challenge of making a land vehicle. We researched different land vehicles and focused on the key vocabulary of wheel and axle. We then designed our own vehicles. The children were very imaginative. Some wanted to make a

party bus, and others wanted to make a pet carrier to save rescued pets. Our final task was to test to see if they could move. All the vehicles could move; some moved nearly the whole classroom length with one push! The children were very proud of their vehicles, and I think we have some promising engineers in Victory class.



## Reception – Stories from the past



Reception has loved their final learning theme this half term, exploring 'Stories from the Past'. The children enjoyed various experiences that helped embed their new knowledge. Some of our highlights have included a trip to the Ancient House Museum, where we explored Fairytales, creating sculptures of Greek Gods when exploring Greek Myths, and toasting marshmallows around a

'campfire' while exploring West African Folktales! This growing knowledge of stories from around the world and across history, our embedded love of books from across Reception, and our recent visit from author James Campbell have



inspired us. We have written invented stories, created puppet shows and acted performances, and even developed a class E-book! We are amazing storytellers in the making!



## Farewell to our Year 6 leavers



The years in this school have been like a river where I followed the stream into the huge lake. However, during this journey, the school has prepared me for the journey ahead by teaching, helping and supporting me - Sofija.

My time at Admirals has been great, and I hope I won't forget the fantastic memories I made at this school - Nicole.

Admirals Academy is like a book, and a new chapter happens every day - Dolcie.

The thing I will miss most about Admirals is the teachers since they always made me happy- Amy.

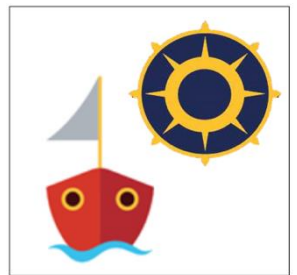
What I like most about this school is that our Principal keeps holding events like glow-in-the-dark dodgeball, Rock Kidz and the residential. - Frank

The best thing about Admirals Academy is Mrs McArdle - Noah

My favourite thing about Admirals Academy is that we go on fun trips, and we get badges - Ella-May

My favourite thing about Admirals Academy is how the teachers work together, showing a great example to the student - anon

I love this school; my friends and teachers have helped me a lot, and my learning has improved - Jaden



*'Educational experiences beyond the classroom enable pupils to make sense of the world they live in' - Ofsted '24*

## Sports Day 2024

Admirals and Raleigh sports day 2024 was once again a huge success! The children showed skill and determination in completing all races and field events. It was especially impressive to see children cheering, supporting, and encouraging their teammates across all ages.



We hope parents enjoyed the day as much as the children did, and our results showcase just how tight the competition was! Our 2024 winners for Raleigh are Biscay, and Admirals are Rockall! It is great to see a change to last year's winners, showing progress and improvement across the academy!

A special thank you to our amazing year 6 cohort, who not only competed throughout the morning but also led the Raleigh Sports Day field events in the afternoon. We have some real leaders in the making! Once again, thank you for your attendance. It was a successful day, with all the children leaving with smiles on their faces and a passion for sport. We look forward to next year's event!



## Year 6 Residential to Overstrand Hall, Cromer

The residential was a fantastic trip where we did so many different activities such as lighting the fire, the Leap of Faith, climbing Jacobs Ladder, walking the Nightline, and many more! Most activities required teamwork, and each activity required us to use different skills. By far, my favourite must be the Leap of Faith, as it looked totally impossible, but with a bit of determination, I finally conquered it along with many others. We also had delicious food, like a full English breakfast every morning and great lunches and big dinners!! *Bethany*



During the residential, we did a series of different activities that required us to build upon our teamwork and survival skills, our physical coordination, our communication and our bravery. Even though we all had our own challenges and difficulties, we all fought through them, which allowed the residential to end positively. It was an enjoyable and memorable experience, and we all enjoyed it very much!

*Sofija*

***The nights were very late, and the mornings were very early. The rooms were very messy, and we were all totally exhausted, but we had a blast!!***

***Mr Sadler, Mrs Lamb, Mrs McArdle, Mrs Monk, Mrs Denniss and Mr Lamb***



## Summer Fete – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

We hosted our Summer Fete on Wednesday. The weather was very good, allowing us to enjoy a glorious afternoon of fun and sales. We were aiming to attract enough funds to employ a child councillor.



Wayne Thompson, an Academy Councillor, and Sharon Azzopardi organised the fete, which attracted a considerable number of raffle and tombola donations. A significant number of local community businesses also attended the event, adding real value to the afternoon. Some sold food and crafts for all to enjoy.



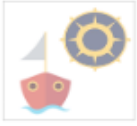
The children enjoyed face painting, a bouncy castle and an ice cream van. They also had a busy afternoon running their own stalls. Every class had a stall that was decorated and signposted by the children, and many of them enjoyed making sales and awarding prizes.



We are thrilled to announce that the afternoon raised the spectacular amount of **£1100**.

Thank you to everyone who attended and spent their hard-earned cash – we are so very grateful!





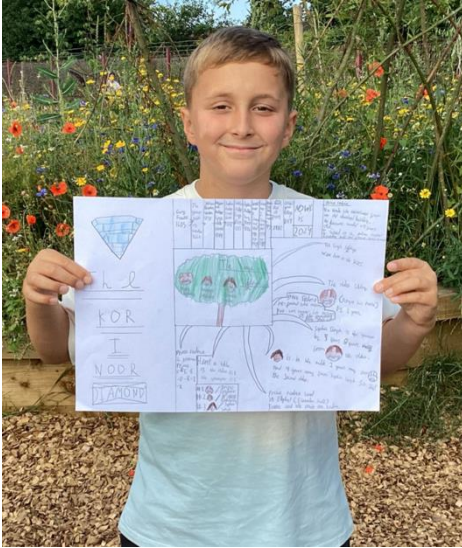
## Pupil Survey, July '24 - What do you think?



330/376 (88%) pupils completed a paper-based pupil perception survey based on Ofsted questions

	<b>All or most of the time</b>	<b>Some of the time</b>	<b>Almost Never</b>	<b>Never</b>
I enjoy coming to school	70%	25%	3%	2%
My teacher and other adults help me do my best	77%	15%	5%	0%
My teacher gives me work and lessons that challenge me	70%	28%	2%	0%
My teacher and other adults help me do my best	76%	19%	7%	0%
I enjoy my learning at my Academy	73%	23%	3%	1%
My teachers and adults listen to what I have to say	83%	15%	2%	0%
The behaviour of other children in my lessons is normally good	86%	12%	0%	2%
The general behaviour of children around the Academy is normally good	70%	29%	1%	0%
There is an adult I can talk to if something is worrying me	75%	23%	2%	0%
I feel safe when I am here at my Academy	77%	20%	3%	0%
	<b>It doesn't happen here OR it happens but staff are REALLY GOOD at resolving it</b>	<b>Happens here but staff are GOOD at resolving</b>	<b>Happens here but staff not good at resolving</b>	<b>Happens but staff do nothing about it</b>
Is bullying a problem in the Academy?	85%	12%	2%	1%
	<b>Strongly agree or agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
I am encouraged to look after my physical health	86%	13%	1%	0%
Through PSHE, assemblies and other lessons, I am encouraged to look after my mental health	85%	12%	2%	1%
I take part in activities outside of lessons, like after school clubs	61%	13%	2%	24%
Staff at the Academy encourage me to be independent and to take on responsibilities	83%	12%	3%	2%
The Academy encourages me to respect people from other backgrounds & to treat everyone equally	94%	5%	1%	0%

## Year 4 Heritage Study – The Singh Family



In Year 4, one of the key areas we explored this half-term is our local heritage. We focused on the Singh siblings and their contributions to our Thetford community. This work encouraged a sense of pride and appreciation for the history and diversity within our local area. We also delved into the fascinating culture of Japan.

Through this topic, the children have had the opportunity to learn about Japanese traditions, language, and customs as they create a travel blog. Hopefully, we will encourage some intrepid travellers!



Raleigh Infant and Admirals Academies  
2023 - 2024

