

Dear Parents/Carers



News update (Friday 29 January 2021)

Year 9 options

The deadline for completed options forms is Monday 1 February 2021. Please complete the form via the school website and include 2 reserve options. If you would like further information, advice or guidance please email Subject Leaders, your Tutor, your Director of Learning or Ms Smith. All email contact addresses can be found on the school website.

Click [here](#) for presentation, subject videos and options booklet.

Click [here](#) for options form.

Computers and WIFI

In order to support your child's remote learning we are continuing to loan students a Chromebook. If your child is having to share a computer at home or does not have one please email caroline.maddocks@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk writing Computer Loan as the Subject and we will arrange the loan of a Chromebook. A parent will need to sign the loan agreement and collect the device from school. If you do not have WIFI at home please email caroline.maddocks@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk writing WIFI as the Subject and we will organise this for you.

Key Stage 3 Reading and Library Lessons

As of week commencing 1 February Year 7 & 8 will have an allocated reading hour during an English lesson. Reading is an important part of our students' experience in English lessons. When pupils are in school they have a bi-weekly library lesson to support their academic development and provide an opportunity for wellbeing. Please look out for an email to confirm when your child will have their reading session. Students will need to log into their live meeting to register and then spend the session reading and completing a short reading log on google classroom. Where possible please support your child in reading their chosen book and discussing their reading experiences.

Lucy Hyde, Assistant Headteacher/Director of English

Collecting items from school

A reminder to students if they are coming onsite to collect books etc they must wear a face mask otherwise we will not be able to let them enter the school.

Ridgeway Academy Click & Collect Library Service

We would like to encourage all students to use the **Click & Collect** service to borrow books from the Library. On the school website click **Portals** then **Accessit Library**. You can search the Library catalogue from here as a **Guest**, but to reserve or renew books or to write a book review, you will need to log in. At the top right of the page, click **Guest** then click on the blue **SSO** button and enter your full school email address. Click **Next** then enter your password when prompted. The next time you log in, clicking the SSO button will take you straight to the Accessit Library App. If you have any problems, email library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk with the details of the books you would like to borrow. There is a tutorial you can view which shows you how to search the catalogue. Scroll down the Library page and click on **How to search the Web App** to view this tutorial.

Mrs Lawrence will email your Ridgeway email account to let you know when your books are ready to collect from the Library door at these times:

Students on site: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1.15pm until 1.50pm

Students at home: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.15pm until 4.00pm

Parent / Carer survey for families of students who qualify for Pupil Premium

If your child qualifies for Pupil Premium we have sent you a google survey inviting you to let us know of anything your child needs at home and asking for your feedback as to our provision. We would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete and return this so that we can make sure we are doing everything possible to support your child.

Lined paper and sanitary products

Parents and carers of students who qualify for Pupil Premium can collect these from the foyer outside reception. In order to manage the number of people onsite please follow the rota below:

Mondays	Year 7
Tuesdays	Year 8
Wednesdays	Year 9
Thursdays	Year 10
Fridays	Year 11

Lockdown lunches and meal plans

Change4Life have created recipes and shopping lists for families which can be used to create lunches for around £15 per week. Families that are eligible for FSM will be sent their second lot of vouchers for this half term next week.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/lunch/cheap-lockdown-lunch-ideas>

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mrs Picariello created an assembly that was delivered to students via their Form Tutors focused on this important event. At Ridgeway academy we celebrate diversity and are committed to a non-prejudiced community and Holocaust Memorial Day is a reminder of the appalling consequences in a society where this is not the case. Further information, targeted to school age children, can be found at www.holocaustmatters.org.uk. This website is inspired by survivor stories and is focussed on the need to celebrate diversity in society.

Welwyn Garden City Library is open for Ready Reads

Join (your child) to the library now – It's Free. It's easy you can [join online](#) when you visit Hertfordshire Libraries website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives You will receive a temporary membership number which can be used to access *the online eBook and eAudio library* **BorrowBox**.

Library membership will enable your family to take full advantage of **Ready Reads - We select you collect**. All you need to do is fill out the online form with details of the type of books required and collect. For further details visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/other-library-services/ready-reads.aspx

If you are unable to access online services, please phone 0300 123 4049 and a member of the library service team will be able to help you fill out the form. Welwyn Garden City Library has a fantastic range of new books on offer to support reading for pleasure, home schooling and your child's wellbeing, all for free.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Week

Looking after our wellbeing is a hugely important part of life and something that is key in promoting positive mental health. Monday 1 - Sunday 7 February is National Mental Health and Wellbeing week and we would like students and parents to take some time to consider your own wellbeing.

This year has been challenging and we have all had to adapt to a new way of working, at times it has been hard but we have through our individual support networks built up a resilience which will hold us in good shape moving forward.

Attached to this communication is a booklet with some information, hints, tips and guidance on how you can look after yourself, promote positive mental health and understand what other support is out there.

**Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council parent/carer virtual awareness sessions
Wednesday 3 February 2021**

Attendees will hear from key speakers on three topics:

- Youth violence, gangs and countylines, 4-5pm
- Mental health and support for young people, 5-6pm
- Online safety and grooming, 6-7pm

The event will be split into three sessions and parents will be able to tune into all sessions, or just the ones that they have an interest in.

Our guest speakers who will be leading the sessions come from experienced backgrounds in their fields. They will offer first-hand knowledge, advice and live in experiences of these issues to help enable you as parents/guardians to 'spot the signs' in your children.

The event is FREE of charge and will be hosted on Microsoft Teams.

Once booked onto the event you will be sent a link to the event 48 hours before.

There will be a chance for attendees to win up to £50 worth of shopping vouchers should they attend the event.

To register visit <https://welhatparentawareness.eventbrite.co.uk/>

**Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL)
Online SpLD support group for parents/carers in Hatfield and Welwyn**

The first group will take place on Wednesday 3 February and will have a focus on Dyspraxia. Each time the group will be joined by a specialist in the field to help answer your questions. To book your place, please click on the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/spldforum>

Best wishes
Sarah Mitcherson
Headteacher