



Issue 56  
Fortnightly  
October 2020  
Week 2

# Ridgeway Academy

## Headteacher's Message

It is quality assurance week where senior staff visit lessons to explore the learning, speak with staff and students and share excellent teaching strategies. It has been a pleasure to see students across Ridgeway taking pride in their work, demonstrating commitment and excellent effort in their studies. It is essential that good habits and routines are also applied consistently in home-based learning. You can track work set and deadlines using the Show my Homework app. We recommend that students complete work on the date set to prevent a build-up of subject work.

To prepare for the change in weather, please ensure your son / daughter wears a coat to school, suitable for wet weather. We have wet weather inside locations for break and separate lunch times to maintain the year group bubbles. A control measure for Covid is to keep windows open for ventilation. I ask that students wear plain base layers under their school uniform as the temperature drops.

If you have not already done so, take a look at our new website. You can access and watch the Parent Information presentations and the Faculty presentations prepared as part of our Year 6 open events.

Tomorrow the school will be supporting #helloyellow day. This to raise awareness of Young Minds charity and the impact of young people's mental health after lockdown. Students and staff can wear an item of yellow along with their full uniform for a donation of £1. Staff will be able to order a hot chocolate and cake at break for £1.50. Personal development sessions will be focused on mental health issues during and after lockdown. Good luck to Sixth Form in the 5K run at 9am.

Ridgeway News is published every fortnight - I hope you enjoy it with your families. Congratulations to all students who feature in this edition.

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson  
**Headteacher**

## Press Release—Ridgeway Academy 1st October 2020

### Ridgeway Academy Student wins Shell's National Schools' Competition

A Ridgeway Academy student has been recognised as the winner in Shell's National Schools' competition – The Bright Ideas Challenge.

Scarlett Beskeen in Year 9 won the competition with an amazing entry using Minecraft to design her future city.

Students were tasked with using their science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills to come up with creative solutions to the energy challenges that cities will face in 2050.

Scarlett worked on this in her Geography lessons in lockdown and came up with some fantastic ideas for future designs.

The school received £10,000 from Shell that will go towards STEM projects at Ridgeway Academy. Scarlett also won an exciting prize pack which includes:

- 12-month subscription to KiwiCo's 'Tinker Crate' kit – a monthly package that comes complete with fun, hands-on STEM kit designed to spark students' creativity and curiosity.
- Tech Will Save us 'Spark pack' that will get students building and coding their own handheld games console and music synth.
- 3-month subscription to the Future Inventors Club, taking their coding to the next level!

You can find out more about The Bright Ideas Challenge at [shell.co.uk/brightideaschallenge](https://shell.co.uk/brightideaschallenge).

We will be working with Scarlett and a group of Year 9 students to decide how to spend the money.

*continued...*

## Press Release continued...

Sarah Mitcherson, Headteacher, said 'we are all extremely proud of Scarlett's achievement, many congratulations to her – a future engineer.'



Sarah Mitcherson, Ridgeway Academy Headteacher; Alan Gray, CEO Alban Academies Trust, Sandringham School Headteacher; Scarlett Beskeen, Ridgeway Academy student.

## 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.

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.

Mrs Sarah 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.



## PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

A free international puzzle competition for schools

Last year Ridgeway Academy came 77th out of registered schools worldwide. Congratulations to everyone who took part!!

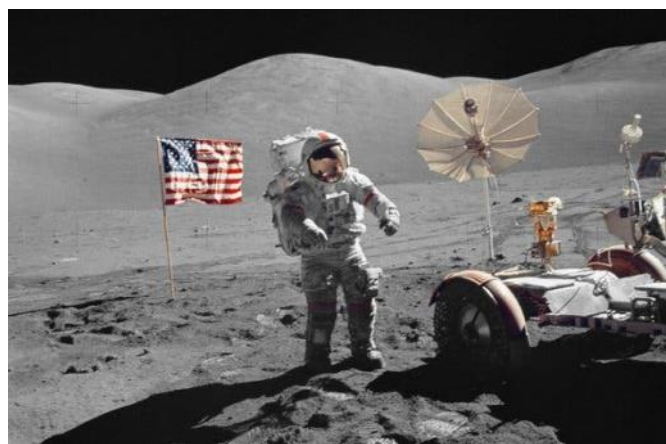
Competitions this year start 12th October at:  
<http://www.puzzleoftheweek.com/>

Happy puzzling!!

Miss Louise Jesson  
**Assistant Headteacher – Director of Mathematics**

## Quote of the Week

"Curiosity is the essence of our existence" - Gene Cernan



**Gene Cernan**, NASA astronaut. 50 years after Apollo 11's Moon landing, humans have made momentous findings and achievements to unravel the mysteries of the Cosmos.

## 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 Form time delivery to students that have shown all FORCE traits in all their learning.

This week achieving the deliveries from the headteacher are;

Year 7 Liam D - always doing the right thing and assisted in the form assembly  
Year 8 Molly C  
Year 9 Chloe T  
Year 10 Kaylah C - most positive points awarded  
Year 11 Tamarin H

Mrs S Merrigan  
**Personal Development Coordinator**

## Duke of Edinburgh Training

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

Mr R Sutton  
**Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**



## Alban Academies Trust News

*Keeping in Touch with the AAT*

www.academiestrust.org.uk  
info@albanacademiestrust.org.uk

JOINT AAT NEWS

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

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



## School Vacancies

The following vacancy has been advertised on our website and on the Teach in Herts/TES websites:

### Teaching Assistant

Closing date: 9.00am Monday 12 October 2020  
Interview date: Friday 16 October 2020  
Start date: November 2020

### School Business Manager

Closing date: 9:00am Wednesday 21 October 2020  
Shortlisting: Thursday 22 October 2020  
Interview date: Tuesday 3 November 2020  
Start date: December 2020

Mrs H Smith  
**PA to Headteacher**

# #HelloYellow

Ridgeway Academy will be supporting Young minds on Friday 9th October with:

- Wear an item of Yellow for £1 (along with full uniform)
- Sixth form 5K run/walk (and any staff who want to join on the field)
- Friday personal development session activities
- Form group photo competition

Staff can also order a hot chocolate and cake which will delivered to you by period 2 on Friday for a £1 donation. (The order form will be distributed on Monday 5th October)

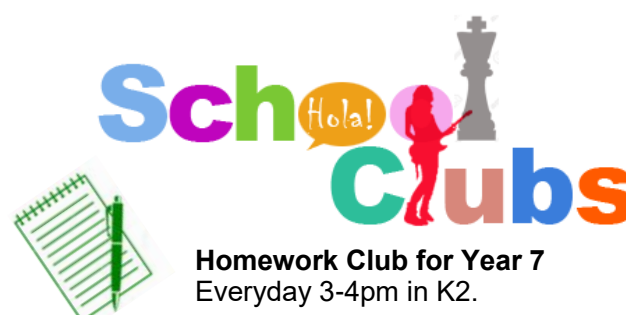
Sarah Merrigan  
**Head of Sixth Form**  
**Subject Leader Business Studies and Careers**

## Camps International Fundraising

Information to follow.



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



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



## 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



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

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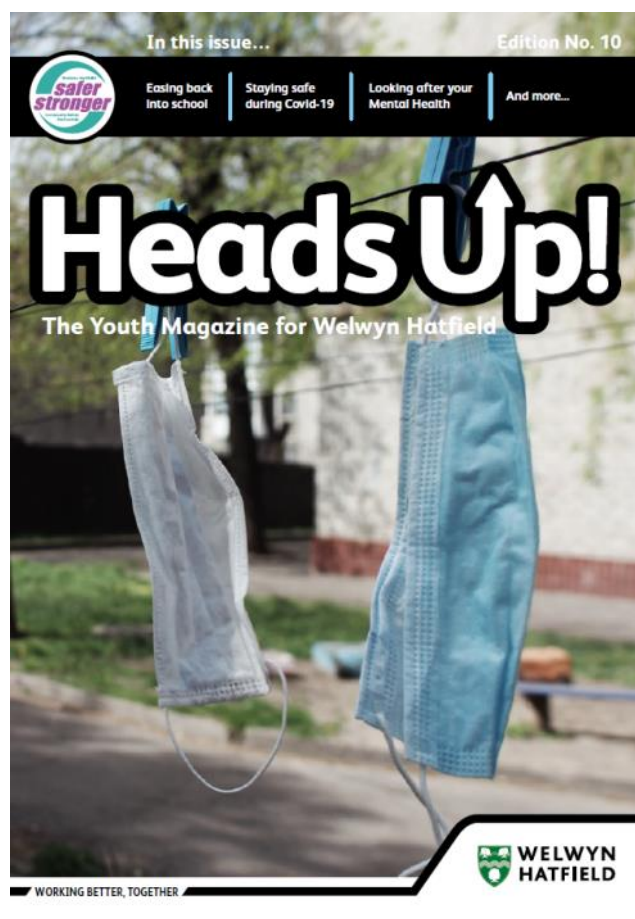
@RidgewayLeaders

/@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**

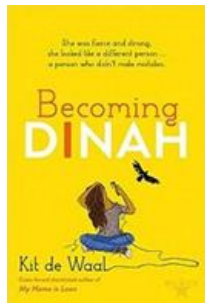
**WORKING BETTER, TOGETHER**

## Library News



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 search the Library catalogue from here as a **Guest**, but to reserve or renew books and to write a book review, you will need to log in using your usual school username and password. Click on **Guest** then enter your login details. If you have any problems, just email me at: [library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk).

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, or to your English teacher. Thank you.



Many of you will know that our students take part in testing the longlists and shortlists for the Children's Book Award run each year by the Federation of Children's Book Groups. I had arranged to host the Herts CBA Discussion Day here at Ridgeway Library, but due to Covid that was of course cancelled. Instead, two of our students were invited to take part in filming their reviews of the shortlisted books. I am delighted to announce that the filmed reviews are now available to view on the CBA page of the FCBG website. Click the link: <http://fcbg.org.uk/childrens-book-award/> then click on each book title to view the reviews after the authors have introduced their books.



Our two Year 11 students, Megan and Jamie, reviewed the Category 4 titles. The CBA Co-ordinator Sarah Stuffins had this to say to our students: "Thanks so much to Herts for their contributions - such well considered comments about the books!" Well done to both of you!

The winners will be announced at a special Awards Ceremony which will be live streamed on **Saturday 10th October from 2.00pm**. Use the link above to access the CBA page where the actual link to the ceremony will be posted on Saturday. In case you miss it, a recording will be available afterwards.

Mrs D Lawrence

**Librarian**

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



@LibraryRidgeway

**LOVE**  
the **LIBRARY**

## 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**

## Year 11 November PPE Timetable

Time	Period	Monday 16th Nov	Tuesday 17th Nov	Wednesday 18th Nov	Thursday 19th Nov	Friday 20th Nov
8:30-10:50	p1-p2	Art	Biology 75 or 105 mins	English Language 105 mins	English Literature 100 mins	Business 120 mins
		CompSci 1 90 mins				Philosophy & Ethics 105 mins
10:50-11:10	Break					
11:10-1:15	p3-p4	Art	Drama 105 mins	History 1 75 mins	History 2 80 mins	Music Recordings 120mins
1:15-1:50	Lunch					
1:55-2:55	p5	Art	Maths 1 90 mins	Geography 1 60 mins	Maths 2 90 mins	Geography 2 60 mins
				Music 90 mins		

Time	Period	Monday 23rd Nov	Tuesday 24th Nov	Wednesday 25th Nov	Thursday 26th Nov	Friday 27th Nov
8:30-10:50	p1-p2	Art	Physics 75 or 105 mins	Enterprise 120 mins	HSC 120 mins	
		CompSci 2 90 mins		DT 90 mins		
10:50-11.10	Break					
11:10-1:15	p3-p4	Art	Dance 90 mins	PE 120 mins	Chemistry 75 or 105 mins	
			Media 105 mins	French Writing 60 mins		
1:15-1:50	Lunch					
1:55-2:55	p5	Art	Maths 3 90 mins	Geography 3 60 mins	French Reading and Listening 105 mins	

## 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

- 3) 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.

### Deadline Tomorrow

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**



## **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