



# Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 55  
Fortnightly  
September 2020  
Week 2

# Ridgeway Academy

## Headteacher's Message

Today we held a live tour of Ridgeway, which can be viewed on our website, for families who are selecting secondary school for 2021. I walked the site live broadcasting, walking through lessons and speaking with staff and students. The students were magnificent, they rose to the challenge of having visitors to lessons and spoke passionately and with knowledge about their learning in the subjects - please do click the link on the home page and watch the 30 minute tour for yourselves. The Open evening live broadcast from last week is also available, and again, Sky, Fabian, Lauren and Nile spoke with passion and pride.

Congratulations to Year 11 elected Prefects and to this week's Ridgeway Reward students who feature in this newsletter. Please may I direct you to our virtual information evenings, led by the Director of Learning for each year group, which will be available from tomorrow on our website. We are investing in Soundcloud, which is a Parent/Teacher Consultation booking system as it is likely these will take place virtually, in the Autumn term.

We have held two fire evacuations this week to test our procedures for new staff and students. Please support us in reminding your son or daughter that it is essential that they stand in alphabetical fire lines in silence. Sanctions will be issued to correct behaviour for non-compliance.

Finally, do have a look as a family at our new website, it has a multitude of information to navigate around.

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson  
**Headteacher**



## 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. Ridgeway Academy's communication 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.

## Site Security

To protect students on site and control unplanned visitors to the school site, automated security gates have been installed at the two entrances on Hens 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. We would ask that you do not attend school to bring lunches or equipment that students have forgotten. These items will not be accepted to minimise the possibility of infection.

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept)**

## Library News

# 20 20

### Reading Challenge

#### Read 20 books in 2020

Year 7 students will be hearing about the 20/20 Reading Challenge in their English lessons and 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 video which you can email to [library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk) using your school email address. Full details are available on the Accessit Library page on the school website.

#### To find the Library Page and to use the Click & Collect service:

On the school website click **Portals** then **Accessit Library** to view the Library page. Alternatively click **School Life** then **The Library** then scroll down and click on **Web App** to view the page. You can also search the Library catalogue from here as a Guest but you can't reserve books until you get your personal student login. For now, using your school email address, email [library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk) with the details of the book/books you would like to borrow. I will email you back to tell you when you can pick up your book/books from the Library. You will soon be given your own personal login and you will then be able to reserve books directly on Accessit without emailing me. There is a tutorial you can view which shows you how to search the catalogue. Just scroll down the Library page and click on How to search the Web App to view the tutorial.

**Reminder:** Please return all library books to the black bin outside the Library. Thank you.  
Happy Reading!

Mrs D Lawrence  
**Librarian**  
[library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk)  
@LibraryRidgeway

**LOVE**  
the **LIBRARY**

## Duke of Edinburgh Training

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

Mr R Sutton  
**Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**



## Year 11 Prefects

We are delighted to announce the new prefects for 2020/2021 have been selected from Year 11. They have been selected on the basis of excellent attitude and embodiment of the Ridgeway **FORCE** attributes. They will be very visible around school with the new badges displaying their roles. They will assist on any Ridgeway events and continue to represent Ridgeway positively. The new prefect team is:

#### Oxford

Tamarin Hendriks  
Holly Abbott  
Megan Wiseman  
Jake Leese

#### Kings

Megan Singleton  
Jack Sagers

#### Cambridge

Mia Thompson  
L'Roux Van Niekerk  
Vivian Marazzi

#### Edinburgh

Lia Tafa  
Mohammed Isa



Glenn Merrigan  
**Director of Learning KS4**

## Quote of the Week

**"A different language is a different version of life"** Federico Fellini



**Federico Fellini**, Cavaliere di Gran Croce OMRI was an Italian film director and screenwriter known for his distinctive style, which blends fantasy and baroque images with earthiness. He is recognized as one of the greatest and most influential filmmakers of all time.

## 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**

## Alban Academies Trust News

*Keeping in Touch with the AAT*

[www.academiestrust.org.uk](http://www.academiestrust.org.uk)  
[info@albanacademiestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@albanacademiestrust.org.uk)



The **Summer 2020** AAT Newsletter can be found on our website:

<https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/aat-newsletter/>



Alban Academies Trust

## 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.



## Camps International Fundraising

Information to follow.



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

## Pupils Travelling to School

The behavior of some of the students crossing at the crossroads outside the school, by Appletree Way, has been unacceptable and dangerous. Even with a member of staff on duty, students are not waiting for the green light and in some cases are trying to cross in front of moving cars. Please cross sensibly to avoid any collisions.



Miss A Atkins  
**Student Liaison Officer**



**Homework Club for Year 7**  
Everyday 3-4pm in K2.

## Eco-School Award

Join the Eco-Schools Initiative at Ridgeway Academy as a student Eco-Ambassador.

The Eco-Schools Award is an excellent opportunity for you to develop leadership skills and demonstrate your impact as part of the student Eco-Ambassador team.

The scheme is led by students who wish to investigate themes such as waste, biodiversity and energy. Through the Eco-School Award, you will have the chance to report on the ecological footprint of Ridgeway Academy and suggest how the school can become more sustainable.



If you wish to be a part of the fantastic scheme, please write a brief letter to Mr Sutton to answer the following points:

- 1) What local and global environmental issues are you aware of?
- 2) Suggest three things that you would want to achieve as an Eco-Ambassador at Ridgeway Academy.
- 3) Why would you like to be a part of the Eco-School Award at Ridgeway Academy.

Email your letter, or any questions, to [richard.sutton@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:richard.sutton@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk) by **Friday 9th October**.

Mr R Sutton  
**DofE Coordinator**  
**KS3 and KS5 Coordinator of Geography**  
**Associate Assistant Headteacher**

## 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 Fabian Jacques and Sky Kennelly**  
**Year 8 April Warwick**  
**Year 9**  
**Year 10 Kai Porter - improved focus**  
**Year 11 Jack Saggars - improved leadership qualities**

Mrs S Merrigan  
**Personal Development Coordinator**



### Tips for keeping safe online

**It's also important to look after your digital wellbeing, especially at a time when you may be more likely to be using social media and connecting with others online. Here are our tips for keeping safe online:**

#### Privacy settings

Check your privacy settings on your social media accounts and make sure you have chosen the highest privacy setting, so your profile and photos are hidden from people you do not know.

#### Stranger danger

Remember that you wouldn't talk to, share personal information or photos with a stranger on the street, so the same rule applies online. You never know who is really typing those messages, however convincing they may seem! Always tell a parent or YC Hertfordshire youth worker straight away if messages or images you see or receive online make you feel uncomfortable.

#### Create strong passwords

Create strong passwords for your social media accounts, with a mix of symbols, numbers and capital letters. Never share your passwords with anyone, not even friends.

#### Remember, posting is permanent!

Many people think that deleting something online means removing it from the internet forever. This isn't true. After posting something online, anyone can save, download and re-use it! Think twice before posting something you may regret later – remember employers often check social profiles when hiring. Posting something in the heat of the moment or an inappropriate photo can make or break your future.

#### Never share your personal information

Never share your address, school, telephone number or date of birth details with someone online. Always tell an adult if someone is asking you for this information.

#### Be kind to others online

It can be easy to type something mean or critical when you're hidden behind a screen. Just remember there is a real person on the other side of the screen so be respectful, polite and kind.

#### Nobody's life is perfect

The social media posts portraying perfect lives and happy faces is just an illusion and is perhaps only a small part of that person's life in the real world. You can never tell what is really going in someone's life so take what you see online with a pinch of salt and try to avoid comparing your life with the too-good-to-be-true ones you see online.

#### Learn to switch off

Spending too much time online can have a negative impact on your emotional wellbeing so take breaks away from social media to talk with friends and family via virtual face-to-face chat and look after those offline meaningful relationships with people you know make you feel good and you can share your worries with.

Hertfordshire Young  
People's Helpline



01923 256391

Helpline opening hours:

Mon: 1pm - 4.30pm  
Tue: 5pm - 7.30pm  
Wed: 1pm - 4.30pm  
Thu: 5pm - 7.30pm  
Fri: 1pm - 4.30pm  
Sat: 10am - 1pm

## 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)



@RASportsCentre



@rasportscentre



@RASportsCentre



Ridgeway Academy PE Department



[www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept](https://www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept)

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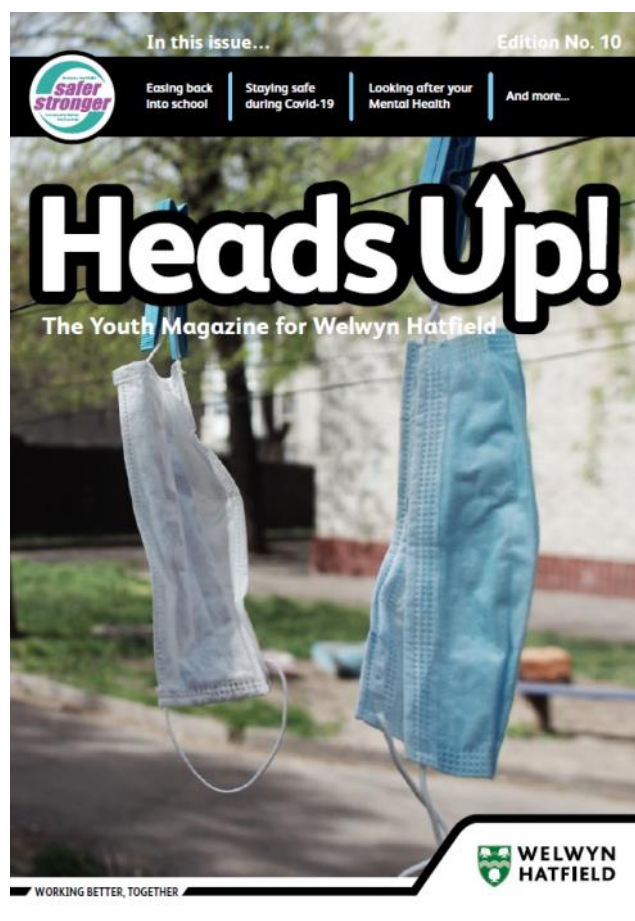
@RidgewayLeaders

/@RidgewayPEDept



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

[Click here to view Edition No.10 of Heads Up! Magazine](#)



## A-Z BASKETBALL PROJECT

(LEARN AND DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AND TECHNIQUE)

**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**

**Ages 12-14**

**7-8PM**  
**Ridgeway Academy**

**WORKING BETTER, TOGETHER**

## Autumn Term 2020

Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Half Term
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 8 HPV1 Vaccinations, Osborn Hall Year 11 Sixth Form Information Evening
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 8 Reports home
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Occasional Day
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> - Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	School Production
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening Sixth Form Awards Ceremony
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Whole School Awards Evening
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term

## Spring Term 2021

Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Inset Day
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Start of Term Year 13 Mock Exam Week
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 11 Parents Consultation Evening
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> and Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Inset Days
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 9 Options Evening
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Year 9 Options Interviews Week
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 7 Parents Consultation Evening
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Year 9 Options Choices Deadline
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 13 Parents Evening
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 8 Parents Consultation Evening
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Year 9 DTP/Men ACWY Vaccination
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 10 Reports home
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	End of Term