



Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 59
Fortnightly
November 2020
Week 2

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

Today we have our first Academic Review day. Families are meeting tutors through School Cloud to discuss academic progress, attendance, behaviour and well-being. These important discussions will focus on the next steps to achieve. I am grateful to families for engaging in this new virtual platform so readily and to the staff who have worked tirelessly in the background to prepare for today's launch. We will be using this system for all Parent Teacher Consultation evenings.

Our Year 11 pre-public exams (PPEs) finish on Friday. We are proud of their mature approach and look forward to giving feedback and next steps before the Spring PPEs.

Next Wednesday 2 December we have virtual Governor Day; with members of the Local Governing Board participating in a programme with staff and students. Link meetings are held on Safeguarding, Pupil Premium, SEND and Governors will spend time talking to both staff and students.

I would like to draw your attention to and thank Ms Spanyol and Mrs Symeou for their fund-raising events within this edition. If you are able to donate, it would be well received.

A reminder, if you or your child develops symptoms, please complete the COVID submission on our website. In this event, we ask the family to complete a track and trace document if they were present in school during the 48 hours prior to developing symptoms. This allows us to act with speed if a case is positive and we need to alert close contact students to self-isolate.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to and thank my staff who are working incredibly hard - I am so proud of them.

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson
Headteacher

Christmas Holiday Dates

Please note that the School closes for the Christmas period on Friday 18th December.

Monday 4th January is an inset day so students will not be in school that day but will return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Miss J Smith
Deputy Headteacher

Self-isolating Means Staying At Home

Children and staff who have been asked to self-isolate as a close contact or as part of a bubble must stay at home and can only leave to get a test, for urgent medical assistance or in an emergency.

For further information about when and for how long you should isolate please visit:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide



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:



@ridgewayperformingarts
@ridgewaytechnologydept
@RidgewayPEDept



www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept

Mock Exams

A big well done to all of Year 11 who have behaved so beautifully for their mocks. THANK YOU!

Ms A Smith
Exams Officer

House Points

In the lead currently are **Hawking** with **5480** points.

Anderson	Hawking	Lytton	Mandela
			
3663	5480	5125	5453
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was an English physician and suffragist. She was the first woman to qualify as a doctor in Britain and was the founder of the country's first hospital for women.	Stephen Hawking was the noted physicist who contributed deeply to our understanding of the physical world and space, and worked despite suffering from Motor Neurone Disease.	Constance Lytton was the suffragette, writer and speaker who campaigned for prison reform and women's rights under an alias to avoid special treatment due to her family connections.	Nelson Mandela was the first black president of South Africa, who after being imprisoned for thirty years, was freed and led a multi-ethnic government to bring an end to apartheid.

Half Termly Theme - Focus

Growth mindset is a theory centred around the belief that intelligence and learning can be developed and improved. Pupils who possess a growth mindset are said to rise to challenges and learn from the mistakes they make, rather than feeling distressed and defeated if they are unable to do or understand something.



Quote of the Week



Eunice Kathleen Waymon (February 21, 1933 – April 21, 2003), known professionally as **Nina Simone**, was an American singer, songwriter, musician, arranger, and civil rights activist. Her music spanned a broad range of musical styles including classical, jazz, blues, folk, R&B, gospel, and pop.

Ridgeway Rewards

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

Students that have shown all FORCE traits in all their learning and will be receiving the deliveries from the Headteacher this fortnight are;

Year 7	Taylor D	Year 8	Alfie J
Year 9	Emil Gyori	Year 10	Katie L
Year 11	Gergely P		

Mrs S Merrigan
Personal Development Coordinator

Sports Centre Update

We are delighted that our community groups can return to use our facilities from Wednesday 2nd December. Please take a look on our website for a full list of our hirers.

Thank you for your co-operation and we hope to see you soon

Ross Goodship
Sports Centre Manager

Tel: 01707 351 352

Email: Ross.Goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk



@RASportsCentre



@rasportscentre



@RASportsCentre

Homework Club - New Times

We are pleased to announce that from 7th December Homework Club will be opened to more year groups on different days of the week. This allows us to support more students with their homework whilst maintaining social distancing and year group bubbles.



Monday	Year 7	3pm - 4pm	K2
Tuesday	Year 8	3pm - 4pm	K2
Wednesday	Year 9	3pm - 4pm	K2
Thursday	Year 10	3pm - 4pm	K2
Friday	Year 7	3pm - 3.40pm	K2

Mrs C Maddocks
Assistant Headteacher



November

Moustaches for November

Here's some of our classes wearing their moustaches with pride and getting involved with Movember.

We need to rally and raise as much as we can. Thanks to the staff who have already donated and got involved.

If you need a moustache, there's one in your pigeon hole or let me know and I'll find you one!

I know we have tonne of work on, and life is by no means easy at the moment, but if we can all do just our little bit, it will make such a difference to those who have it much harder than we do. Final push, please...

Please donate and share the link widely to raise as much as we can together.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ridgeway-academy>

Thanks in advance.



Mrs D Spaynol
KS5 Lead Teacher

November

School Vacancies

The school is currently recruiting for the following roles:

Teaching Assistant

Closing date: 9:00am Monday 7 December 2020
Interview date: Friday 11 December 2020
Start date: January 2021

For further information, please visit our website:
<https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

Mrs H Smith
PA to Headteacher

Black History Month

Renee was inspired by the Black History Month campaign promoting the achievements of Black people in society.

Renee researched meticulously the contributions of black people in society in politics, science, sports, activism, military and poetry. Renee was able to create this presentation which was shared among all students in Year 8 in our virtual Assembly and can be seen on our website.

We are proud of Renee's initiative and hard work. Many congratulations.

Mr K Koupis
Director of Learning Year 8

Raising Money for Dementia UK



"Hello Parents, Students and Colleagues. I have recently completed couch to 5K and signed up to run 50 miles in November for Dementia UK. To run that many miles in the whole of November will be a challenge for me. But I am

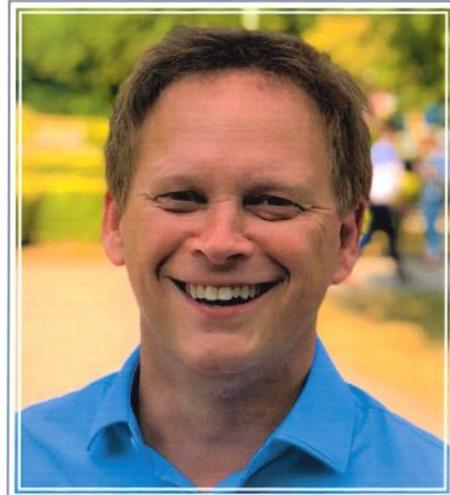
35 miles completed so far!!

running for my mum who was diagnosed with early onset Dementia 10 years ago. According to Dementia UK one person in eight will suffer with Dementia in their lifetime. If you can sponsor me, that would be amazing. All the money I raise will go directly to researching this cruel disease. I will have my sponsor form with me next week if you should wish to sponsor me. Many Thanks."

Mrs E Symeou
Head of Computer Science

GRANT SHAPPS

WELWYN HATFIELD'S LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



Do you need help from your local Member of Parliament?

Contacting Grant Shapps is easy:

Email him directly at grant@shapps.com
or call 01707 262 632

Or write to him at Maynard House, The Common, Hatfield, AL10 0NF



www.shapps.com

Printed and promoted by Nathaniel Chapman, on behalf of Grant Shapps MP, 6th of Maynard House, The Common, Hatfield, AL10 0NF

LIVES NOT KNIVES

- ROBBERY is the act of STEALING from someone using VIOLENCE or by causing FEAR OF VIOLENCE.
- Committing ROBBERY can result in LIFE IMPRISONMENT.
- A CRIMINAL RECORD could STOP you getting a JOB, going to COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY and TRAVELLING to some countries

How to stay safe

- When out and about keep mobile phones in a closed bag or a zipped pocket so it is not visible to others.
- If you need to use your phone when out and about, try and find a well-lit public area.
- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not become distracted by people asking for directions/the time.
- Know the phone's make, model and IMEI number. Dial *#06# into your phone to obtain the IMEI number.
- Set a PIN on the handset and SIM card.
- Do not store any personal details such as bank accounts.
- Sign up to a free app such as Find my iPhone and register your phone to an accredited property database so the police can return it if it is found.
- Cap the phone's usage. This will set a limit so the phone can only be used up until a certain amount of money has been spent.

REMEMBER carrying a knife for your own protection is **ILLEGAL**.

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.



Why not Travel with Arriva?

You could save money by travelling by bus with these amazing benefits:

- Unlimited bus travel each month.
- Parents/Guardians can set up direct debits on behalf of the student.
- Ticket sent direct to your home or mobile. Convenient monthly payments by direct debit.
- Ongoing direct debit meaning tickets can be used throughout half term, summer holidays and into the next academic year.
- Quick and easy to join.



How to apply

From the link below it's a simple 2-step process to sign-up to obtain the student ticket:

www.arrivabus.co.uk/student-travel

STEP 1:

Order your ticket online by choosing your local travel zone and completing the direct debit application form - you will need your bank account details.

STEP 2:

Receive your season ticket via your chosen method.
*To receive an m-ticket you must download the Arriva m-ticket app and register your details first.

**Full terms and conditions are available on our website*



How it Works

Pay even less for your travel each week by purchasing a yearly ticket but paying for it monthly with a direct debit.

There's no set up fee and no minimum contract, which means that you can cancel your direct debit at any time should your circumstances change.

This makes it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the year without having to pay upfront.

Payments are taken on the 1st or 15th of each month. The nearest direct debit date will be the default option available to choose. Please allow at least two weeks to register before the date of your first direct debit payment.

Sign up today or email us on

talktous@arriva.co.uk

Download the Arriva bus app & m-ticket app today!



PE Department/Leadership Academy Update

Social Media

Please follow the PE Department/Leadership Academy on social media for news about what we are doing around the school and within the community including fixtures information, lesson information and other interesting links and resources!

Facebook – www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept

Instagram – www.instagram.com/RidgewayPEDept/

Twitter – www.twitter.com/ridgewayleaders and www.twitter.com/ridgewaypedept

Mr R Carolan

School Games Organiser

Physical Education Department



@RASportsCentre



@rasportscentre



@RASportsCentre



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/>

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

Autumn Term 2020

Thurs 26 th Nov	Academic Review Day, Pupils not in School.
Fri 27 th Nov	Year 8 Catch up Vaccinations
Mon 30 th Nov	Occasional Day
Thurs 10 th Dec	Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening
Wed 16 th Dec	Virtual Whole School Awards Ceremony Period 5
Thurs 17 th Dec	Virtual Awards Ceremony 2020 Leavers Live Presentation 6pm
Fri 18 th Dec	End of Term

Spring Term 2021

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