



20 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The vast majority of our students make positive choices and do the right thing every day. We are aware that there is heightened anxiety across the county as an effect of COVID-19. I am grateful for everybody's support of the control measures we have in place, which have so far resulted in no student sent home to isolate as a result of a positive case in school. I am acutely aware that this is a rapidly changing situation and I ask you again to refer to the alert form on our website <https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/covid-19-form> to report any student displaying symptoms in order that we can begin our school track and trace procedure.

Standards

We are re-asserting our expectations for the conduct and behaviour of our students. As such, from Monday 23 November 2020, if a student arrives at the gate in incorrect uniform (including trainers when not in PE kit, make-up, piercings, acrylic nails) they will be given a letter to return home and rectify the issue and return to school immediately. Parents will be contacted by telephone. If the infringement persists they will be internally isolated.

Expectations

We have high expectations for all of our students. This is most effective when we have support from families at home. Please talk to your child about our expectations contained within the school planner and how they make positive choices.

Lesson time

Every minute of every lesson counts. Disruption of learning time will not be tolerated and sanctions will be issued. We want all students to be able to do their very best.

Social time

Our clear control measures keep year group bubbles separate in zones during social time (break and lunch). If a student contravenes this instruction they will lose their social time. Persistent defiance will result in exclusion from school during social time.

Communication

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, Directors 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.

Academic Review Day

We look forward to meeting your all virtually next week to discuss your child's effort and progress and the next steps in learning. If you have not already booked your appointment you will need to log into our booking system using this link <https://ridgewayacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk>. The link is also available on the school website under the Portal tab.

End of term awards

We will be holding our end of term awards assemblies on Wednesday 16 December 2020. These assemblies will recognise positive behaviour and academic progress over the past term. Students are awarded for recognition inside and outside the lessons based on the FORCE mindset and our Ridgeway values.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Mitcherson
Headteacher