

## Transition at Ridgeway Academy: Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Our Answer
<p>What time does school start and end?</p>	<p>The school site opens at 8.15am at the moment but we hope it will be back to the usual 8.00am when you join us. All students need to be at their Form room ready to start registration at 8.30am. On your first day you will be shown where your form room is and, if you forget, there are lots of people to ask who will be happy to help you. Lessons end at 2.55pm and extra-curricular clubs begin at 3.00pm.</p>
<p>How do I find my way around the school site?</p>	<p>The school will seem very big when you first visit us but you will be surprised how quickly you will find your way around. On your first day your Form Tutor and prefects will take you on a tour and you can visit our school website right now and take a virtual tour of the school with our Headteacher, Mrs Mitcherson. In your first week, you will never have to go anywhere alone and you will soon make lots of friends to walk to lessons with. There is also a handy map in your school planner and plenty of people to ask. At the moment, we have a brightly painted one-way system that is very helpful in guiding you between buildings.</p>
<p>Will I be with my Friend?            How are classes set?            How do you decide which class/ability the child is at when coming from primary school?</p>	<p>We work with information given from Primary Schools, our Head of Year 7 and our own Student Services Team including SEND when we are planning which forms pupils will be put into.</p> <p>We then try and ensure that each class has a group of students from the same primary. There is no guarantee that friends will be together during lesson time but hopefully you will make lots of new friends and you can still see your Primary School friends at break and lunchtimes.</p>

How are twins placed?	Twins are separated automatically unless parents choose otherwise.
Can I bring a packed lunch?	Yes you can but we suggest you try our lunches too!
What do I do if I lose something?	Lost property is handed in to Reception, H Block and the Sports Centre please ask at those locations.
Where do we go to eat?	There are several places where you can eat, Attimore Hall is where our main canteen is. There is also 'The Pod' which is at the back of Osborn quad and has benches around it for those who want to sit outside.
What's the food like?	The food at Ridgeway is delicious, there is a wide variety from pastries, sandwiches and fruit to a choice of hot meals every day. If you have a food allergy or intolerance speak to one of our catering team and they will be able to advise you.
How long is lunch?	We have a morning break of 20 minutes and a longer lunch break of 35 minutes each day.
Can I play football/basketball at lunch?	Year 7 has a special playground for lunchtime and are allowed to play basketball and football there. The playground is surrounded by grass and there are picnic tables too so everyone can relax and have fun.
If I have a question who do I ask?	If your question is about the work you are studying then ask your teacher for that subject, otherwise it is usually best to ask your Form Tutor.

<p>What's a Form tutor?</p>	<p>Your Form Tutor is the teacher who you will get to know best in school. You will see them every day as they register you each morning and are the person you should speak to if you have any questions or worries. Your Form Tutor will be able to answer most of your questions and will speak to your Director of Learning or a subject teacher on your behalf if necessary.</p>
<p>How much homework will I get?</p>	<p>In Year 7 you will be given about one hour of homework in total each evening, you will usually be given several days to complete it. We recommend that you always try to do your homework on the night it is set as this means you will have time to ask your teacher if you have any questions. We run an after school homework club each day in K2, next to the library, until 4.00pm (Monday - Thursday) and 3.40pm on Fridays. There are computers and a printer available here.</p>
<p>How do I know which books to bring everyday?</p>	<p>On your first day you will be given a timetable that will list the subject, teacher and room that you will study in for each lesson each day. Your Form Tutor will ask you to copy this into your planner which you will take home with you. In each of your classes your teacher will give you an exercise book. Each evening you will check your timetable for the next day and pack your school bag with the books and equipment that you will need. We recommend that you buy a strong, waterproof school bag.</p>
<p>How many lessons are there in the school day and what subjects will I do?</p>	<p>Every day begins in your Form room led by your Form Tutor, and, once a week, you will have an assembly. After that you will have five, hour-long lessons each day with a break and lunchtime. You will study the subjects that you already know such as English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History and Art and also be introduced to some new subjects too. All our subjects are listed on the school website.</p>

<p>Will I have time to move between my lessons?</p>	<p>At Ridgeway, there is a five minute 'movement time' to allow students to move around the site and get to their lessons on time.</p>
<p>If I feel unwell where do I go?</p>	<p>If you feel unwell you need to tell the teacher leading your lesson. They will either call a First Aider or send you and a 'buddy' to the First Aid room. If you are not in class at the time you should go to Student Services in H Block or, if nobody is there, to the Main Reception.</p>
<p>Can I bring my phone to school?</p>	<p>We understand that you may need to contact your family outside of school and therefore you are allowed to bring a phone to school, however it must be turned off and kept in your bag when you are on the school site.</p>
<p>How can I get rewarded at Ridgeway?</p>	<p>At Ridgeway we believe that your effort and achievement should be rewarded. Your teachers will reward you for these and your focus, optimism, resilience, creativity and energy. Each reward you earn will be both your achievement and will count for your House too. At the end of the year, the House with the most reward points wins a big trophy. Each House really wants to win the House trophy so it is important that you earn as many points as possible.</p>
<p>What happens if I do something wrong?  What are sanctions/detentions?</p>	<p>We expect you to try your hardest every lesson every day and to follow our Code of Conduct. If you do break the rules then there are sanctions. Teachers will often start with a warning, but depending on what has been done it could lead to a detention and being kept behind after school. That said, we understand it takes a little while to settle into a new school and your Form Tutor, Director of Learning and all the staff want to help you settle in quickly and enjoy learning at Ridgeway.</p>

<p>What will happen if I get bullied?</p>	<p>Bullying is repeated behaviour that is meant to hurt someone physically, mentally and or emotionally. We take bullying very seriously and have a clear behaviour policy that details the measures we take to prevent or stop bullying. If you feel you are being bullied it is really important that you tell us. You can speak to your Form Tutor or any of your teachers, we also have a Bullying box in reception that you can put a note in. It is important that you tell us so that we can help.</p>
<p>How do you recognise children who are struggling – and what support can be given, so they do not fall behind especially when they are in a new, daunting school?</p>	<p>Form tutors are highly invested and in communication with parents and teaching staff. Keeping an eye on the number of detentions and well being. These are usually very good indicators of need. This information is passed on to the SEND team for investigation.</p>
<p>I have special educational needs - what support will I get?</p> <p>Who can I speak to?</p>	<p>We have a dedicated team of Learning Support staff led by our SENDCO Ms Adjei. Before you arrive at our school this team, along with the Director of Learning for Year 7, will have learnt all about you from your primary school and will have lots of ideas for how best to support you and your progress at Ridgeway Academy. Your Form Tutor and all your teachers will know how to support and challenge you when you arrive and if you have any questions you can speak to Ms Adjei or your Form Tutor.</p>
<p>What school teams are there and how do I get on a school team?</p>	<p>There are a number of different school teams, including but not limited to Football, Basketball, Netball and Badminton. The PE Department will release the clubs list, in which you will be able to see when training sessions are. PE staff will hold trials for each sport and teams will be selected and shared with students using the extra-curricular noticeboards.</p>

<p>Is there a residential trip for Year 7 students?</p>	<p>Yes there is, in Year 7 you will take a trip with your form, to the Peak District. It is a trip that our sister school, Sandringham has run for years and we are all very excited to take you to such a beautiful place. Whilst there you will get to know your classmates and teachers well through a variety of team building activities and create some amazing memories.</p>
<p>What extracurricular activities can I get involved with outside of my lessons?</p>	<p>Our staff run a wide variety of clubs such as Art, Languages, Dance, Chess and Book club, which students can join.</p> <p>In addition you can get involved in activities such as drama productions, acting, crew or backstage. Music is very popular at Ridgeway with students performing regularly. We even have a staff band who play on special occasions.</p> <p>We run the Eco School Award and a Student Leadership Award. These are nationally recognised schemes which present students with a variety of opportunities to develop their character.</p> <p>There are opportunities to get involved and have your say on how the school is run through Student Voice and within your Houses. The House System gives students various opportunities throughout the year to partake in house quizzes, spelling bees, baking contests.</p> <p>As you get further up the school there are opportunities such as joining Duke of Edinburgh (Year 10) and Camps International (Years 10 to 13) and, of course, we have a dedicated PE department who run lots of sports activities.</p>

<p>Do you have breakfast club and after school clubs, in the event the children need to attend site early?</p>	<p>At the moment due to Covid we have stopped running any clubs except for Breakfast Club before school and Homework Club for Year 7s between 3pm and 4pm. Breakfast club in the canteen is currently open for 15 minutes between 8.15am and 8.30am. There is no need to book.</p> <p>Prior to Covid we ran the following clubs:</p> <p>After school: KS3 Art Club, Guitar Club for all abilities/years, Chess Club, KS3 Dance Clubs and KS3 Musical Theatre Club.</p> <p>Lunchtimes: KS3 MFL Club, Chess Club and Book club.</p>
<p>What have you benefited from since, and by becoming an Academy? Do you see continued benefits which will help the children?</p>	<p>Sharing of expertise between the schools within the Academy means students benefit from better qualified and trained teachers. Sharing of events has allowed students to be part of events taking place in other schools and areas working with students from a range of schools.</p> <p>Resource sharing has allowed students to have access to better quality resources and events such as the Science Event where all three secondary schools partook in centralised learning at the same time.</p> <p>Economy of scale has resulted in Ridgeway being able to spend money on updating facilities and resources like interactive white boards used in lessons that we otherwise wouldn't have access to.</p>