



Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 64
Weekly
March 2021
Week 2

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

As the end of term draws close, I have been reflecting on what has been collectively achieved in the last few months. Staff and students rapidly responded to remote learning using google classroom, all learning new skills and knowledge. Our Covid testing centre was efficiently set and supported safe working for our staff, the students and local primary school staff. Over 3,000 tests were administered. I would like to thank the testing team involved for their hard work in making the process go so smoothly. I would also like to thank the students for their mature approach and how well supported by their families that they have embraced testing and reporting from home twice a week.

It is wonderful to have all students back at school and as I have been walking through lessons, I can see how hard they are working and their motivation to do well.

As a result of the school's rapid growth, we can appoint an exceptional person to join the leadership team as second Deputy Headteacher to work with the staff at the school in the task of taking Ridgeway on to greater achievement. Above all, we are looking for an individual with a genuine interest in providing the highest quality in every aspect of the role. Our students deserve the very best we can provide. We believe in the importance of a collaborative approach and a commitment to the team. This week, we have had visits from potential candidates, who have been impressed by the calm and friendly environment and the engaging lessons and learning taking place.

Each week, more and more extra-curricular activities come on stream again which adds to the richness of the curriculum offer at the school. Our aim is that there is something of interest for all students in the school, with clubs in almost every curriculum area. If you have not yet tried one of these, perhaps now is the time to have a go. They are entirely voluntary and are meant to be fun. There may also be an element of challenge which will help you grow and develop further. Thank you to the staff who offer these opportunities.

I am delighted to announce that following a rigorous process, we have appointed our 2021-22 Head Girl and Head Boy; Tilly Morris and Eduard Pindici. Congratulations to them and to our deputies. I would like to thank Year 13's Lauren Somerville and Nile Stanton for their service to the school. Year 11 and 13 students are busy with internal assessments that will contribute towards GCSE, BTEC and A-level qualifications this summer. They have been working incredibly hard and I am sure this will help them perform really well this summer. Year 12 Induction week will run 18 - 25 June to prepare Year 11 for Sixth form studies.

Tomorrow we hold our virtual Awards assembly to recognise the effort and achievement of students across the subjects. A full list of award winners and photos will be in the first summer edition.

Finally, a reminder that twice weekly lateral flow testing continues over the holidays. Please continue to report results to the government website and on our google form. We continue to track and trace positive cases until 1 April, so please do notify using the alert form on our website if your son/daughter has a positive flow test and subsequent positive PCR test. This will allow us to take prompt action to alert, should anyone need to isolate.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break.

Mrs Sarah Mitcherson
Headteacher

Reminder

School finishes at 14:55 on Friday 26th March for the Easter Holidays and resumes Monday 12th April.

Year 10 Parents Evening

Year 10's Virtual Parents Consultation Evening will be held on Thurs 25th March. Appointments are available between 16:15 and 20:00.

Attendance

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.

Uniform

Thank you to parents and carers for ensuring that your children arrive at school dressed in full school uniform each day, 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

School Vacancies

The school is currently recruiting for the following roles:

Deputy Head Teacher

Closing Date: 10.00am Monday 12 April 2021
Shortlisting: Friday 16 April 2021
Interviews: Wednesday 21/Thursday 22 April 2021
Start date: September 2021

Mathematics Teacher

Closing date: 9:00am Tuesday 13 April 2021
Interview date: Thursday 29 April 2021
Start date: September 2021

English Teacher

(Temporary maternity cover contract)

Closing date: 9am Friday 23 April
Interview date: Thursday 6 May
Start date: June 2021

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

Mrs H Smith
PA to Headteacher

Quote of the Week

"Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in day out - Robert Collier



Robert Collier 1885-1950, was an American author of self-help and New Thought metaphysical books in the 20th century. He was the nephew of Peter Fenelon Collier, founder of Collier's Weekly. He was involved in writing, editing, and research for most of his life.

Half Termly Theme - Success

Success is the state or condition of meeting a defined range of expectations. It may be viewed as the opposite of failure. The criteria for success depend on context, and may be relative to a particular observer or belief system.

What is success to you?

Success is shoes lots and lots of beautiful shoes



Success is having no goals or plans and still being happy



Success is having more money than your wife can spend



Success is a John Deere tractor with no bank loan



Success is having more beer than friends



Thank you!

We have been inundated with messages of support and thanks from parents during the lockdown. What a lovely surprise it was to receive these goodies from Year 7 students. Some gifts were for individual staff, whilst others were chocolates or biscuits to be left in the staffroom. Today's goodies in the staffroom are the mini eggs!



Thank you very much to all who have sent in goodies and crafts for us to enjoy, they are very much appreciated.

Mrs M Tinker
Director of Learning – Year 7

Student Leadership Team 2021-22

Last week we recruited our new Head Boy and Head Girl for 2021. The successful candidates will take on their roles after the Easter holidays.

The students were interviewed for the post and completed tasks. Congratulations to the following Pupils for their new roles.



**Eduard Pindici
Head Boy**



**Tilly Morris
Head Girl**



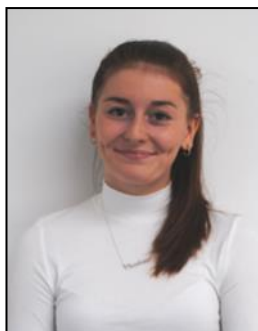
**Callum Gunning
Deputy Head Boy
Character**



**Tara Adenubi
Deputy Head Girl
Wellbeing**



**Ali Muhamed
Deputy Head Boy
Student Voice**



**Charlotte Cox
Deputy Head Girl
Sporting and
Community Events**





Mrs S Merrigan
Director of Learning Year 12/13

Virtual Parent Evening Reminder

Our Year 10 Virtual Parent Evening is Thursday 25th March - 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

House Points

In the lead currently are **Lytton** with **17500 points**.

Anderson	Hawking	Lytton	Mandela
			
14839	19688	19888	17209
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.

UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge

Huge congratulations to the pupils below, who achieved certificates in this year's UKMT intermediate maths challenge! This is a fantastic achievement and the mathematics department are hugely proud of you all. A big well done also to all those who participated.

Silver certificates:

Henry B (Y11)
L'Roux N (Y11)

Bronze certificates:

Lucy N (Y9)
Tom S (Y9)
Nathen C (Y11)
Megan J (Y11)
Summer K (Y11)
Megan W (Y11)

Miss C Meechan
Assistant Subject Leader – Mathematics

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 Ethan NP, Dejoie J
Year 8 Chloe T, Alfie J
Year 9 Luke H, Laura H
Year 10 Charlotte B, Harley T
Year 11 Natasha F, Riley T

Mrs S Merrigan
Personal Development Coordinator

Crumbs!

Thank you to members of the 17th Welwyn Garden City Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for nominating our staff for doing a good job during lockdown and for giving us a lovely big box of biscuits which are now in the kitchen.



Mrs M Ring
Business Manager

Dance and Drama News

Dance

Year 11 Dancers have completed their online sessions with Mel Simpson and have worked tirelessly on a beautiful solo dance for their performance component of their GCSE. You have all been fantastic working at home in your living rooms and then transferring this to the studio. Miss Standage is very proud and excited to film your assessments this week.

Year 9 and 10 GCSE Dancers were treated to a fantastic virtual workshop and theory session with the Award-winning British choreographer James Cousins. The students were able to find out all about the creation of the professional piece 'Within Her Eyes' that the dancers need to study for their GCSE Dance exam. The practical session consisted of the dancers learning repertoire from the dance itself and adding their own ideas to the sequences to further secure their understanding and develop their choreographic skills. What an experience! Thank you to the James Cousins Company for your time and expertise.

Year 7 Dance Club started last week and the students have been thoroughly engaged learning a dance to

Billie Eilish track and working together as a company. If you want to join after Easter, please complete the Google Form and let Miss Standage know. TUESDAYS 3-4pm in the Sport's Hall, Dance Studio. I will let other years know when we can mix bubbles so you can join the group.



Drama

Year 7s and 8s have been working on a Lion King project and have been busy making puppets and masks. Year 9s have been working on a project based on Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time and have been working on a lighting design project. Year 10s have had an exciting launch to their Devising Theatre project and are exploring the work and style of The Paperbirds Company. Year 11s have been working towards a practical scripted assessment and will be performing this week. Please check details of Easter Holidays catch up sessions to support this further.

Well done to our Year 12 BTEC Drama students who completed really engaging presentations on the work of DV8 this week as part of their assessment plan. They also performed their devised pieces of HOME to a small socially distanced audience. It is SO good to see you back in the studio doing what you do best!



Musical Theatre Masterclass

Wow! What a treat it has been having the experience with Nicky Swift every Wednesday after school. Well done to all students involved. The students have learnt to perform numbers from the shows Mamma Mia and Les Miserables focusing on their singing technique and choreography. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are keen to continue with a performance project after Easter. Watch this Space!

Miss S Standage
Subject Leader for Drama and Dance

PE Department/Leadership Academy Update

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a fantastic Easter break. It has been brilliant to welcome students back for the final few weeks of term, where the PE Department have been able to run extra-curricular clubs, introduce leadership opportunities and provide students with a range of opportunities to keep active within their PE lessons.

The return of extra-curricular!

On the return to school, the PE Department have been delighted to revive their extra-curricular programme over the last couple of weeks. Key stage three students have been able to take advantage of a variety of clubs including: Football, Netball and Basketball.



It has been brilliant to see a huge number of students participating, with some students attending for all of the sporting clubs available to their year group, including Dance which was led by Miss Standage from the performing arts department. We are looking forward to seeing this enthusiasm and determination in the summer term!

Sporting clubs will return after the Easter break from **Wednesday 19th April**, with a brand-new offering to



include the summer programme of sports. Therefore, a new clubs list will be released in the Summer Term. More information relating to extra-curricular fixtures will be released once we have received further guidance.

Inclusion Champions

I am delighted to announce that four Year 8 students have been selected to represent Ridgeway Academy and the Welwyn, Hatfield School Sports Partnership in the brand-new role of an 'Inclusion Champion'. Well done to Kayden, Maya, Grace and Lucy who have been selected.

This is a brand-new opportunity which is a county approach to promote and engage mainstream



leadership using additional needs and disabilities as the delivery mechanism – to develop physical activities for pupils who do not normally take part or have additional needs themselves.

I have selected these students as I believe they will be a fantastic ambassador for the school in promoting a range of varied opportunities that all of our students can access and be a good role model for inactive pupils.

They will begin their training in the Summer Term, ready to offer a range of opportunities from September 2021. I look forward to working with them on this journey.

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
www.twitter.com/ridgewaypedept

Mr R Carolan
Head of the Sports Leadership Academy
School Games Organiser: Welwyn Hatfield



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:

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

Ross Goodship

Sports Centre Manager

Tel: 01707 351 352

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

Hugely Successful Sport Relief Week

During March 2020, Ridgeway Academy's PE Department ran a range of fundraising activities in aid of Sport Relief. This was despite the lockdown and partial closures of schools being released under a week later.

We are delighted to announce we raised a phenomenal **£4,332.33** in just 5 days!

This means that over the past 6 years (remembering that Sports Relief takes place every other year; 3 Sport Relief Weeks, ONLY 15 days) Ridgeway has raised an incredible £8222.17.

2016 - £1382.78
2018 - £2507.17
2020 - £4332.22



Students participated in a number of different activities including beat the goalie, staff vs students basketball and table tennis and a non-uniform day.

A special mention to over 90 KS3 and Year 10 students who participated in the continuous cycling event, doing a fantastic job of completing the event and collecting their own sponsorships.

The money will not just help those in poor countries around the world, but also help the poor, lonely, homeless and vulnerable people in the United Kingdom.

A HUGE thankyou to all the parents, carers and students who continue to support the PE Department, we could not do it without you.

Mr R Carolan

Head of Sports Relief Week 2020

Library News

Although the Library is not yet open for students, I would like to remind all students that you can reserve books using the **Click & Collect** service.

Click & Collect service:

On the school intranet, select **Library** then **Accessit Library** to access the Library webpage. You can search the Library catalogue from here as a **Guest**, but to reserve or renew books and to write a book review, you will need to log in using your usual school username and password. Click on **Guest** then enter your login details or click on the blue **SSO** button and enter your full school email address. If you have any problems, just email me at library@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk. There is a tutorial you can view which shows you how to search the catalogue. Just scroll down the Library page and click on **How to search the Web App** to view the tutorial.

Reminder: Please have a good look at home for any overdue Library books and return them by putting them in the black bin at the Library door. Thank you.



World Book Day

As in previous years, all students received a WBD token to exchange for a WBD £1 book or use to get £1 off any book or audiobook worth £2.99 or more from participating bookstores and supermarkets. The tokens are valid until 29th March. In addition, all Year 7 students will each receive a WBD £1 book to keep.

Competition Results!

I am delighted to announce that Amber in 8D has won the Design a Potato Book Character competition. Congratulations Amber, enjoy your chocolate Easter Egg prize.



Library Newsletter

The first issue of the new Library newsletter *Ridgeway Reads* is now available. On the school intranet select **Library** then click on **Ridgeway Reads**.

Have a great Easter break and keep reading!



Mrs D Lawrence
Librarian



RidgewayLibraryTeam

LOVE
the **LIBRARY**

Ridgeway Academy on Social Media

You can follow Ridgeway Academy on Social Media to get all the latest news, photos and information about the school!



@Ridgeway_AC
@RASportsCentre
@RwaHouse
@RidgewayLeaders
@RidgewayMaths
@LibraryRidgeway
@RidgewayEng
@RWAGeography
@LibraryRidgeway
@RidgewayPEDept



Instagram

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@RidgewayPerformingArts
@RidgewayTechnologyDept
@RASportsCentre
@RidgewayArtDept
@RidgewayLibraryTeam



www.facebook.com/RidgewayPEDept
www.facebook.com/RASportsCentre

Hertfordshire County Council Update

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share this important update with you ahead of the Easter holidays:

As we go into the Easter holidays, and some Government guidance changes around socialising outside and outdoor sport, it's so important that we don't let our guard down and increase the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks when schools return.

From Monday 29 March, you can;

- Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households
- Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:

- Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available
- Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household
- Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result
- Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household. You're not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble
- Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home

If your child is in year 7 or above and taking regular LFT, you should encourage them to continue to take these and report results as normal during the Easter holidays. If they receive a positive test at home, everyone in your household must begin self-isolating immediately and you need to book a PCR test to confirm the positive result. Any positive tests received up until 1 April, should be reported to your school so that they can complete the track and trace process with the Public Health team.

Babies and children in early years settings, nurseries, infant and primary schools should not be taking LFT, please don't do home tests on younger children. If you are worried about small children or they develop symptoms, please seek advice from your GP or call 111.

Thank you again for playing your part and helping to keep our schools safe and open for face to face learning.

We wish you all a safe and happy Easter.

Hertfordshire County Council

Spring Term 2021

Thurs 25 th Mar	Year 10 Virtual Parents Consultation Evening 16:15 - 20:00
Fri 26 th Mar	End of Term. School finishes at 14:55

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