

Dear Parents/Carers



## News update (Friday 5 February 2021)

Please may we remind you of the Ridgeway Academy code of conduct for online learning which can be found [here](#). We appreciate that parents are keen to support their son/daughter with their online learning, and staff are extremely grateful for this support. However, it is vital that parents do not contact the teacher or communicate with the teacher e.g. through a chat box, during the live lesson as the teacher needs to remain focused on the delivery of the lesson content. We ask parents to email class teachers any questions, concerns or requests for help after the lesson or encourage their/son daughter to ask their teacher during the lesson.

## National apprenticeship week 8 February 2021

- National Apprenticeship Week 2021 will take place from 8 to 14 February 2021
- The annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships will shine a light on the amazing work being done by employers and apprentices across the country
- The Week will also recognise how employers of all sizes have stepped up to the challenge during this unprecedented time
- To celebrate and raise the work of Businesses and the Apprenticeships they offer, please see the attached leaflets for all the fantastic events for students, parents and teachers

Contained in the link below is a termly series of events to give parents insider knowledge about the industries young people aspire to break into; delivered by top professionals from those fields.

[https://docsend.com/view/pyyhi7ccmjhfdg4q?mc\\_cid=ee2069ea09&mc\\_eid=607e725067](https://docsend.com/view/pyyhi7ccmjhfdg4q?mc_cid=ee2069ea09&mc_eid=607e725067)

Your child can keep up to date with all apprenticeship and career opportunities on their year group google classroom.

## Key worker school places

Unfortunately, places for key worker children attending school are now full with no further capacity available. If your child is currently attending school and no longer requires this provision or you would like to place your child on the waiting list for a place, please email Mr Booth at the following email address: [steve.booth@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:steve.booth@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk)

## JustTalk young people's COVID-19 webinar – 17 February 2021

Following the success of the young people's COVID-19 webinar last year, Public Health Hertfordshire have arranged another follow up session. Hertfordshire's 11-19 year olds are encouraged to take part in this free event on Wednesday 17 February, 11:30am-12:30pm.

This is an ideal opportunity for young people to listen to reliable information from the panel members below, who will be talking about some of the anxieties many people are experiencing and answering questions and concerns raised by young people living in Hertfordshire:

**Councillor Tim Hutchings** (Cabinet Member for Public Health & Prevention)

**Councillor Terry Douris** (Cabinet Member for Education, Libraries and Localism)

**Dr Alison Frater** (Public Health Consultant)

**Liz Shapland** (Deputy Education Services Director (Secondary) Herts for Learning)

**Tania Rawle** (Head of School Standards and Accountability, Education, Children's Services)

Young people can submit questions ahead of the time, by sending into [JustTalk@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:JustTalk@hertfordshire.gov.uk). There will also be a chat function, so questions can be submitted live during the webinar. There is no need to book or pre-register, simply visit [www.justtalkherts.org/coronaviruswebinar](http://www.justtalkherts.org/coronaviruswebinar) on the day.

## **Safeguarding information for parents/carers**

Please find attached a document with some useful safeguarding information and key contacts for parents and carers.

## **Google Guardian notifications**

You will now have received the notification invitation to join as a parent to Google Guardians. This allows you to monitor the work set for your child and monitor their submission. It will also allow you to see any outstanding which will need to be completed by your child.

When you accept the invitation please ensure that you are logged into your personal email account i.e. yahoo, work email, Hotmail, outlook, Gmail, Virgin Mail, SKY Mail, BT Mail etc. This should be done on a desktop PC or laptop and not from your mobile phone or tablet device. Please make sure before accepting Google Guardians, that you are signed out of your child's Google classroom account. This will avoid accepting the invitation and registering under your child's name.

The latest version of the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) user guide has now been added to the website, here you can get further information on how to update your contact details (Page 6 Account Options). It is vital that you ensure your contact details are up to date in order to receive Google Guardian summaries. If you think the email address we hold for you is incorrect, please change this information on My Child at School. For further guidance on this please see the information page on our website <https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/my-child-at-school/>

## **ICON challenge for students from Performing Arts, History and Art**

Who do you aspire to be? Who really made a difference? Who will always be remembered? Who changed the world?

This is an OPTIONAL task for those of you who want to get creative. Choose an ICON from the world of TV, Film, Theatre, Music, Art or History. Create a look, dress-up, use hair and make-up or draw or paint a portrait. You can choose this as a well-being Wednesday activity if you want to or do it just for fun. There are prizes and house points available! Please see the Google Slides posted in your Google Classroom for more information and ideas and complete the [Google Form](#) to submit your entry. See Miss Standage, Mrs Picariello or Mrs Johnson for more details. Good luck!

## **Free Spring term online workshops funded by Hertfordshire County Council**

ADD-Vance, The ADHD and Autism Trust are delighted to announce a programme of Spring term online workshops for parents/carers funded by Hertfordshire County Council. These interactive workshops will be delivered via Zoom and can be accessed via a PC, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. These sessions are free online workshops and cover a wide variety of topics. Please see attached poster for more details.

## **Pupil Premium Parent / Carer Survey feedback**

Thank you very much to all those parents who took the time to fill in our survey on provision and care for your children during lockdown. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and I have included a couple below. These, as well as the feedback expressed to individual staff members, have been shared within school and truly appreciated. A couple of families enquired as to whether we could help them with printer cartridges. Whilst teachers are avoiding requesting students print any work, we are aware that occasionally this is unavoidable. If your child qualifies for Pupil Premium and you need a printer cartridge please email [megan.frost@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:megan.frost@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk) using Printer Cartridge in the subject box and we will order it for you.

*'Making sure we have lap-tops, healthy food, sanitary towels and writing paper, I don't think you could have done any more.'*

*'It has been wonderful to receive food, vouchers and money, this has been a great help and support. We are very appreciative and it is very kind, thank you all very much.'*

*'You have made a pandemic bearable and less stressful.'*

*'I'm glad I chose your school for my daughter.'*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:caroline.maddocks@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk) writing WIFI as the Subject and we will organise this for you.

## Free School Meals vouchers for February half term

We are pleased to confirm that families whose children qualify for Free School Meals will receive vouchers for the week of February half term. We shall be sending these out next Friday.

## Help for those struggling with the glare from their computer screen

ColourVeil is an application you can download that allows you to add a coloured overlay to your laptop/computer screen. This has been trialled in school and has proved to be really useful for those with dyslexia or even just getting eye fatigue from being on the computer for long periods of time. Directions for downloading can be found at <https://www.aurelitec.com/colorveil/windows/download/>

## 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

## 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](mailto: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

You may be interested in the following **free** event for your younger children.

**Thursday 11 February 2021, 1.30pm. Recommended age: Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6**

Come on an adventure with **Michael Morpurgo**. Michael will be talking about some of his best-loved books including **War Horse, The Butterfly Lion, Shadow and Private Peaceful**, as well as reading from his latest book, **Boy Giant**. *Please click the link below for details and to register.* <https://www.sevenstories.org.uk/learning/michael-morpurgo-2021>

Best wishes  
Sarah Mitcherson  
Headteacher