



Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 76
Fortnightly
January 2022
Week 2

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

I would like to congratulate all our students for the way in which they started the year and the maturity they showed during the LFT mass testing at the start of term. They have fully embraced the new Government Covid measures: wearing face coverings in lessons, which as you know has now been reviewed. So far this term, we don't seem to have been affected too heavily by the Omicron variant, our staff and student absence rates are better than the national picture.

Year 11 students have received their mock exam grades, had parent teacher consultations and post 16 interviews with the leadership team. We are delighted with the record number of applications to our Sixth Form. This is an ideal opportunity for students to stop and reflect on how far they have travelled and how much more they need to do before exams, to achieve the grades they require for their next step in education. Over the coming weeks, staff will be going through the remaining mock papers to identify the areas that we need to work on before exams.

We welcome new Deputy Headteacher – Mr Bullock and new Subject Leaders Mrs Parsons – Art, Mrs Lewis – Social Science and Mr Warren – Design Technology who are already building strong relationships and inspiring our students with their subject passion and energy.

The examination season has now started, for our vocational and Sixth Form students. Enormous thanks to all the teams across the GCSE curriculum who are supporting the upcoming Year 9 Option Taster Session Programme that is running to support our students in selecting the subjects in Year 10 that are right for them. This takes a huge amount of organisation, but I feel it is important for our students to make informed decisions following conversations and teaching of the subjects by our specialist teachers across the school.

As ever we continue to have great student success in a range of fields. We are delighted to report that five students have

had their poems published in a national anthology beating over 12,000 entries across England in the Young Writers Poetry competition – see Ms Carter's article.

Congratulations to this week's student reward winners for their hard work and top effort.



Mrs Sarah Mitcherson
Headteacher

Site Security

To protect students on site and control unplanned visitors to the school site, automated security gates are installed at the two entrances on Hens Lane. This is a reminder that parents/carers and other visitors will **not** be given access to the school site without a pre-booked appointment. There will be no vehicle access to the school site for parents.

Students arriving to school by car should be dropped safely outside school. When dropping off and collecting, please park mindfully of our local neighbours and avoid parking in the hazard yellow lines. If anyone is found parking on these lines, their registration plate will be reported to the Police.

When walking, students have been instructed to cross Hens Lane using the traffic lights which are supervised.

Change of Date - Last Day of Summer Term 2022

Please note: In lieu of the Queens Jubilee bank holiday the last day of Summer 2022 term will now be Tuesday 19th July 2022.

House Points

Currently in the lead are **Mandela** with **21,105 points**.

Anderson	Hawking	Lytton	Mandela
			
20,463	16,842	18,338	21,105

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 twenty seven years, was freed and led a multi-ethnic government to bring an end to apartheid.

Quote of the Week



“
“You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.”

Winnie the Pooh

Alan Alexander Milne (18th January 1882 – 31st January 1956) was an English author, best known for his books about the teddy bear Winnie-the-Pooh and for various poems. Milne was a noted writer, primarily as a playwright, before the huge success of Pooh overshadowed all his previous work.

Milne served in both World Wars, joining the British Army in World War I, and as a captain of the British Home Guard in World War II.

He was the father of bookseller Christopher Robin Milne, upon whom the character Christopher Robin is based.

Half Termly Theme

Health and Wellbeing

Wellbeing is not just the absence of disease or illness. It's a complex combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional and social health factors. Wellbeing is strongly linked to happiness and life satisfaction. In short, wellbeing could be described as how you feel about yourself and your life.



Personal Development

We are a school aiming for Personal development excellence. We are committed to ensuring that we review our Personal development provision and listen to your views on what Ridgeway has to offer.

We would love you to be involved in the process and if you are interested in helping us improve our personal development please contact me via email: sarah.merrigan@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk

The awarding body will be contacting all our parents and students to hear your views.

Mrs S Merrigan
Associate Assistant Headteacher



Free School Meals

As a result of COVID-19, many of our financial circumstances have changed. If you think that your child may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), please click the link below:

https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ufs/HCWH.eb?ebd=0&ebz=1_1633953220728

If you would like any further information or support with completing the forms, please contact megan.frost@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk.

If your child qualifies for FSM, they will also benefit from the Pupil Premium funding that the school receives. Full details of how we use this to meet their academic, social, and pastoral needs can be found here:

<https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/pupil-premium/>

Mrs C Maddocks
Assistant Headteacher Inclusion



Ridgeway Writers - Empowered

'Take back some control over their lives' was the thought behind the National Young Writers Poetry Competition, which is exactly what our students at Ridgeway Academy did.

The English department has received the fantastic news that from the staggering 12,000 entries nationwide, five of our very own budding poets have been selected to have their poems published in a national anthology!

We would like to congratulate Alyssa Stalley (y7), Lucy Claridge (y9), Jasmine Hobbs (y7), Jayson Lester (y10) and Joziah-Ray Mbangi (y7) for their excellent poems. There will be a display in the Library showcasing their amazing work which we highly recommend viewing.



Miss S Akhtar
ECT English

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 8

Faye Bailey
Shae Cassidy
Carson Wiese
Daisy Hackett
Kaytelyn Lockyear
Megan Limacher
Maia Keaveney
Liam Dossett
Aiden Galvin

Year 9

Nathan Baughan
Francis Culibao
Callum Howse
Maksymilian Nieckarz
Harmonie Young
Lauren Hill

River Thornhill



Miss H Jenner
Assistant Headteacher

Bf BeeZee Families

CREATING HEALTHIER. HAPPIER FAMILIES

Join our FREE after-school groups in Hertfordshire, starting in February.

Our team of family wellbeing experts and nutritionists make learning about healthy eating fun, and have plenty of tricks to help you and your kids turn what you learn into healthy habits for life!

Kids will cook healthy meals, take part in fun games and sports, and make loads of friends!

Parents are supported by our team to handle conflict resolution, and benefit from the support network of likeminded families.

IT'S FREE!

SCAN ME TO SIGN UP!

WHERE AND WHEN?

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
WELWYN Ridgeway Academy 17:00 - 19:00	STEVENAGE Barnwell Middle School 17:00 - 19:00	CHESHUNT Goff's Academy 17:00 - 19:00	WATFORD Knutsford Primary School 17:30 - 19:30
HARPENDEN Katherine Warrington School 17:30 - 19:30		HENEL HEMPSTEAD Longdean School 17:30 - 19:30	HERTFORD The Sete School 17:30 - 19:30
BOREHAMWOOD Allum Hall 17:00 - 19:00			

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR FAMILY'S FREE PLACE

© 2021 BeeZee Families. All rights reserved. For the complete free service, your family must link up to school in Hertfordshire and include the address above their own health email.

Find the support you need at the Families First Portal

Families First is the name for early help in Hertfordshire. It is a way of getting extra support for your family to help you manage problems early on.

Families First is available to all Hertfordshire families with children under 18 (25 if they have a learning need or disability).

Visit the portal for more information, with direct links to:-

- [Relationship Support](#)
- [Childcare and advice for parents](#)
- [Money advice](#)
- [Emotional and mental health](#)
- [Domestic abuse support](#)
- [Staying healthy](#)
- [Online Safety](#)
- [SEND Local Offer](#)

and many other useful links

"I am struggling to cope with everything at present, so feeling overwhelmed."

"I'm worried about my child's behaviour in school and at home"

"I'm worried about money"

"I need reassurance and support"

@FFHerts

Early help. brighter futures

@FamiliesFirstHerts

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst

Clubs and Extra-Curricular Activities

Students and Parents now have access to a new online calendar and booking platform for our school clubs and extra-curricular activities. Bookings are on a first come first served basis for any clubs with maximum capacity.

You can login to SOCS via the portals link on the school website. Students should use their school Google credentials. Parents are also able to set up an account.

Please see the SOCS letter on the school website dated December 2021 for more information.

Some of the exciting clubs we are running during Spring Term are:

Badminton Lunch

Chess Club

Football Lunch

Year 11 Drama Rehearsals

Dance Club

Homework Club

Basketball

Band Rehearsals

Netball

Eco-School

Coding Club

Warhammer Club

Cross Country Club

Drama Club

UK Maths Challenge Club

Young Entrepreneurs

Rock Band

Science Club

Book Club

KS4 Fitness

Mr R Sutton
Acting Assistant Head



Performing Arts News

Spring Term Key Dates

Year 10 and 11 Dance Workshop: to be confirmed

Theatre Trips

Rescheduled Blood Brothers Theatre Trip: Tuesday 8th February

KS3 and Ambassadors Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe Theatre Trip: Thursday 24th March



Exams

Year 10

Drama Blood Brothers Mock: Monday 31st January P4,5 - 5pm

Drama Blood Brothers Final Exam: Wednesday 2nd February after school 3-6.30pm

Year 11

Drama Practical Mock: Wednesday 23rd March after school 3- 7pm

Drama Practical Final Exam: Wednesday 30th March in school P1-5

Dance Practical Exam: Monday 28th March in School P1-5

Extra Curricular Activities

For drama rehearsals please see SOCS under Portals on our website.

Miss S Standage
Subject Leader for Drama and Dance

Ridgeway Academy School Term Dates 2022/23

September 2022							October 2022							November 2022							March 2023							April 2023							May 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
29	30	31	1	2	3	4					1	2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	28	29	30					27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30								26	27	28	29	30			29	30	31					29	30	31				

December 2022							January 2023							February 2023							June 2023							July 2023							August 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
												1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28						17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29								26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			

Notable Dates

2nd September 2022 – Start of Term
 13th July 2023 – Secondary Transfer Day
 19th July 2023 – Last school day of 2023 Academic Year
 20th and 21st July 2023 – Shadow INSET DAYS (school closed)

Term Time
Pupil Holidays
Bank and Public Holidays
INSET
Extended Learning Day
Academic Review Day
Occasional Day
Open Evening

Autumn Term 2022 - Thursday 1st September 2022 to Wednesday 21st December 2022
 Spring Term 2023 – Thursday 5th January 2023 to Friday 31st March 2023
 Summer Term 2023 – Monday 17th April 2023 to Wednesday 19th July 2023

Version 2 (January 2022)



Click here to view Hertfordshire County Council's Services for Young Peoples Schedule and Information about activities supporting young people in Welwyn Hatfield

Year 11 Core PPE Timetable

Week 1	Monday 7 March	Tuesday 8 March	Wednesday 9 March	Thursday 10 March	Friday 11 March
Morning 9am		Biology 1 1h15 or 1h45		Chemistry 1 1h15 or 1h45	Maths 2 1h30
Afternoon 1pm		Maths 1 1h30		English Language 1h45	
Week 2	Monday 14 March	Tuesday 15 March	Wednesday 16 March	Thursday 17 March	Friday 18 March
Morning 9am		Biology 2 1h15 or 1h45	Chemistry 2 1h15 or 1h45	Physics 2 1h15 or 1h45	MOP UP
Afternoon 1pm	Physics 1 1h15 or 1h45	Maths 3 1h30	English Literature 1h30	MOP UP	MOP UP

FOREVER YOUNG PEOPLE YOUTH HUB

Forever Young People will provide a person centred service through a unique and innovative programme designed to help reduce self destructive behaviours and ease anxiety. The aim is to improve young people's mental and physical wellbeing by building their self esteem, resilience, confidence, independence, health outcomes and social inclusion by meeting their specific needs.

Mentoring, informal sports and group activities for young people, supporting their social and physical well-being.

HERTFORDSHIRE SPORTING CHANCE
 FYP FOREVER YOUNG PEOPLE
HCF

YOUTH HUB

EVERY TUESDAY
4-5.30PM
11-14 year olds

WOODHALL COMMUNITY CENTRE
 MILL GREEN ROAD
 WGC
 HERTS
 AL7 3XD

HERTFORDSHIRE SPORTING CHANCE
 FYP FOREVER YOUNG PEOPLE
HCF

CONTACT:
INFO@FOREVERYOUNGPEOPLE.COM

Sports Centre News

Barracudas Activity Day Camps

Barracudas Activity Day Camps, the UK's favourite school holiday provider for children aged 4½ to 14 years will be open at Ridgeway Academy in 2022. 80+ exciting activities including fencing, archery, aqua slide, football, dance and much more! Barracudas camps are Ofsted registered and have high staff to child ratios, plus parents of Ridgeway Academy receive an extra £10 off per week if you quote code HSCH22 at the time of booking.

THE UK'S FAVOURITE
BARRACUDAS
Activity Day Camps

BOOST THEIR CONFIDENCE AT CAMP!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
OPERATING AT YOUR
CHILD'S SCHOOL THIS YEAR!
QUOTE CODE:
HSCH22
£10 off a full week!

BOOK NOW!
... For great rates!

EASY
BOOKING
SYSTEM!

TAX-FREE
CHILD CARE
AND ALL
CHILD CARE
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED!
WE ALSO OFFER
AN INTEREST
FREE PAYMENT
PLAN (FPP)

FUN AND
ADVENTURE
FOR 4½ - 14
YEAR OLDS!

giving every child such an
AMAZING
EXPERIENCE
they can't wait to come back!

Trustpilot
5.0 (1000+ reviews as of 2021)

Visit barracudas.co.uk
or call 01480 467567

Ofsted
Ofsted

Now is a great time to book as they have their Early Bird rates offering great savings which are available up until the end of January. As well as that, parents can book their children in with their low minimum deposit rates up until the end of December, securing their place for just £10 a day or £25 a week (from January this will be £15 a day or £50 a week). The good news is that parents can then either choose to pay in interest-free monthly instalments up to Barracudas balance due date, or, pay nothing more at all until balances are due.

For further information, please visit: <https://www.barracudas.co.uk/camps/welwyn-ridgeway/>

Welwyn Hatfield Festival of Dance

We are looking forward to weekend number 2/3 of the



WHFOD. Lots of dancers from all over the region come to Ridgeway to showcase their talents on an annual basis. With no show in 2021, it has been great to welcome them all back to our school. Please be advised, if you are attending site over the next two weekends that it will be busy. Please walk, car share or find suitable alternative parking.

KICKS

The popular KICKS programme is BACK! Run by Stevenage FC Foundation, students can come and play football completely FREE of charge on our Astro pitch with qualified coaches leading the activities. Sessions run every Friday night from 7-8:30, simply turn up to PLAY!

Premier League
Kicks

STEVENAGE FC
FOUNDATION

Stevenage FC Foundation and Premier League Kicks Programme have teamed up to provide sports sessions to young people aged 8-18 and is delivered in targeted areas of Hertfordshire.

Welwyn GC

Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre
Hems Lane, Welwyn Garden City
AL7 2AF

Sand Based Astro
Friday: 7pm - 8.30pm
Free to play!

For more information call 01438 223223
or online at www.stevenagefcfoundation.com

BACK TO NETBALL

Date: Mondays starting 6th September 2021!

Time: 7-8pm

Venue: Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre, Appletree Way, Welwyn Garden City AL7 2FE (indoors)

Contact Details: 07834500189
lucy.prestedge@englandnetball.co.uk

Price: £5.25



Social Media

Search for Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre on Facebook or @RASportsCentre on Twitter and Instagram for regular updates.

Mr R Goodship
Sports Centre Manager



@RASportsCentre



@rasportscentre



@RASportsCentre

The students will continue with this on a weekly basis and will proceed to learn even more skills for the next 10 weeks, before the Year 7 group take their turn on the program!



RAA Programme

After a few weeks into the RAA Program you can tell the students involved are really enjoying it. This has been fully funded by Herts Sports Partnership In order to get students more physically active and to learn some important life skills.



Mr S Cooper
School Games Organiser
and School Sports Co-ordinator



So far in the program our Year 8 students have taken part in sports such as Basketball, Table Tennis and even Karate! Alongside these sports the students have been in the kitchen here at Ridgeway making food from all sorts of cuisines; foods such as Prawn Stir Fry, Nachos and Spaghetti.



A-Z BASKETBALL PROJECT

RIDGWAY ACADEMY SPORTS CENTRE AL7 2AF

7-8PM 11-15 year olds

6 WEEK PROGRAMME, EVERY THURSDAY, STARTING ON THE 24TH FEBRUARY - 31ST MARCH 2022

Delivered by qualified coaches, you will learn and develop your skills, with fun drills and mini games.

WELHAT SPORTS

WELWYN HATFIELD

Dates for Your Diary

Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 2 nd February	Year 9 Options Booklet Issued
Thursday 3 rd February	Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening
Tuesday 8 th February	Additional Covid Vaccinations in Osborn Hall
Wednesday 9 th February	SEND Parent Consultations in Osborn Hall
Thursday 10 th February	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Friday 11 th February	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th February	Half Term
Thursday 24 th February	Year 9 Virtual Options Evening
Tuesday 1 st to Friday 4 th March	Year 9 Options Interviews
Friday 4 th March	Year 9 Deadline for Option decisions
Wednesday 9 th March	DTP/Meningitis Vaccinations cancelled
Thursday 17 th March	Year 12 Virtual Parents Evening
Tuesday 22 nd March	DofE Expedition Information Evening
Wednesday 23 rd March	Year 11 Drama Mock
Friday 1 st April	End of Term

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19 th April	Start of Term
Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June	Half Term
Friday 24 th June	Year 11 Prom
Thursday 7 th and Friday 8 th July	KS3 Summer Musical
Tuesday 19 th July	End of Term