



Issue 85
Fortnightly
September 2022
Week 2

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

This week, we have had exciting activities learning in lessons and enrichment opportunities. Performing Arts were delighted with the number of students auditioning for our school production of Rent. Rent is a rock musical with music, lyrics, and book by Jonathan Larson, loosely based on Giacomo Puccini's 1896 opera La Bohème. It tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists struggling to survive and create a life in Lower Manhattan's East Village in the thriving days of bohemian Alphabet City, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS.

On Thursday we welcomed visitors for our Jubilee Tree dedication to Her Majesty The Queen. Thank you to Mr Sutton and Mrs Smith for their organisation of this special event. Here are the speeches given by Marion Brown, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon the Mayor of Welwyn Garden City.

It is wonderful to be with you again at this, a poignant moment; the dedication of this tree to the Queen's Green Canopy. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II dedicated her seventy-year reign to serving the people of our nation, the commonwealth and the world. Following seven decades of her consistent and enduring rule, the Platinum Jubilee saw celebrations across the United Kingdom including the initiation of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which, under the wishes of His Majesty King Charles III, will continue until March 2023. As part of the Queen's Green Canopy, this tree represents a drive to support our planet's ecological wellbeing. Similarly, our local community of Welwyn Garden City and the wider garden city movement was built on the values of social and environmental sustainability. As a tree needs fertile soil, adequate water and sunlight to flourish, a community as large as a nation or as small as a school needs respect, shared responsibility and strong relationships. To conclude, I hope that this tree serves as a gentle reminder to all who pass here of our shared duty to support one another and our planet.

The community of Ridgeway Academy, along with our nation and the world is

deeply saddened by the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. This tree was planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy in light of The Jubilee, a momentous occasion which brought our country together in celebration of Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and her people. This tree is part of the living legacy that The Queen's Green Canopy initiative has started, with over a million trees planted in memoriam to honour Her Majesty, providing a vital green corridor to aid species migration and act as a carbon sink. This tree serves as a reminder of our collective duty to environmental stewardship and conservation, keeping sustainability in our consciousness. Standing now in the shelter and protection that this tree provides, may we all consider how we too can offer further shelter and protection as we serve our wider community in Welwyn Garden City. May this tree grow strong and serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty The Queen.

Thank you to the students involved in the ceremony, they were excellent ambassadors.

Anhua Fernandez, Archie Hoad, Krzysztof Kowalczyk, Jared Taggart, Megan Singleton, Diya Dhondee, Felicity Atkins, James Douglas and Poppy Handley.

Archie and Anhua also read a poignant poem by Sylvia Stults.

Continues on page 2



Local Bus Travel Information

We have received the following information from Hertfordshire County Council and they have asked us to share with families.

With the start of a new academic year, some helpful bus travel information in Hertfordshire for the school, its students and their families is available at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/>

Hertfordshire SaverCard for ages 11 to 25 years old allows single and return bus tickets to be purchased with a discount of 50% off the regular adult fares for travel at all times on all local bus services, more info at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/hertfordshire-savercard>

General principles for using buses in Hertfordshire can be found at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/general-principles-catching-bus>

There is a section for using passenger transport which helps people to understand timetables, QR codes etc at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/using-public-transport>

Journey planning on the bus network with maps, timetables and a journey planner is available at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/plan-your-journey>

Ticket information and information on various promotions is available at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/fares-and-tickets>

Information on discounted tickets such as 'Intalink Explorer' which offers a day's unlimited travel on the Hertfordshire bus network and to certain points beyond for groups of up to four people can be found at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/explorer>

There is an Intalink promotional vehicle that travels around Hertfordshire and everyone is welcome to visit to learn more about buses in Herts and services available. Details of upcoming events are at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/events>

Headteacher News continued

Continued from page 1

Our Theme of the Week is Standards. Mr Bullock has been leading assemblies focused on high expectations and being the best, you can be. I am delighted to report that over 2000 positive behaviours have been logged so far this term. As the weather changes, please ensure your young person has a winter coat and rain jacket. We open additional indoor spaces at lunchtime to accommodate our growing school, but we want to ensure they are warm and dry. All students must arrive at school before 8.25am when the gate will close and duty staff move to pastoral teams.

At this time of year, we meet with Subject leads to review their provision and their plans for this year. CEO of the Alban Academies Trust, Mr Gray and members of our local governing board (LGB) join these meetings and I would like to thank our Subject Leads for their preparation and leadership.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Ridgeway News with your family.

Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher

Theme of the Week



House Points

Currently in the lead are Parks with 5900 points.

Anderson	Hawking	Lytton	Mandela	Parks	Turing
					
5156	4304	4584	5542	5900	3970
					

Headteacher Commendations

Student of the Week

George Robinson
Louisa England-Vassallo
Liam Wragg
Scarlett Beskeen
Freddie Dutton



Open Evening Prize Draw Winner

We are pleased to announce the winner of our Open Evening Passport Prize Draw is Oliver from Holwell Primary School. Oliver will receive a £20 Amazon voucher in the post.

Behaviour - Half Termly Focus

Standards

Usually referred to as a level of quality or attainment. This half term we need to raise standards for all.

Uniform

- Wear shoes not trainers!
- Tuck your shirt in!
- Don't roll your skirt up!
- No facial piercings
- No false eyelashes/nails

Mobile phones

- Not to be used in school
- Your phone will be confiscated if you are seen using it for any reason

Attendance

- Be in school every day
- Arrive on time to school
- Arrive on time to lessons

Equipment

- Bring the correct equipment for learning
- Pencil case, calculator, pens, pencils, PE Kit, books
- Be ready to learn!

Conduct

- Be polite to ALL members of staff
- Use the bins provided
- Don't use inappropriate language
- Follow rules
- Use the opportunity to self-regulate

The RidgeWAY

- **Respect** the school rules, each other and our community
- Take **Responsibility** for your learning, conduct and attitude
- Develop **Relationships** that enable you to lead a happy, safe and healthy life

Head of Year News

Year 7

This has been an exciting two weeks. The Year 7 netball girls had their first match. We lost 5-3 but have so many positives to take away from it. I was very proud of the girls. The auditions for our school production are underway so we are looking forward to spotting some hidden talents. Art club has started so come along and join if you have not already. Each week the students are growing in confidence and it is fabulous to see.

As always, I encourage you to join our clubs and get involved in all aspects of school life. It is a great way to make friends.

Mrs Tinker

Year 10

Year 10 have enjoyed a smooth start to the 2022/23 academic year. Students are now almost a month into their GCSE options and have started to settle into their courses. As a year group we have spoken about work experience which will soon be upon us in terms of applications and securing places. Further information will be given to students in the coming weeks from form tutors and the process of work experience will continue to be discussed in assemblies. Sports fixtures have now got underway and we look forward to a term full of Netball, Basketball and Football fixtures for students in Year 10.

Mr M Pring

Year 11

The Year 11 football team were extremely unlucky to lose in the District Cup against Dame Alice Owens. They went 2-0 down at the start of second half, but showed great character to come back to 2-2 to send the game into extra time. They went 3-2 down but again showed tremendous reliance to equalise to force the game to penalties. But unfortunately they lost 6-5 in the shoot-out.

There is a Year 11 Parents Information evening on the 13th October so please look out for the email to book a place. Students are also encouraged to attend this.

Mr D Tansley

We are a school
delivering
personal
development
excellence.

EDPA Excellence in Pupil Development Award



Subject Focus

ENGLISH

Year 7 Summer School

Stepping into the world of English began for our new Year 7 students before the school year had even started! During our week of Summer School, pupils were tasked with writing poems all about themselves, as they explored the big question of 'Who am I?'.

Before embarking on this momentous task, we recapped what language devices we can include in our poems... through the medium of song lyrics! We also experimented with the language that we use in our writing, to understand why language is such an important means of expression. Finally, we imagined what it would be like to split our personalities in two, by drawing the two sides of ourselves. This then helped us to structure our poems.



The English department was extremely impressed with the talent, imagination and creativity that students were able to display. It provided us a great opportunity to get to know our new students better, and the poems that were produced were truly incredible. As we have now entered the first few weeks of the school year, we have witnessed how students have been able to further demonstrate their skills in their current lessons on myths and legends.

Year 7 students also enjoyed the time they spent with us in the summer, saying "I didn't expect there to be so many fun activities involved!". Another student said "it was a good opportunity to learn what English would be like, so it wasn't such a surprise when I started." We hope that you all

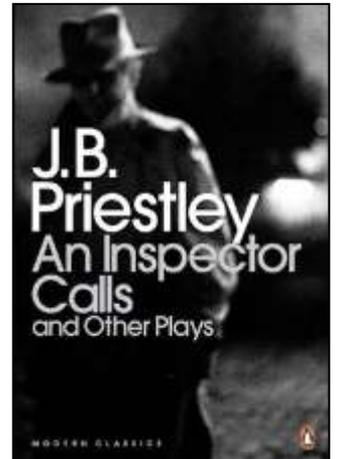
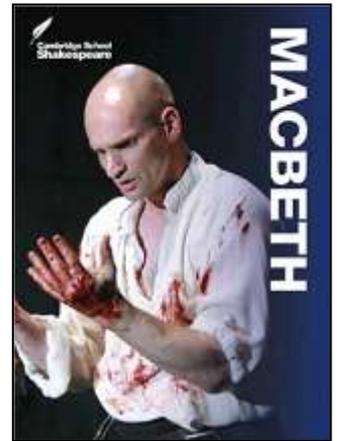
continue to find fun and enjoyment in all of your English lessons here at Ridgeway Academy.

Miss Walsh

Year 9

For GCSE English Literature, Ridgeway Academy students study Macbeth by William Shakespeare, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley.

This academic year, all Year 9 students will be required to purchase the set texts so they have their own personal copy to annotate. The English Department's hope is that by having copies of the texts, our students will be encouraged to take pride in their work and create a valuable revision guide full of

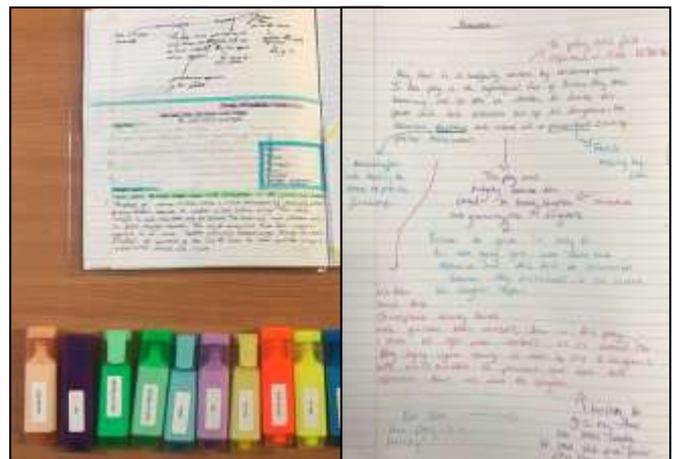


wonderfully detailed notes in preparation for their GCSE exams. The books will be available to purchase from the school with payment through Wisepay. More information will be sent to parents nearer the time.

Miss E Singleton Baker

English Department

The English department would love to express how impressed we have been with the amount of effort, engagement, and energy levels in English so far this year.



Hot Chocolate Friday

Year	Name / Form	Reason	Teacher nomination
7	Savannah Kerby	Perseverance everyday and getting involved where she can	Mrs Tinker
8	Sam Slattter	Sam always demonstrates a fantastic attitude to learning and is willing to contribute ideas to class discussions. Sam is well equipped, well organised and takes pride in his work.	Mr Nelson
9	Francis Curibao	Commitment to Eco-schools project and spending 1 hour clearing litter around the school	Mr Broad
10	Max McParland	Representing the school playing a year up (y11) and at district level (y10)	Mr Pring
11	George Robinson Liam Wragg Louisa England-Vassallo Scarlett Beskeen Freddie Dutton Vanessa Plencnerova	Top 5 house point winners in the Year group. Vanessa has started the year with the most positive mindset. Her first weeks homework was far above and beyond what was required (7 pages!)	Mrs Lewis



Sports Centre News

Barracudas

We are delighted to welcome back Barracudas in October Half Term and as a Ridgeway Academy parent, you can make use of the great deal they have offered:

THE UK'S FAVOURITE
BARRACUDAS
Activity Day Camps

BOOK NOW!
...For great rates!
...For great rates!
...For great rates!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
OPERATING AT YOUR
CHILD'S SCHOOL THIS YEAR!
QUOTE CODE:
H5CH22
50% off a full week!

FREE-PRICE
CHILDREN
AND ALL
CHILDREN
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED!
WE ALSO OFFER
AN INTEREST
FREE PAYMENT
PLAN (50%)

FUN AND
ADVENTURE
FOR 4½ - 14
YEAR OLDS!

AMAZING
EXPERIENCE
they don't want to come back!

Visit barracudas.co.uk
or call 01480 467567

Parents can get **£10 off a full week** by applying this code in the promotions box: **H5CH22**

*can't be used in conjunction with other offers.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in partnership with A-Z Basketball

We are pleased to be hosting Basketball sessions this term for 8-16 year olds which are completely free of charge. Please see poster for full information and how to book.

Learn and develop your skills on this six week project, through drills & fun games. Delivered by A-Z Basketball. No experience required.

A-Z BASKETBALL

Ridgeway Academy Gymnasium

17:30-18:30pm

6 September - 11 October 2022

For 8-10 year olds

To book a free space for the 6 week program
<https://8-10basketball.eventbrite.co.uk>

WelHat SPORTS AZ BASKETBALL WELWYN HATFIELD

Mr R Goodship
Sports Centre Manager

A-Z BASKETBALL Project

Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre

11-16 year olds

7-8pm

Free 6 week programme, taking place on Thursdays
8 September - 20 October
(please note there is no session on 15 September)

WelHat SPORTS AZ BASKETBALL WELWYN HATFIELD

Twitter: @RASportsCentre Instagram: @rasportscentre Facebook: @RASportsCentre

School Term and Holiday Dates 2022-2023

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Friday 2nd September to Wednesday 21st December
Half term: Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October
Inset Day 1 (school closed to students): Thursday 1st September
Open Evening (school closed half day to students): Thursday 15th September

SPRING TERM 2023

Friday 6th January to Friday 31st March
Half Term: Monday 13th to Friday 17th February
Inset day 1: (school closed to students) Thursday 5th January
Inset day 2: (school closed to students) Thursday 9th February
Inset day 3: (school closed to students) Friday 10th February

SUMMER TERM 2023

Monday 17th April to Wednesday 19th July
Half Term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
Shadow Inset Day 1: (school closed to students) Thursday 20th July
Shadow Inset Day 2: (school closed to students) Friday 21st July





PE DEPARTMENT AUTUMN TERM CLUB LIST

	Lunch Clubs	Location LUNCH TIME	After School Clubs	Time/Requirements Location
Monday	Badminton Football Year 9 & 10	SH - APR AWP - MP & SS	Intervention KS4 Netball Year 7 Football Basketball Year 8	B15 - KAM & APR & JC Tennis Courts - SV AWP - MPR & RG Sports hall - DB
Tuesday	Basketball Year 9-10-11 Football Year 7 & 8	SH - SV + KAM AWP - MTI & RNE	Year 10 Football Staff Meetings	AWP - RA All staff
Wednesday	Girls Basketball Football Year 11	SH - APR AWP - DT	Basketball Year 9 & 10 Year 8 Football	Sports Hall - KAM AWP - RNE
Thursday	Basketball Years 7 & 8 (11 Team Players) Football Year 9 & 10	SH - JC AWP - SS & MP	Netball KS3 Basketball Year 7	Tennis Courts - APR & MTI Sports Hall - JC
Friday	Team Basketball ALL years Football Years 7 & 8	SH - KAM & MPR AWP - MTI & RNE		

School Vacancies

The school is currently recruiting for the following role:

Administrative Assistant

Closing date: 9am Monday 10th October 2022
 Interview date: Wednesday 12th October 2022
 Start date: As soon as possible

For more information visit:

<https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

Mrs K Biss
 Human Resources Officer

Extra Curricular

You can view all the extra curricular activities we run on SOCS by following this link or from the link on the Intranet.



<https://www.socscms.com/SOCS>



SALA YOGA

Yoga for teens / tweenies

FREE TRIAL CLASS

perfect

Cool

DATE : 13TH SEPT
 TIME : 17.15 - 18.00
 PLACE: DANCE STUDIO
 RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

MINDFUL MOVES FOR YEAR 7 +

Booking: Thippi 07833 030344
 WWW.SALAYOGA.CO.UK

Dates for Your Diary

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Tuesday 13 th October	Year 11 Parent Information Evening 5:30pm
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th October	Half Term
Friday 18 th November	Year 12 Progress Checks to Parents
w/c Monday 14 th and 21 st November	Pre-Public Exam Week
Friday 25 th November	Occasional Day
Tuesday 20 th December	End of Term Assembly
Wednesday 21 st December	Charity Day Last day of Term

