



# Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 54  
September 2020  
Week 1

# Ridgeway Academy

## Headteacher's Message

I wanted to write and to thank you for the excellent return to school that we have had so far. Attendance in the first week was over 95%, uniform was impeccable, students grasped the one-way system and split lunch times quickly and were diligent with their hand hygiene and supporting staff to ensure that classroom surfaces were regularly sanitised.

Another highlight has been the success of the catering and students have been observing their year-group bubbles and keeping separate whilst on the field or playgrounds at break and lunch. Your children have been an absolute credit to you!

We have taken the decision to hold Virtual Open Mornings with a video 'in the life of a Year 7' on our website. We felt that the risk of having a number of external visitors to the school was too great. We are in the process of contacting families which have already booked a visit to facilitate a virtual experience instead.

Details of our virtual parent information evenings, to be held later this month can be found on page 2.

I can confirm that we do not have any confirmed cases of Covid-19. However, I thought it wise to share our plans in the event that Public Health England instruct us to ask specific students or staff to isolate.

The full timetable of lessons will transition to Google Classroom. Students can continue to access class work via Google Classroom from home. Teachers will be delivering work or live lessons to students in school via Google Classroom and Google Meet and following the normal school timetable. Please encourage your children to follow their normal timetable and to access learning resources and lessons via Google Classroom.

I have updated our risk assessment and I hope that you agree that we should now maintain our further tightening of controls to protect our school community.

From 10 September I asked that all students bring an appropriate face covering and a hygienic bag to store this in when it is not being used. Face coverings should be used in indoor communal areas such as in corridors when moving between lessons or in queuing to access the canteen. Staff will observe the same precautions. This is working well, with the vast majority complying.

Please can you support us by talking with your children each evening about their learning and the homework tasks which they have been set to ensure they are building excellent routines and endurance to support their learning within lessons.

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson  
**Headteacher**

## Ridgeway on Social Media

You can follow Ridgeway Academy on Twitter to get all the latest news, photos and information about the school!



**@Ridgeway\_AC**  
**@RidgewayLeaders**  
**@RidgewayPEDept**

Students, parents/carers and colleagues can all follow our Drama, Design & Technology and PE Departments on the following Instagram and Facebook accounts:



Instagram

**@ridgewayperformingarts**  
**@ridgewaytechnologydept**  
**@RidgewayPEDept**



**www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept**

## Sixth Form News

Welcome back to all our Year 12 and 13 students it has been great to have you back and continuing with your studies.

Currently only Year 13 students are due to be onsite for Personal development on a Friday morning. Year 12 can go straight to their afternoon lessons.

Please can all sixth form students make sure they have access to google classroom, there will be further information in assemblies next week on how to use this platform.

Mrs S Merrigan  
**Director of Sixth Form**

## Ridgeway Rewards

In the classroom students can achieve FORCE reward points and outside the classroom they can achieve value points.

During the school closure doorstep deliveries were made to many students based on the efforts in remote learning. After the success of this reward we have decided to continue a delivery to students that have shown all FORCE traits in all their learning .

This week achieving the deliveries from the headteacher are;

Year 7 Gracie Jayne London  
Year 8 Freddie Holmes and Eve Collins  
Year 9 Casey Kelly  
Year 10 Will Lane  
Year 11 Katie Drage

Mrs S Merrigan  
**Personal Development Coordinator**

## Camps International Fundraising

Information to follow.



Mr R Sutton  
**KS3 and KS5 Coordinator of Geography**

## Duke of Edinburgh Training

The next DofE Training session will be in October. More information to follow.

Mr R Sutton  
**Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**



## Virtual Parent Information Evenings

We intend to host our Year Group Parent Information Evenings remotely this year and full details of how to log in to these live sessions shall be sent to you shortly.

These meetings contain important information regarding the year ahead and are hosted by your child's Director of Learning; I will also be present during the sessions.

In the meantime, please save the date(s) of the meeting of your child's or children's Year group from the list below:

Tuesday 22nd September	Year 8 - 5.00pm
Tuesday 22nd September	Year 9 - 6.30pm
Wednesday 23rd September	Year 7 - 5.00pm
Thursday 24th September	Year 10 - 5.00pm
Thursday 24th September	Year 11 - 6.30pm
Tuesday 29th September	Sixth Form - 6.00pm

Mrs S Mitcherson  
**Headteacher**

## Half Termly Theme - Wellbeing

The World Health Organisation states that wellbeing is "a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." It is our belief that wellbeing is a multifaceted term that describes the healthy, contented and prosperous condition we all aspire to.



## Quote of the Week



**James Marshall "Jimi" Hendrix** was an American musician, singer, and songwriter. Although his mainstream career spanned only four years, he is widely regarded as one of the most influential electric guitarists in the history of popular music, and one of the most celebrated musicians of the 20th century

## After School Detentions

In order to keep students in their Year group bubble, there will be one detention per week for each year group, as listed below:

Monday	Year 7
Tuesday	Year 8
Wednesday	Year 9
Thursday	Year 10
Friday	Year 11

The afternoon before the detention, a text message will go out to parents informing of the detention for their child the following day, and how long it will be for. The behaviours logged for the child that week will be considered according to the number/severity of behaviours logged, and a detention will be set for either 30, 60, 90 or 120 minutes.

Please look on My Child at School, either on the app or website, to see the detail of both positive and negative behaviours logged for your child each day.

<https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MyChildAtSchool-Parent-Guide.pdf>

You should have a username and password from school. If you haven't got one, please contact us at [datamanagement@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:datamanagement@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk)

If there is a reason why your child is not able to attend the detention on the following day, please inform me by email as soon as possible [dawn.hornsey@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dawn.hornsey@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk)

Mrs D Hornsey  
**Behaviour Support Officer**

## Open Evening

Due to the Open Evening being a virtual evening this year, the school will not close to students at 1.15pm as it has in previous years.

The late start on the following day that usually takes place will also be removed and Friday 18th October will start at the usual time.

Miss J Smith  
**Deputy Headteacher**

## Student Behaviour, Uniforms and Attendance

### Uniforms

We would appreciate parents support in maintaining the high standard of presentation. Students are not to wear trainers, hoodies or any jewellery other than a watch and a stud in each ear. We would also like to remind students and parents that black socks are compulsory and part of the school uniform expectations.

Please also clearly label clothing so if lost it can be returned to it's owner.

### Masks

Please ensure pupils have a plain, hygienic face mask and a hygienic bag to carry it in. Masks must be worn when moving in buildings and the canteen area at all times and pupils are encouraged to continue wearing them when outside close to other students.

### Attendance

Regular school attendance is the most important factor in ensuring students make the progress that they are capable of. The school target for attendance is 96% which is in line with national expectations. The Government classes any student with attendance under 90% as being persistently absent from school. This triggers a process where warning letters are sent out leading to potential fixed penalty notice fines for parents if attendance doesn't improve. If a child's attendance is 90% it means that they miss on average half a day of school each week which is 1 month of schooling each academic year.

We strongly recommend that parents/carers send their child to school every day unless significant illness prevents this.

Many thanks as always for your ongoing support.

Mr S Booth  
**Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour**

## Library News



### Reading Challenge Read 20 books in 2020

We hope you will encourage your son or daughter to take up the challenge to read 20 books during 2020. The challenge is aimed primarily at Years 7-9 but all students (and staff!) are welcome to take part. For each book read the student must submit a book review which may be written or be a verbal presentation. Full details and record cards for students to record their progress are available from Mrs Lawrence in the Library.

Thank you, Mrs Lawrence  
**@LibraryRidgeway**

**LOVE**  
the **LIBRARY**



## Sports Centre Update



We are absolutely delighted to share with you that we have been nominated for an award in the category of 'Best Use of Lockdown' in the Herts Sports Partnership lockdown awards.

We feel this recognises our work during the lockdown period and ensuring we were able to open as quickly and as safely as possible for our many community groups.

Unfortunately voting has now closed and we eagerly await the results!

More information can be found on the sports in Herts website. We hope to update you with the results next week.

### A-Z Basketball

A-Z Basketball are pleased to be returning to Ridgeway Academy in partnership with Welwyn Hatfield Council. They will be providing FREE Basketball sessions to help learn and develop skills and techniques.

This is open for Ridgeway students in years 7-10. Sessions take place in the sports hall from 7-8pm term time only. Places are limited so please book by emailing [sport@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:sport@welhat.gov.uk)

Ross Goodship

**Sports Centre Manager**

Tel: 01707 351 352

Email: [Ross.Goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Ross.Goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk)



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Ridgeway Academy PE Department



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

## A-Z BASKETBALL PROJECT

(LEARN AND DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AND TECHNIQUE)



Ages  
12-14

7-8PM  
Ridgeway  
Academy

Term 1  
10th September –  
22nd October

Term 2  
5th November – 10th  
December

Book your place by  
emailing  
[sport@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:sport@welhat.gov.uk)

Spaces are limited  
so you must book



WORKING BETTER, TOGETHER



### Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team

You can contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team by calling 101 (police non-emergency number). Alternatively to find their details please visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) and use the search tool.

In an emergency always call 999

### CrimeStoppers.

Speak up. Stay safe.

Free, confidential service where you can report information about a crime anonymously.

Freephone: 0800 555 111

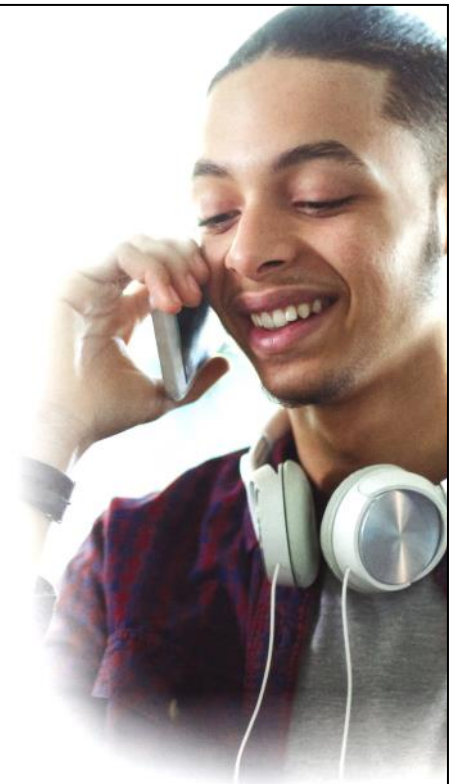


Visit [www.ychertfordshire.org](http://www.ychertfordshire.org)  
or call 0300 123 7538  
or email [yc@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yc@hertfordshire.gov.uk)



Hertfordshire Wellbeing Service

For support with mental health and wellbeing visit [www.hpft.nhs.uk](http://www.hpft.nhs.uk)



Welwyn Hatfield  
Community Safety Partnership

Your councils, police, university, fire, health and justice services are working together for safer neighbourhoods in the borough.

Contact your local CSP by emailing [feelsafe@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:feelsafe@welhat.gov.uk)

## Autumn Term 2020

Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Online Open Evening - 6.30pm & 7.45pm
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	Virtual Information Evening Year 8 - 5.00pm Virtual Information Evening Year 9 - 6.30pm
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	Virtual Information Evening Year 7 - 5.00pm
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Virtual Information Evening Year 10 - 5.00pm Virtual Information Evening Year 11 - 6.30pm
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Virtual Information Evening 6th Form - 6.00pm
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Half Term
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	HPV1 Vaccinations, Osborn Hall
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 8 Reports home
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Occasional Day
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Parents Consultation Evening Sixth Form Awards Ceremony
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Awards Evening
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> - Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Inset Days (school closed)

## Spring Term 2021

Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Inset Day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Start of Term
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Inset Days
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	End of Term