



Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 63
Weekly
March 2021
Week 2

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

It has been wonderful for the staff and I to welcome all students back to school this week, to see them working hard in their lessons and to witness them re-connect with their friends during their social time. Students have embraced the control measures in place to keep us all safe magnificently! I finished my Headteacher address to students in a live broadcast on Wednesday with a quote from Vladimir Lenin - "There are decades where nothing happens and there are weeks where decades happen." The last couple of weeks have felt rather like this and I know there will be some anxieties around the full return to school and the calculation of grades for Year 11 and Year 13: please do rest assured that all will be dealt with sensitively and sensibly.

As I write, students are completing their third lateral flow tests and I have been informed that the home testing kits for students have been delivered into school; we will start the distribution of these next week. Staff have started with twice weekly testing using these devices, we will provide step by step guidance, but from a personal position, they are simple to use. I would like to publicly thank the team of staff who have enabled our asymptomatic testing to run so efficiently throughout this term - over 3000 tests have been conducted.

We look ahead to our virtual Celebration Awards assemblies for each year group on the final day of the spring term to recognise excellent effort and achievement in each year group, across subjects and enrichment activities.

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson
Headteacher

Attendance

Attendance to school each day is mandatory. The government are insisting that schools follow robust attendance procedures including sanctioning non-attendance through Fixed Penalty Notices issued by Hertfordshire County Council. It is vital that students are here every day to ensure they are able to achieve their full potential. Any student with attendance

below 95% will have to provide medical evidence for any further absence otherwise the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Parking

Please be mindful of our neighbours when collecting your child from school at the end of the day. The layby opposite the school should not be used as a pickup zone as it makes it difficult for the residents to access their driveways. Where possible please arrange to meet your child a short walk from the school. Many thanks for your understanding.

Uniform

Thank you to parents and carers for ensuring that your children arrived at school dressed in full school uniform this week, they look incredibly smart. School uniform is mandatory each day, students arriving at school without the correct uniform will be sent home to change. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please do contact Mr Booth at the address below to see if the school can support.

Mr S Booth
Assistant Headteacher
Steve.Booth@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk

HERTS MUSIC SERVICE



Registration now open for lessons from September!



Flexible, convenient, secure and safe - however you want to learn.

Our **blended learning** offer combines online and face-to-face lessons to suit you.

We teach a comprehensive range of **instruments and singing at all levels.**

HMS is here to support all of our young musicians. **Financial help** is available to cover up to 100% of fees.

What else is on offer?

Join **enriching, fun sessions** at our network of Music Centres across the County. Groups and lessons run throughout the week where you can make new friends and enjoy making music together.

We also host **SEND activities** and Music Therapy.

As your child progresses we also offer activities covering all genres such as **choirs, bands, orchestras and Songwriter.**



www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/registeronline



Maths News

Over the next two weeks we will be giving Year 7-10 groups assessments. This will enable us to judge where students are in their learning and understanding, and also tailor future teaching to close the gaps. It is imperative that students revise for these assessments and attend fully equipped. Further information about topics to be assessed has been shared within students' Google Classrooms. Students should have the following; blue or black pen, green pen, HB pencil, 30cm ruler, geometry set and scientific calculator.

Any necessary resetting will take place after the Easter holiday.

Year 11 will be assessed every week based on topics they have been taught. Teachers will use this information to provide evidence of a GCSE grade. Again it is essential students revise and take these assessments seriously. Further guidance can be found in Google Classroom. Students must come prepared as if they were to sit a mathematics examination.

Miss L Jesson
Assistant Headteacher - Director of Mathematics

Recognising and Responding to Anxiety

As the return to school approaches, the prospect of being around others may be daunting after the experience of lockdown. Some, whether adult, teenager or child, may have spent extended periods shielding, isolating from their friends and family. Even those viewing the return with anticipation and excitement may also suffer with underlying fears about safety. Anxiety is not always easy to spot and can be masked by other emotions and behaviours and we may not recognise the fears that sit beneath. Some common things to look out for.....



Times Tables App

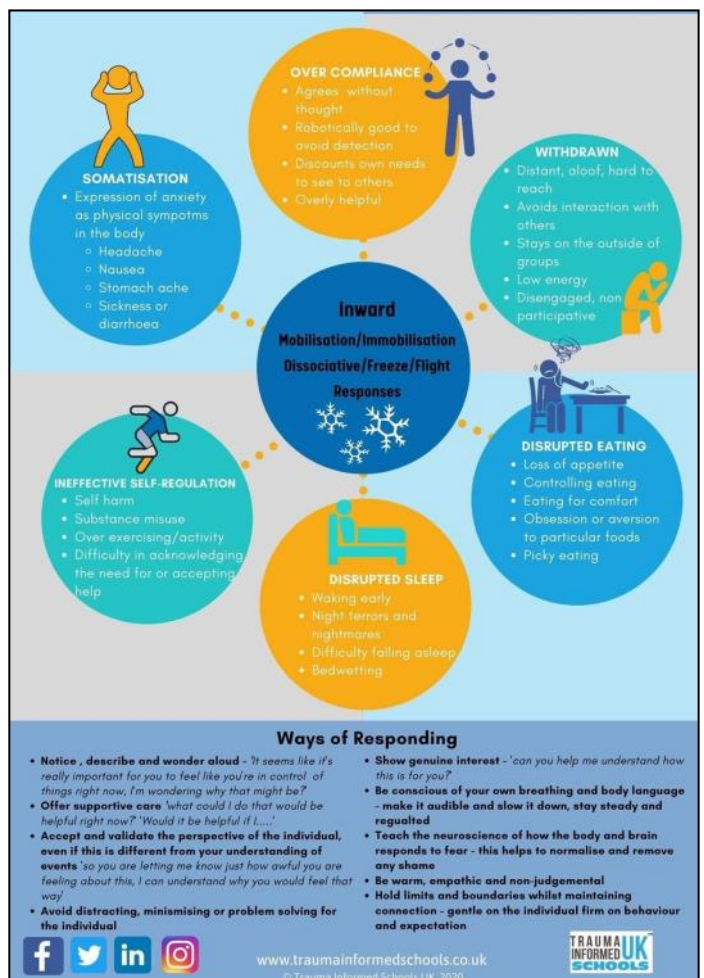
If your child is struggling with their times tables, please encourage them to access PIXL times tables using their normal PiXL logins.

<https://timestable.pixl.org.uk/Timestables.html>

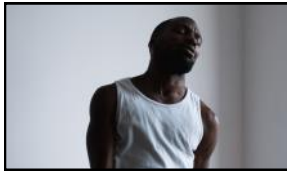
= 8	4 X 3 = 12	4 X 4 = 16	4 X
= 10	5 X 3 = 15	5 X 4 = 20	5 X
= 12	6 X 3 = 18	6 X 4 = 24	6 X
= 14	7 X 3 = 21	7 X 4 = 28	7 X
= 16	8 X 3 = 24	8 X 4 = 32	8 X
= 18	9 X 3 = 27	9 X 4 = 36	9 X
= 20	10 X 3 = 30	10 X 4 = 40	10 X
= 22	11 X 3 = 33	11 X 4 = 44	11 X
= 24	12 X 3 = 36	12 X 4 = 48	12 X
= 0	0 X 3 = 0	0 X 4 = 0	0 X
= 8	1 X 3 = 3	1 X 4 = 4	1 X
= 16	2 X 3 = 6	2 X 4 = 8	2 X
= 24	3 X 3 = 9	3 X 4 = 12	3 X
= 32	4 X 3 = 12	4 X 4 = 16	4 X
= 40	5 X 3 = 15	5 X 4 = 20	5 X
= 48	6 X 3 = 18	6 X 4 = 24	6 X
= 56	7 X 3 = 21	7 X 4 = 28	7 X
= 64	8 X 3 = 24	8 X 4 = 32	8 X

If they need assistance logging in please ask them to speak to their maths teacher.

Miss Louise Jesson
Assistant Headteacher - Director of Mathematics



Drama News



James Cousins Dance Company 'Within Her Eyes' Interview and Workshop

For GCSE Dancers and Year 9's who have opted it.

This has been rearranged for Thursday 25th March 2-4pm.

Below we have student feedback from some recent activities:

Q & A Session with Julie Hesmondhalgh Written by Tilly Morris, Year 12

On the 22nd of March, Year 12 Performing Arts students were given the amazing opportunity to have a virtual one to one Q & A session with the well-known actress Julie Hesmondhalgh. You will probably know her from playing the beloved character Hayley Cropper on Coronation Street, who was a revolutionary due to the fact she was the first transsexual character in a British soap opera. Our class, however, were given this opportunity to ask more about one of her more recent roles, Mother Courage. Year 12 are currently studying the play Mother Courage and her Children and it was originally written in 1939 by German poet and dramatist Bertolt Brecht, but in Julie's version, it has been rewritten by Anna Jordan and has been made into a modernised and unique retelling of a classic. She was able to give us fantastic insight into the play, the ins and outs of such a complex character and gave us such detailed and analysed answers to our many questions. It is helping us massively in analysing the play in lessons and help us understand it in a more complex way. Not only were we able to ask questions about the play, but she gave us such personal and inspiring advice on the industry and told us many stories about her acting journey and how she got to where she is today. Besides her incredible advice and stories, she made us all feel truly hopeful and confident in carrying on our own acting journeys and once again instilled our hopes of the world of theatre and acting making a bigger and better comeback after such a terrible time this past year. It was an incredible opportunity and we are so grateful to have been given the chance to talk to such a fantastic woman!

Musical Masterclass Written by Freya Bye, Year 12

Wednesday afternoon, the 3rd of March students were given the opportunity to join a musical masterclass with Nicky Swift who has performed on the West End as many characters from musicals such as Footloose, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia and more, for an hour. What we did in the masterclass was a vocal warm up to begin with, then Nicky played the song Mamma Mia on her piano and went through in detail the lyrics of the song and how we sing it on a stage. After that, we then learned a piece of choreography that she taught us to the song, and it

was great fun. Finally, we then sang a chunk of Waterloo and next time we will learn a dance to that song. A range of students from across the years took this opportunity and we did not regret it! It was very interesting to see how Nicky Swift taught us because she said this was exactly how she was taught when she played the Role Rosie in Mamma Mia. I cannot fault the experience it was amazing, and everyone who joined cannot wait for the next class which is next week, and Nicky herself was so warm and welcoming. Thank you to Miss Standage for allowing us to have this opportunity with such a talented woman, Nicky Swift.

Online Dance lessons with Mel Simpson Written by Melissa Aylott, Year 13

I've really enjoyed the dance sessions with Mel Simpson! It's been lovely to get involved with such a nice group and learn from such an amazing dancer. It's been a great way to break up the weeks, get away from the stress of school work and do something fun while stuck at home.

Miss S Standage
Subject Leader for Drama and Dance

Sports Centre Update

Community Usage

We are very pleased to be opening our facilities for community usage with a phased return as per the government road map:

- 29th March Outdoor Sport for Children and Adults
- 12th April All Children's activities
- 17th May Organised Indoor Adult Sport
- 21th June Larger events and no legal limits

Saracens Mavericks

As you will have seen on the TV, professional sports are exempt from current restrictions as they are able to keep their players safe in 'bio-secure' bubbles.

We are absolutely delighted that we will be hosting the Saracens Mavericks Netball team throughout March to help with their preparation for Super League matches which are shown on Sky Sports.

We will have some pictures to follow in the next edition of Ridgeway News, so keep an eye out!



Ross Goodship
Sports Centre Manager

Tel: 01707 351 352

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



@RASportsCentre



@rasportscentre



@RASportsCentre

YCH Services for Young People Easter Holiday Activity Programme 2021

Exciting free and local opportunities for young people aged 13-16 during the Easter school holidays

- Fun and informal workshops to help with a healthy physical and emotional lifestyle
- Free lunch / food
- Sports, Dance, Games and Activities
- Meet and socialise with other young people

Places are very limited. Please contact us now to book your free place:

Email ychsfp.welwynhatfield@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Text 07860 065173

Call 01992 588220

Dates: 29th March – 1st April and 6th – 9th April

Times: 11am – 3pm

Venue: Hatfield Young People's Centre, Breaks Manor, Link Drive, Hatfield AL10 8TP

Dates: 6th – 9th April

Times: 11am – 3pm

Venue: Welwyn Garden City Young People's Centre, Oaklands College, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6AH

Hertfordshire County Council YCH Services for Young People provides free youth work projects, information, advice, guidance, work related learning and wider support for young people
www.ychservicesforyoungpeople.org

Please visit [Be HAPPY - practical resources - Herts Sports Partnership \(sportinherts.org.uk\)](https://www.sportinherts.org.uk) for details of other organisations delivering activities at Easter



@YCHSfYP



@YCHSfYP



Spring Term 2021

Thurs 18 th Mar	Year 12 Parents Evening 4-7pm
Thurs 18 th Mar	Year 10 & 11 DofE Navigation Session on the school site. 3.15pm-4.15pm
Thurs 18 th Mar	Year 10 & 11 DofE Expedition Information Evening for parents. Google Meet 6pm-6.30pm.
Thurs 25 th Mar	Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening
Fri 26 th Mar	End of Term

Summer Term 2021

Mon 12 th April	Start of Term
Mon 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Sun 30 th May	Year 10 & 11 DofE Training Day. On school site and surrounding area. 10am-4pm.
Mon 31 st May - Fri 4 th June	Half Term
Mon 28 th June	Year 7 induction evening
Sat 3 rd and Sun 4 th July	Year 10 and 11 DofE Qualifying Expedition
Wed 7 th July	Extended Learning Day
Thurs 8 th July	Secondary Transfer Taster Day
Wed 21 st July	End of Term

Autumn Term 2021

Wed 1 st Sep	Start of Term
	Extended Learning Day
Thurs 16 th Sep	Open Evening
Mon 25 th - Fri 29 th Oct	Half Term
Thurs 25 th Nov	Academic Review Day
Fri 26 th Nov	Occasional Day
Tue 21 st Dec	End of Term