



Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 46
December 2019
Week 1

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

Charity day marks the end of a busy term with staff and students having fun together to raise money for Isabel Hospice. Fancy dress for staff and students is themed 'Hollywood Film' This morning the Leadership team were on the gates with collection buckets to welcome students dressed as Toy Story characters. We are aiming to raise over £1,000 which will support the excellent work of this local charity for families at a most difficult time.

I am incredibly proud of both students and staff in their hard work, commitment and focus over the winter term. On Thursday we came together to recognise and celebrate student achievement in our final assembly of the year. Reverend Hayley Young on behalf of Panshanger Church generously donated £500 for the students of Ridgeway. In the spring term we will consult on how they wish this money to be spent to benefit all in providing a space for reflection.



'We will Rock You' has been a tremendous success and I thank Producers Ms Standage and Mr Sarjeant along with the cast and crew for the enormous amount of work that has gone into this production.



Following their Year 11 Pre Public Examinations (PPEs), students are hard at work getting ready for their summer exams. It is always a measure of how committed a student is to their studies when we ask them to work a little harder and we are proud of how many students are attending our "period 6" programme to help them secure even better results. If you are a parent/carer of a student in their final crucial exam stages, please let us know if you have any concerns or queries. Working together to encourage and challenge, in equal measures, is vital to securing the results our students deserve. We thank all parents/carers for turning out to the many parents' evenings we have held and for supporting your sons/daughters by doing this; it does make a massive difference to know that you are helping.

The pressure is now on and it can be a difficult time for some students who may hide or ignore the warning signs of not being able to cope, or just want to give up at this stage. There is always a solution to identify the best way forward.

Mrs Day (Key Stage 2 transition teacher) leaves at the end of term and I would like to acknowledge and thank her for her support of students and wish her success in the future.

In my final assembly, I asked students to reflect on the power of their own action; small actions make enormous difference to people. Be considerate of others, help with jobs / be kind and rest, re-cooperate and enjoy festive fun with your family.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson
Headteacher



Lost Uniform and PE Kits

Please ensure that you clearly label your child's uniform and PE kit with their name as this will help in reuniting lost belongings with their owners.

Mrs J Airey
Student Services

Duke of Edinburgh Training

The first week of DofE Training will be Thursday 9th January. The topic will be Countryside Codes Part 1 and 2.

Mr R Sutton
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator



Half Termly Theme - FOCUS



Think of your attention as a spotlight. If you shine that spotlight on one particular area, you can see things very clearly. If you were to try to spread that same amount of light across a large dark room, you might instead only glimpse the shadowy outlines.

Part of improving your mental focus is all about making the most of the resources you have available. Stop multitasking and instead give your full attention to one thing at a time.

Ridgeway Academy PTA

CALLING ALL PARENTS!!

We are hoping for your support in setting up our Parents and Teachers Association (PTA). We would like to set up events to raise money for the school in particular to raise money for new computers in G2.

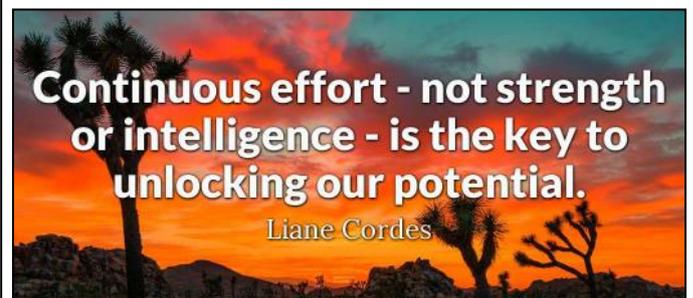
It would involve attending 3-4 meetings within a term as well as supporting any events held, or it could be helping with advertising. If this is something you would like to be involved in please contact Emily.Symeou@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk

Thank You

Mrs E Symeou
Computing and ICT Subject Leader



Quote of the Week



Liane Cordes is the author of The Reflecting Pond: Meditations for Self-Discovery.

Year 10 Work Experience

Reminder for Year 10 students to fill in their private placement forms for work experience. Deadline is 7th February.

Mrs S Merrigan
Director of Sixth Form

Camps International Fundraising

The next Camps meeting date is Wednesday 15th January 2020 in K2 at lunch time. The topic is Group planning time for Spring Event.

Please note Mr Sutton is in K2 every Wednesday lunchtime and can accommodate drop-in meetings on an as needed basis.

Mr R Sutton
KS3 and KS5 Coordinator of Geography



Year 9 Science News

The Year 9 Science class extended their investigation into the behaviour of springs. They investigated the extension of a system of 2 springs in parallel. This is a challenging task in terms of the use of the apparatus and the quality of results. I am pleased that the students in their teams worked hard to produce reliable results. Well done!

Mr K Koupis
Science Teacher



Drama News - We Will Rock You

The We Will Rock You team would like to say a tremendous 'well done' to all our cast, band and crew for creating such a successful production. All the hours of rehearsals, time and effort truly have paid off and the reviews have been nothing but glowing. We are so incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Mr Sarjeant and myself would like to thank all the team who helped and contributed to make this production a success. In particular we would like to mention the efforts and commitments from our fantastic team:

Tina Dean, Aveta Shakespeare, Claire Johnson, Nicola Picariello, Emily Symeou, Mike Broad, Richard Sutton, Tanya Wadsworth, Vanda Adams, Ricardo Colmenares Diaz, Pete Ephgrave, all the reception and finance team, Jonny Downs from the Sandpit Theatre, Regan Carolan and Josh Hornsey for the fantastic lighting design. We would also like to congratulate Paul Smith, Jonathan Milne, Kieran Seymour, Jess-Mae Craig; our tremendous rock band which for the first time included student musicians Melissa Aylott, Lauren Somerville and Josh Sutton.

What an awesome job they all did with such epic music talk about 'Under Pressure!'. The Performing Arts team would like also to acknowledge the support we have received from our fundraising quiz and bake sales, our local sponsors and donation from Amanda Evans. With your financial support we were able to make this production bigger than ever before and ultimately give our students a more professional experience. Please follow us on instagram @ridgewayperformingarts for more information and photos. Until next time!

Miss S Standage
Drama Subject Leader



Extended Learning Day

It's Murder at Ridgeway!

Forensics was the theme for the Year 9 Extended Learning Day which took place on Monday 9th December. Students started the morning by attending a special presentation on Knife Crime.

This was followed by an intensive CSI Course led by members of the Science Department and supported by other members of staff. Students were divided into groups of 24 and were assigned to one of six labs where they learned how to test samples of liquids, hair and fibres and fingerprints.

The training was very timely as in the final session before lunch, students were greeted with the startling news that there had been a murder on site and their forensics expertise was urgently required!

The victim was Mr Si Entisst (looking uncannily like Mr Koupis) who had apparently been killed in his classroom. Students were taken in groups to view the crime scene then were presented with authentic evidence bags which had been kindly donated by Hertfordshire Police. The evidence bags contained samples of fibres, ink and fingerprints taken from the scene, along with witness statements taken from the three suspects, all members of staff. Chief Investigating Officers were appointed to lead and organise their teams as they investigated the crime.

After lunch the CSI teams used the forensic techniques they had learned in the morning sessions to test the evidence and go through the witness statements in order to work out who had committed the crime. The teams then entered their findings in detailed reports which were submitted to The Science teachers.

The final session in Osborn Hall was led by Mr Milne who asked the teams to stand next to the suspect they believed was the killer before revealing that the murderer was ... Mrs Annie Reader (aka Mrs Lawrence) the School librarian. The other suspects Mr Charlie Darwin-Smith (aka Mr Milne) and Madame Annalise Curie (aka Dr Wheeler) were relieved to have been exonerated. The victim was played very convincingly by Mr Koupis.



The Victim Mr Si Entisst



Suspect 1:
Mrs Annie
Reader
School Librarian



Suspect 2:
Mr Charlie
Darwin-Smith
Science Teacher



Suspect 3:
Madame
Annalise Curie
Science
Technician



At the end of the Extended Learning Day students were presented with certificates. Chief Investigating Officers of each CSI Team are pictured here with their certificates.

Many thanks to all the members of staff who worked so hard to make this event possible.

Mrs D Lawrence
Librarian

Growth Mindset - FORCE

At Ridgeway we are committed to enabling our students to develop a Growth Mindset and thereby achieve more than they may have thought possible. They do this by demonstrating that they have the FORCE: Focus, Optimism, Resilience, Creativity and Energy. Every student has a FORCE card and, upon its completion, they are awarded a FORCE badge, a certificate and a FORCE card that allows them, and a friend, to jump the lunch queue in Attimore for a week.

We are really delighted to see so many Year 7 students embracing the Growth Mindset and joining their peers from other years in developing the FORCE skills. The students listed below are the latest to have earned this achievement and we are very proud of them all. May the FORCE be with you!

Mrs C Maddocks
Assistant Head Achievement

Forename	Reg	House	Number of FC	Date Awarded
Alfie	7E	Hawking	5	06/12/2019
April	7C	Mandela	1	16/12/2019
Archie	7C	Anderson	3	16/12/2019
Aylin	7K	Hawking	5	06/12/2019
Cameron	7W	Mandela	1	16/12/2019
Daniel	7W	Hawking	1	06/12/2019
David	7C	Hawking	6	16/12/2019
Deborah	10E	Hawking	2	16/12/2019
George	7D	Lytton	5	06/12/2019
Harley-Ann	7D	Lytton	3	16/12/2019
Jack	7D	Anderson	2	16/12/2019
Jacob	7C	Lytton	2	16/12/2019
Jojo	7D	Lytton	5	16/12/2019
Jonnell	7K	Mandela	2	06/12/2019
Kai	7K	Lytton	2	06/12/2019
Kieran	11O	Mandela	5	06/12/2019
Leona	7W	Hawking	1	06/12/2019
Lucy	7C	Hawking	6	16/12/2019
Luke	7C	Hawking	2	16/12/2019
Mary	8K	Mandela	8	06/12/2019
Max	7K	Hawking	2	06/12/2019
Maya	7E	Anderson	3	06/12/2019
Morgan	7W	Anderson	2	16/12/2019
Rose	7D	Hawking	5	16/12/2019
Ryan	7K	Anderson	1	06/12/2019
Stefan	9E	Lytton	1	16/12/2019
Ted	7E	Lytton	3	06/12/2019
Theo	7D	Lytton	4	16/12/2019
William	7W	Lytton	3	16/12/2019

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Year 11 Parents' Evening will be on Thursday 9th January 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

The booking system will open on Wednesday 18th December from 8.30am.

Admin

Ridgeway Charity Day

Ridgeway Academy is proud to be hosting a Charity Day on Friday the 20th December 2019 to raise some much needed funds for Isabel Hospice. This will also be an opportunity for students who have signed up for Camps International to raise funds for their volunteering expedition.

The day will incorporate a carousel of events. These events include an inflatable course, the Head Teachers Quiz, Ridgeways Got Talent and a Fete.

Students are encouraged to dress up either in Film Fancy dress at a cost of £1, or casual clothes for £2. The Best dressed will be judged in the morning by the Head of Year.

Tickets for the day will be sold in strips of 5 for £1. These tickets will be available for sale from K2 between the 10th and 19th of December. Please pay via Wisepay. The inflatable course will cost 10 raffle tickets. We anticipate that students will not need more than £5.

Students will compete in their houses for the Head Teachers Quiz. Ridgeways Got Talent will see students competing in their forms to be the winner of their year group. Winners will be judged on class participation, quality of presentation and novelty factor.

We look forward to an exciting and fun filled day.

Mr R Sutton
11O Form Tutor, DofE Coordinator, Head of Lytton House, KS3 and KS5 Coordinator of Geography, Temporary Associate Assistant Headteacher



Support for Domestic Abuse Victims

Hertfordshire schools are taking part in a project that will run jointly between schools and Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Operation Encompass is the notification to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, of incidents where a child or young person has experienced or been exposed to any domestic abuse.

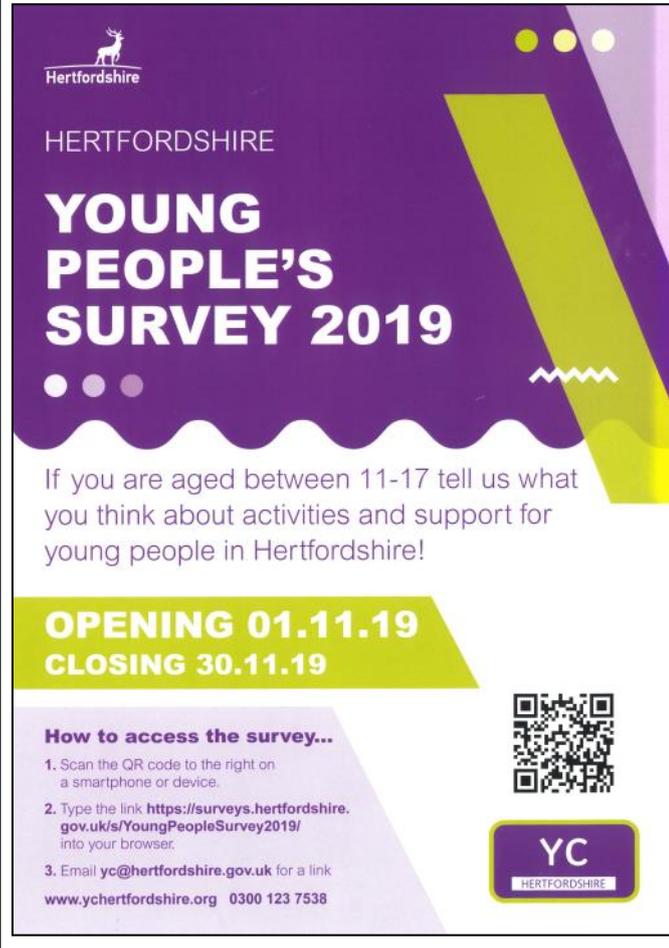
Operation Encompass will ensure that Mr S Booth the Designated Senior Person (DSP) in the school is informed. The DSP is trained and has the knowledge which enables him to liaise with the police. He will use the information that has been shared in confidence, whilst also ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, and / or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our students and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Sarah Mitcherson
Headteacher

Young People's Survey 2019

The deadline for Young People's Survey has been extended until 31st December.



Hertfordshire

HERTFORDSHIRE

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY 2019

If you are aged between 11-17 tell us what you think about activities and support for young people in Hertfordshire!

OPENING 01.11.19
CLOSING 30.11.19

How to access the survey...

1. Scan the QR code to the right on a smartphone or device.
2. Type the link <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/YoungPeopleSurvey2019/> into your browser.
3. Email yc@hertfordshire.gov.uk for a link

www.ychertfordshire.org 0300 123 7538



Premier League
Kicks



GIRLS ONLY!

The Premier League Kicks Programme provides sports sessions to girls aged 8-19 and is delivered in targeted areas of Hertfordshire.

FREE TO ATTEND!

Attimore Hall
Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre
Herns Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2AF
Sports Hall
Friday: 7pm - 8pm

For more information call 01438 223223 or online at www.stevenagefcfoundation.com

Stevenage FC Foundation
The Lamex Stadium, Broadhall Way, Herts, SG2 8RH
Tel: 01438 223223 Email: lornaw@stevenagefc.com



Premier League
Kicks



Stevenage Football Club Foundation provide a variety of projects within the local community targeting young people.

The Premier League Kicks Programme provides sports sessions to young people aged 8-19 and is delivered in targeted areas of Hertfordshire.

Stevenage
Marriotts School
Telford Avenue, Stevenage, SG2 0AN
3G Astroturf
Monday: 7pm - 8:30pm
£1 per session

Welwyn Garden City
Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre
Herns Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2AF
Sand Based Astro
Friday: 7pm - 8:30pm
FREE!

Girls Only Session
Attimore Hall, Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre
Herns Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2AF
Sports Hall
Friday: 7pm - 8pm
FREE!

For more information call 01438 223223 or online at www.stevenagefcfoundation.com

Stevenage FC Foundation
The Lamex Stadium, Broadhall Way, Herts, SG2 8RH
Tel: 01438 223223 Email: lornaw@stevenagefc.com

Welwyn Garden City Centenary - Schools Photography Competition 2020

This year's theme is...

Celebrations

Launching January 1st 2020

Open to all
Welwyn Garden City
Students KS1-KS5



Prize Giving
Ceremony will be
held on 26th
November 2020



Photo Upload

DEADLINE

17th July 2020

Upload your photo to...



Please ask your
teacher if you need
any help or
advice

wgccsps.co.uk/school

Do you want to join a Sporting Team?

Do you want to join a sporting team but unaware of when the training days are for that specific sport? Please see the detailed guide below to see how the different sports are included into our extra-curricular programme.

	Football	Girls Football	FUTSAL - Boys	Netball	Basketball	Girls Cricket
Year 7	Monday Afterschool 3-4pm	Wednesday Afterschool 3-4pm		Monday Afterschool 3-4.15pm	Tuesday Afterschool 3-4pm/Thursday Lunchtime	Wednesday Lunchtime
Year 8		Wednesday Afterschool 3-4pm	Monday Lunchtime	Monday Afterschool 3-4.15pm/Thursday Afterschool 3-4.15pm	Thursday Lunchtime/Friday Afterschool 3-4.30pm	Wednesday Lunchtime
Year 9	Tuesday Afterschool 3-4pm	Wednesday Afterschool 3-4pm	Monday Lunchtime	Tuesday Afterschool 3-4pm	Wednesday Afterschool 3-4pm	Wednesday Lunchtime
Year 10		Wednesday Afterschool 3-4pm		Tuesday Afterschool 3-4pm	Monday Afterschool 3-4pm	Wednesday Lunchtime
Year 11	TBA			Tuesday Afterschool 3-4pm	Monday Afterschool 3-4pm	
U14 Girls					Tuesday Lunchtime	



PE DEPARTMENT AUTUMN TERM CLUBS LIST 2019

	Lunch Clubs	Requirements/Location/Lunch	After School Clubs	Time/Requirements Location
Monday	Year 8&9 Boys FUTSAL (MP)	MUST HAVE Trainers/SPORTS HALL/INVITE ONLY	Year 10/11 Basketball (KA/JC)	3-4pm /FULL PE KIT with trainers/SPORTS HALL/TEAM PLAYERS ONLY
	Year 7 REWARD Football Kick About on AWP (MTI)	MUST HAVE Trainers/ALL WEATER PITCH/INVITE ONLY	Year 7 Football (MP) Year 7&8 Netball (CD)	3-4pm /FULL PE KIT with Football Boots/ALL WEATHER PITCH 3-4.15pm /FULL PE KIT/SPORTS HALL or OUTDOOR COURTS
Tuesday	U14 Girls Basketball (RTC)	MUST HAVE Trainers/SPORTS HALL/TEAM PLAYERS ONLY	Year 7 Basketball (KA)	3-4pm /FULL PE KIT/SPORTS HALL
	Primary Competitions	Sports Hall closed for Primary Competitions unless otherwise stated.	Year 9 + 10 + 11 Netball (SV)	3-4pm /FULL PE KIT/OUTDOOR COURTS
	Year 10 BTEC Intervention (MP/CD)	BTEC Books/SPORTS HALL DANCE STUDIO/INVITE ONLY	Year 9 Football (RTC)	3-4pm /FULL PE KIT with Football Boots/ALL WEATHER PITCH
Wednesday	KS3 + Year 10 Girls Cricket (RG)	MUST HAVE Trainers/SPORTS HALL	All Years Girls Football (RTC)	3-4pm /FULL PE KIT with Football Boots/ALL WEATHER PITCH
			Year 9 Basketball (MP)	3-4pm /FULL PE KIT with trainers/SPORTS HALL/TEAM PLAYERS ONLY
			GCSE Intervention (JC)	GCSE PE Books/L2/INVITE ONLY
Thursday	Year 8 REWARD Football Kick About on AWP (WS)	MUST HAVE Trainers/ALL WEATHER PITCH/INVITE ONLY	Year 8 Netball (CD)	3-4.15pm /FULL PE KIT/SPORTS HALL or OUTDOOR COURTS
	Year 7 + 8 Basketball (MP)	MUST HAVE Trainers/SPORTS HALL/TEAM PLAYERS ONLY		
Friday	Year 9 + 10 Basketball (KA)	MUST HAVE Trainers/SPORTS HALL/TEAM PLAYERS ONLY	Year 8 Basketball (JC/RTC)	3-4.30pm /FULL PE KIT with trainers/SPORTS HALL/TEAM PLAYERS ONLY

Only students participating in a club must be in the facility, with trainers. There **MUST NOT** be any spectators at clubs or people in the Sports Hall corridors during Lunchtime. Students must get and eat their lunch first and then enter the club, unless otherwise stated. Once a club is full, no more students can participate. **Please note that all clubs are subject to change, especially due to extra-curricular fixtures, please always check the noticeboards.**

Sports Centre Update

We are delighted to announce that we will again be running both our 5-14 and 11-18 programmes in February Half Term. For full details, please see the posters or feel free to contact me. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Ross Goodship
Sports Centre Manager
 Tel: 01707 351 352
 Email: Ross.Goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the Team here at RASC.

**RASC CHRISTMAS
 OPENING HOURS**

Monday 16th - 20th December - *Open as normal.*

Saturday 21st December - 09:00-15:00
 (Youth Football/Mini Athletics & Q Kwan ONLY)

Sunday 22nd Dec - 09:00-15:00 (Youth Football ONLY)

Monday/Tuesday 23/24th December -
 Multi-Active ONLY

Wednesday 25th Dec - Wednesday 1st Jan - **SC CLOSED**

Thursday 2nd January - *Re-opens normal*

PE Update/Leadership Update

Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs List

The new clubs list for the Spring Term will be released when we return after the Christmas break, which will match the fixtures we have starting in January.

Mr R Carolan
School Sports Co-Ordinator

 Ridgeway Academy PE Department 

 www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept
 Search Ridgeway Academy PE
 Department

 @RidgewayPEDept

 @RidgewayLeaders
 /@RidgewayPEDept

 <https://www.yourschoolgames.com/schools/sir-frederic-osborn-school/>

AGE 11-18 | Pay & Play

February Half Term Holiday

**Monday 17th 9am to 4pm
 - Friday 21st Feb**

£1
 Per Hour
 RA Students

£2
 Per Hour
 Students

£3
 Per Hour
 Non-Students



 ross.goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk

6th Form, College & Uni students must bring student ID*

 /RASportscentre  RASportscentre  @RASportscentre

www.ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/sportscentre **01707 351352**

Non students must attend with a student. *Failure to provide ID will result in non student rate

Age 5-14 Pay & Play

**February
 Half Term**

**Monday 17th to
 Friday 21st Feb
 9am to 4pm**

**£60 weekly
 Unlimited
 Card**

**£3
 Per Person
 Per Hour**

**£2.50
 Per Sibling
 Per Hour**



All sessions are supervised by the RA Sports Centre Team

  @RASportscentre  RASportscentre  /RASportscentre
 email: ross.goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk
www.ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/sportscentre **01707 351352**

Autumn Term 2019

Fri 20th Dec

End of Term 12:30pm

Spring Term 2020

Mon 6th Jan

Inset Day

Tues 7th Jan

Start of Term Week 2

Thurs 9th Jan

Year 11 Parents Consultation Evening

Wed 15th Jan

Year 9 Options Information Evening

Mon 20th Jan

Martijn van der Spoel workshop for Year 11

Wed 22nd Jan

Martijn van der Spoel workshop for Year 10

Fri 24th Jan

Year 7 Reports home

Fri 31st Jan

Year 10 and Year 11 Macbeth Theatre Group

Wed 5th Feb

Year 11 Practical food exam

Thurs 6th Feb

Year 7 Disco

Fri 7th Feb

Year 9 Martijn van der Spoel Workshop

Year 11 and Sixth Form photos

Thurs 13th - Fri 14th Feb

Inset Days

Mon 17th - Fri 21st Feb

Half Term

Fri 6th Mar

Year 9 Reports home

Fri 13th Mar

Year 8 Reports home

Non Uniform day (Sport Relief week)

Wed 18th Mar

Whole School Photograph

Thurs 19th Mar

Year 11 Drama Practical Exam Rehearsal

Fri 20th Mar

Year 7 Reports home

Thurs 26th Mar

Year 11 GCSE Drama Practical Exam

Fri 3rd April

End of Term

Summer Term 2020

Mon 20th Apr

Start of Term

Fri 8th May

Bank Holiday

Mon 25th - 29th May

Bank Holiday Monday and Half Term

Fri 17th July

End of Term

Mon 20th - Tues 21st July

Inset Days (school closed)