

# **Ridgeway News**

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 71 **Fortnightly** September 2021 Week 1

### students back to school. What a fantastic start to our new academic year. I can't thank you enough for your support with testing before our students officially returned, it made a huge difference to ensuring they spent valuable time with their Form Tutor on induction activities. Well done to our Year 7s who all, without exception, behaved impeccably for their first experience of testing in school, we all know it isn't a very pleasant procedure. Hopefully, their time in school over the holidays has supported their smooth start. Thank you to Mrs Piccariello and team for

**Headteacher's Message** 

It's great to welcome parents, staff and

Welcome to all our new parents/carers across the school, it's a great community and we are always here to support you. Your first point of contact is your child's Form Tutor, so any queries please get in touch with them in the first instance. Staff contact details are available on our website under About Us - Our Team. Welcome to the following new staff joining Ridgeway:

organising such a successful Year 7

Dan Smith Helen Jenner Shabana Akhtar John Baranowski Carl Dalv Allison Hicks Te Larnii Kathage Maths Teacher Gerard Loftus Rivae Pendaer

Summer School.

Giovana Picone Amy Price Michelle Shearer Charlotte Wesson Learning Mentor Sam Cooper Simon Turner

DHT AHT

**ECT English** Maths Teacher DOL Y8

**ECT Business Studies** 

**ECT History** 

KS5 Lead Teacher Science

**ECT English ECT PE** Asst SL Maths SGO/SŠCO Counsellor

Our site and IT teams have continued making further improvements to the school over the Summer break including installing interactive Prowise screens in all Core Subject classrooms, new sustainable LED lighting and the expansion of Sixth Form facilities. Attimore playground will be resurfaced 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> September providing students with further outdoor social space. Please encourage your child to bring in a water bottle to reduce the use disposable cups in school.

We have so much to look forward to this term with our Student Leadership Team elections, extensive extra-curricular offer, personal development, charity events and our whole school performance. It's really exciting to have these important extracurricular activities back on at Ridgeway Academy.

Finally, please can I remind you that students should now move over to twice weekly lateral flow testing at home until the 30<sup>th</sup> September. We will be offering further test kits to students this week, and should you run out your children can collect these from Mrs Ring in Reception. Please don't send your child into school if they display any covid symptoms - book them in for a PCR test.

Thank you again for your support, and I look forward to meeting many of you over the academic year whether it be at the school gate, our school events or even bringing your younger children to view the school for starting next year!

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson

### Reminder

School closes at 1.15pm on Thursday 16th and reopens at 10.50am on Friday 17th.

### **School Communication** Protocol

The majority of teacher's time is spent in the classroom and preparing for high quality teaching and learning. This means that they may not respond to parental queries as quickly as parents may wish. Academy's communication Ridgeway protocols are that the Senior Leadership Team will respond to all queries within 24 hours and Subject Leaders, Director of Learning and teachers within 48 hours of any parental communication. Ridgeway Academy observes an email curfew from 7pm to 6am on Monday to Thursday and from 6pm on a Friday evening for the weekend to ensure staff well-being.

Headteacher

### Ridgeway Summer School – Mission Transmission!!

For the first two weeks of the Summer holidays, we were excited to run our first Y7 Summer School, to help our newest members of the Ridgeway family get ready to start in September. Mission Transmission was ready to launch!

In their Yellow, Red and Green Summer School T-Shirts, students were able to get to know the site, get used to routines and expectations, meet some of their new teachers and make some new friends. addition. Mr Emms and the catering team provided delicious lunches for us - something else to look forward to in September!

The students all completed full lessons in their core subjects of Maths, English and Science, planning a holiday, writing amazing Disgusting Beasts-style poetry and designing fireworks and spaghetti towers. We were also able to showcase some of the other lessons they will be having in September including a Black Death History Mystery and the Toilet Roll of Time.

In the afternoon students tried a variety of different sports with Mr Alborn and Mr Pring, from trampolining to cricket, and then were able to make amazing 3D fish in Art with Mrs Johnson in week one. Our final week ended with an excellent performance of the 'Show in a Week' Revolting Children from Matilda the Musical that they had learnt in Drama with Miss Standage. It was a pleasure to hand out so many reward certificates and house points to start the new



















term. We then celebrated with a visit from the Ice Cream van.













We offered the opportunity to attend Summer School to all of our new Y7s, and nearly 80% of them were able to take advantage of the provision. Feedback from students and parents was overwhelmingly positive. The students felt more confident about starting in September and had made new friends. Parents also felt that the Mission had been a success. saving 'It gave her a feel of what secondary school will be like and settled her in with what subjects and work to expect in September' and 'It provided a 'taster' of secondary school ahead of the new school year in a fun and engaging way'.

All of the teachers were impressed with the hard work that the students put in, and are looking forward to helping you achieve your full potential. Mission Accomplished!

Mrs N Picariello **Summer School Coordinator** 

### Personal Development

We are a school aiming for Personal development excellence. We are committed to ensuring that we review our Personal development provision and listen to your views on what Ridgeway has to offer.

We would love you to be involved in the process and if you are interested in us improve our personal development please contact me on the AwardPlace email address below.



The awarding body will be contacting all our parents and students to hear your views.

Mrs S Merrigan Associate Assistant Headteacher sarah.merrigan@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk

### **Celebrating Diversity**

My name is Mr Smith and I am the new Pastoral Deputy at Ridgeway Academy. I am really looking forward to working with both students and parents to ensure everybody within our community achieves their potential. Getting back into a good school routine is of paramount importance. We will continue to have extremely high expectations of all students on their return to school. As always, we will provide high academic challenge and will meet this with high levels of support to enable students to flourish.

In order to do this I would appreciate parents support in reinforcing the following key messages to all our students.

**Attendance** - Being in school everyday is vital to students having successful outcomes.

**Uniform** – Following the school uniform policy, including the jewellery is an expectation and items will be confiscated if not removed prior to entering the site.

**Mobile phones** – These should be switched off and in school bags. They should not be used during the day. They are a distraction, a safeguarding risk in terms of theft and bullying. If they are seen, they will be confiscated. If students need to contact home during the day they should do so via student services. **Following instructions** – Students are expected to follow the instructions they are given by staff at all times. They should do so without argument or protest.

Following these basic guidelines will help our students to focus on succeeding in their academic work and ensuring a safe and happy community. The majority of the students I have met so far are delightful to work with and great ambassadors for our community.

I thank parents in advance for supporting us with these guidelines.

Mr D Smith **Deputy Headteacher** 

### Form Reading

The link between reading and academic success is well-known, our young people need to be confident readers and able to interpret and apply what they read in their learning in order to fulfil their academic potential. However, reading is also proven to help mental health, develop imagination and reduce stress. We want to encourage our students to read widely and for pleasure.

As part of our Reading and Literacy strategy, Ridgeway academy has invested in class readers for all students in Years 7-11. Twice each week, these students will, with their Form Tutor, read together. With the help of the English department and our librarian, Mrs Lawrence, we have selected three books for each year group to read this academic year.

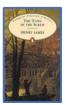
To ensure we are introducing students to a broad range of high-quality literature we have selected a classic novel as well as a modern novel and one that celebrates diversity for each year group. We will begin with the Form Tutor reading aloud however will quickly progress to students reading to their classes. Additional copies of each book can be borrowed from the school library for those who can't wait for their next Form Reading session!











Form reading books Autumn Term 2021

Mrs Caroline Maddocks

Assistant Headteacher

### **Celebrating Diversity**



At Ridgeway Academy we promote equality, through the curriculum, our assembly programme and in our daily interactions by encouraging students to challenge prejudice, stereotyping and intolerance on the grounds of disability, gender, race, age, religion

or belief, sexual orientation or any other form of diversity.

Last term students competed to produce a poster reflecting our commitment to celebrating diversity. The entries were numerous and illustrated how passionately our students feel about this issue. Competition was fierce and students and their Form Tutors voted for the top three form entries to be considered by the Vice Chair of the Governing Body and Chair of HR Committee Governors Liz Tillett.

The overall winning entry, by Evie Read 8C celebrates our commitment to challenging all forms of prejudice and celebrating equality. Evie shared the inspiration for her design, 'Our community is made up of lots of different people and we are all equally



important. The colours on my poster represent all the different people and that we look better and brighter together.'

When visiting the school please look out for new poster which is displayed throughout the school.

Mrs Caroline Maddocks
Assistant Headteacher

### Attendance - Absence

Please inform the school of a student's absence **each morning** by emailing us at the address below. If you do not have access to email then you can phone and leave a message on the telephone number below.

Please remember to include your child's name, form and the reason for the absence. Saying they are unwell or poorly is not enough detail, we need to know what the illness is, for example, headache. If the symptoms are related to Covid please inform of the LFT result and whether you are booking a PCR test.

Medical/Dental appointments should be made outside of school hours where possible but we understand appointments during the day are necessary.

We can only authorise the medical absence when we have seen proof of the appointment. Please take a photo of the letter, appointment card, text reminder etc. and email it to us in advance where possible.

Please be aware that it may not always be possible to update the authorised absence immediately. If you believe your child has been marked incorrectly on the register please enquire by email.

### **Attendance Office**

Email: attendance@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk

Tel: 01707 351350 ext: 315

### Site Security

To protect students on site and control unplanned visitors to the school site, automated security gates are installed at the two entrances on Herns Lane. This is a reminder that parents/carers and other visitors will not be given access to the school site without a pre-booked appointment. Students arriving by car should be dropped safely outside school. There will be no vehicle access to the school site for parents.

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson

Headteacher

### **Year 13 Leavers' Destinations**

Year 13 Leavers of 2021 have achieved some great results under really different and testing circumstances. The destinations that the students have secured can be seen below and is a chance to celebrate the talents and successes of an incredible year group.

Anglia Ruskin University - Criminology Anglia Ruskin University - Musical Theatre Anglia Ruskin University - Photography ARU London - Health and Social Care

Apprenticeship - Childcare
Apprenticeship - Estate Agency
Bath Spa University - Geography
Bournemouth University - Archaeology
Bournemouth University - Social work

Bristol University - Drama and Acting Employment

Employment

**Employment** 

Employment

Employment

Employment

Employment

Gap Year

Hertfordshire - Education

University of East Anglia - Medicine

Oxford Brookes - International Relations and Politics RAF

Sheffield University - Law and Criminology University of the Arts - Digital Marketing

University of Birmingham - Aerospace Engineering University of Buckinghamshire - Product Design and Set Design

University of Groningen (Holland) - Leisure Management

University of Hertfordshire - Cyber Security

University of Hertfordshire - Law

University of Hertfordshire - Marketing

University of Hertfordshire - Sports Management

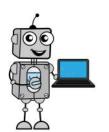
University of Portsmouth - HR

Mrs S Merrigan Head of Sixth Form

### **School Clubs**

### **Homework Club**

New homework club days and times for all years are as follows:



Monday K2 3pm-4pm Tuesday K2 3pm-4pm Wednesday B15 3pm-4pm Thursday K2 3pm-4pm Friday K2 3pm-4pm



### Code Club

Learn how to make your own computer games. Room G2. See Ms Chaudry.

Tuesday Y7 3pm-4pm Wednesday Y8 3pm-4pm



### PE Department Update

Sport is a vital and exciting part of life at Ridgeway Academy. Things have been different over the last year and this term we in the PE department are excited to welcome back sporting activities and fixtures. At the end of the Summer term we launched a PE questionnaire where we asked for comments on how we could improve. We have listened to student's views and designed a curriculum that will make our students 'Fit for Life'. The main strands we will be including are:

- Being more active
- Improving Health and Fitness
- More opportunities in leadership and communication
- Improving sporting performance

Please can we remind students and parents of all of the following points:

- All kit needs to be labelled or be clearly identified.
- Students should have access to water bottles at all times.
- Inhalers should be clearly labelled and accessible to those students who need them.
- Jewellery should not be worn and long hair should be tied back.
- In activities such as football and hockey, shin pads need to be worn - this is a requirement highlighted by the various governing bodies. These can be

bought at a very reasonable price in local sports shops.

 If for any reason either equipment or PE kit is unavailable please send an email to the respective teacher.

Congratulations to Rhianna Russell who came 2nd in an All England National Championship.

Congratulations to the following boys who were selected to represent the District at football:

Year 8 Harley Hayes Year 9 Max McParland

Harry Fyall

Year 10 Will McNeil

Miller Arm



#### Social Media

Please follow the PE Department/Leadership Academy on social media for news about what we are doing around the school and within the community including fixtures information, lesson information and other interesting links and resources!

Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept">www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept</a>
Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/RidgewayPEDept/">www.instagram.com/RidgewayPEDept/</a>
Twitter: <a href="https://www.twitter.com/ridgewayPedept">www.twitter.com/ridgewayPedept</a>

Mr J Chappell
PE Subject Leader

### PE DEPARTMENT AUTUMN TERM 1 CLUBS LIST 2021

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	<u>Lunch Clubs</u>	Requirements/Location LUNCH TIME	After School Clubs	<u>Time/Requirements</u> <u>Location</u>
Monday			Staff Meetings	Staff Meetings
<u>Tuesday</u>			Year 8 Football (MPR) Year 9 & 10 Netball (SV) Year 9 Basketball (KAM)	Field – 3-4pm (Boots & Shin Pads) Tennis Courts – 3-4pm (Trainers) Sports Hall – 3-4pm (Trainers)
Wednesday	Year 9 Football	AWP – (Trainers Only) MPR	Year 8 Netball (APR) Year 9 & 10 Girls Basketball (JC)	Sports Hall – 3-4pm (Trainers) Old Gymnasium 3-4pm
Thursday	Year 7 Basketball	Sports Hall (Trainers Only) - KAM	Year 7 Football (MPR) Year 7 Netball (APR) Year 10 & 11 Basketball (JC)	Field – 3-4pm (Boots and Shin Pads) Tennis Courts – 3-4pm – (Trainers) Sports Hall – 3-4:30pm
<u>Friday</u>			Year 9&10 Football (MPR)	Field – 3-4pm – (Boots and Shin Pads)

Only students participating in a club must be in the facility, with trainers. Students must go and have their lunch first and then enter the club, unless otherwise stated.

Please note that all clubs are subject to change, especially due to extra-curricular fixtures, please always check the noticeboards.

### **Sports Centre Update**

### WELCOME TO THE SPORTS CENTRE AT RIDGEWAY ACADEMY



We are immensely proud as a school and as a community venue to be able to offer high quality sports facilities to our students and to members of the public. Please scan the QR code to find out more information on facilities, hirers, bookings, children's activities and community involvement.



We look forward to welcoming you to Ridgeway Academy in the near future. If you have any enquiries please contact Ross Goodship using the details at the end of this article.

#### **Summer Review**

We have just completed our biggest ever summer holidays here at Ridgeway Academy with over 900 children aged 4-18 taking part in 8000 hours of sporting activities. We had 8 summer camps in total ranging from performing arts and cycling to basketball and archery! We look forward to hosting more activities in the upcoming October Half Term, keep an eye on our Social Media channels for full details.

We were delighted to welcome representatives from the Department of Education who met our Headteacher to discuss all the great opportunities we had on offer over the holidays.



#### KICKS

The popular KICKS programme is BACK! Run by Stevenage FC Foundation, students can come and play football completely FREE of charge on our Astro

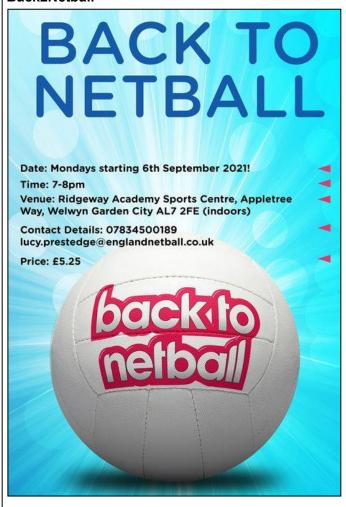
pitch with qualified coaches leading the activities. Sessions run every Friday night from 7-8:30, simply turn up to PLAY!



### Social Media

Search for Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre on Facebook or @RASportsCentre on Twitter and Instagram for regular updates.

### Back2Netball



We are delighted to be hosting Back2Netball once more at Ridgeway Academy and this time, in our Sports Hall! Sessions run every Monday (excl. BH) from 7-8pm. Please see poster for booking

### Sports Centre Update continued...

details. The sessions provide a gentle re-introduction to netball in a fun, friendly and relaxed environment! Grab a friend, or come along and meet some new ones!

Mr R Goodship
Sports Centre Manager

Tel: 01707 351 352

Email: Ross.Goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk



**Tang Soo Do, a traditional Korean Martial Art**Join our new class on Tuesday Evening, 5.30-6.30pm
Ridgeway Academy. Starting June 8<sup>th</sup> 2021.

In today's busy world, there are increasing demands and distractions that can keep both children and adults from being at our best. Whether this be social media, gaming, the regular commute or stress and strains of work and everyday living. However, everyone can potentially benefit from regular practice of this martial art.

Through learning its complex pattern of movements and developing class based skills you can develop:

- Physical and mental wellbeing
- Focus and concentration
- Self-discipline and confidence
- Leadership and communication skills

Grand Master Kang UK Lee (10<sup>th</sup> Dan) and qualified Master Instructors Andrew Lee (6<sup>th</sup> Dan) and Master Andrew Parsons (4<sup>th</sup> Dan) are ready to welcome you.

Class £5. Members of Federation (£25) complete all training activities and are fully insured.

#### Activities include:

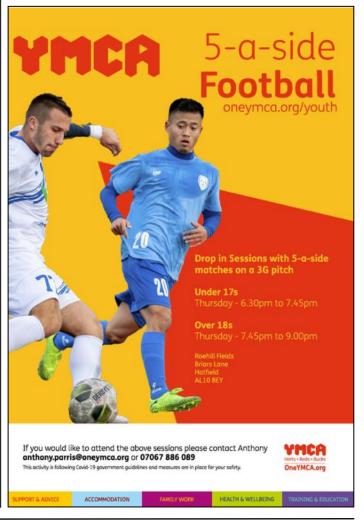
- Meditation
- Basic movements
- Hyung (patterns)
- Sparring (no contact)
- Breathing

Learn about the history of Tang Soo Do and bring its benefits to life.

### Contact Andrew on 07717832355

United Kingdom Tang Soo Do Federation Recognised by Sports England





### **Dates for Your Diary**

### **Autumn Term 2021**

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Sep Open Evening 6pm - 8.30pm - School closes at 1.15pm

Friday 17th Sep School opens at 10.50am

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> - Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Sep Open Mornings

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> - Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Oct Half Term

Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Nov Academic Review Day

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Nov Occasional Day

Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Dec End of Term





### 9 September 2021

## An update on COVID-19 vaccination plans for 12-15 year-olds in Hertfordshire

This is to update you on current arrangements for vaccinating 12–15 year- olds in Hertfordshire.

### Who is eligible to get the vaccine now?

The 12 to 15-year-olds currently being offered the COVID-19 vaccine are those who live with someone who has a supressed immune system, and children who have a condition that means that they themselves are at high risk from COVID-19.

These children are being offered two doses of a vaccine approved for their age group, which will be given eight weeks apart.

GPs have been using their records to identify:

- 1. Children aged 12 to 15 years of age with severe neuro-disabilities, Down's syndrome or underlying conditions resulting in their immune systems being suppressed.
- 2. Children with profound and multiple learning disabilities, severe learning disabilities or who are on the learning disability register.
- 3. Children aged 12 years and over who are household contacts of people with suppressed immune systems. Please note, there are adults who are extremely clinically vulnerable because of a health condition whose 12-15 year-old children are NOT recommended to have a COVID vaccination. The eligibility for this programme is strictly defined, so that vaccines are given to those most at risk. GPs decide who is eligible based on the guidance from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

### Where and when will these children be vaccinated?

A number of the children identified by their GPs are being vaccinated by their network of GP practices.

Where GP practices are **not** vaccinating their own patients, they have provided lists of eligible 12-15 year-old patients to HCT (Hertfordshire Community Trust), the NHS organisation which administers school-aged children's vaccinations in Hertfordshire. HCT have been commissioned to vaccinate these children.

HCT staff routinely vaccinate children with profound and multiple disabilities, or who are on the learning disability register, in their familiar school environment. HCT are in the process of gaining consent from the parents or guardians of these children to administer their



COVID-19 vaccinations in their specialist schools. This vaccination programme starts on **13 September**.

For children who have been identified as eligible but who attend mainstream school, or who are educated at home, four special clinics have been commissioned in Hertfordshire and west Essex that parents can take their children to.

 These one-off clinics are dedicated to vaccinating only 12-15 year-old children and are being held over the next 10 days in Epping, Ware, Watford and Bishop's Stortford, from Sunday 12 September onwards. Clinics will take place at the weekends, or after schools have finished for the day.

Parents and carers of eligible children are being contacted with the details of these clinics, together with contact information for HCT, in case they have queries or concerns. Individual catch-up arrangements will be made for children who cannot attend these clinics.

### What if a child is eligible to be vaccinated but their family has not yet been contacted?

Parents and carers of the 12-15 year olds who meet the criteria described in points 1, 2 or 3 should have been contacted, either by their own GP, via their child's special school, or through a text or phone call from HCT.

If they have not been contacted, they should speak to their own GP practice and request the practice provides their child with a vaccination, or alternatively refers their child to HCT.

### What about additional children recently recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccination?

On Friday 3 September, the JCVI recommended that more 12-15 year-old children should be added to the list of those eligible to be vaccinated, including those with:

- haematological malignancy
- sickle cell disease
- type 1 diabetes
- · congenital heart disease
- children with poorly controlled asthma
- · health conditions listed in full in this link

GPs will now begin to identify these additional children, so that they can be vaccinated as well.

### What about plans for vaccinating all 12-15 year-old children?

We are awaiting government decision on vaccination policy for the remainder of the 12-15 year-old population. Parents and stakeholders will be kept informed of local arrangements if a decision to offer them vaccination is made.



### How should I follow up a concern that is brought to my attention?

If a parent or carer brings a concern to your attention (for example, if they think that their child is eligible to be vaccinated but hasn't been contacted) they should contact their own GP practice in the first instance.

Failing this, they should contact the Clinical Commissioning Group which oversees the vaccination arrangements in their area.

- In the east and north of the county, they should email <a href="mailto:enhccg.quality@nhs.net">enhccg.quality@nhs.net</a> or call 01707 685356.
- In the south and west of the county, they should email hvccgpatientfeedback@nhs.net or call 01442 898865.

With thanks,

Avni Shah
Director of Primary Care Transformation,
Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS and CCGs