



Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 89
Fortnightly
December 2022
Week 2

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

Pastoral Review

- Nearly 600 families attend our review appointments
- 97.8% of students said they felt safe
- Attitude to learning scores for all pupils this term;
A= 4 Excellent
B= 3 Good
C= 2 Requires improvement
D= 1 Inadequate
- Year 7= 3.3 average
- Year 8= 3.1 average
- Year 9= 3.1 average
- Year 10= 2.9 average
- Year 11= 2.9 average
- School average 3.06
- All students felt they had a trusted adult they could talk to if they needed support

Academic Reports

This academic year, reports are being provided every term for each year group. Year 8 and 9 families have received their Autumn reports via My child at School already. If you have yet to read your child's report, please visit the MCAS app.

Year 10 reports will be available on MCAS at the end of the day today.

Year 7 reports will be available by Friday 9th December.

Year 11 will receive their end of term report along with their PPE exam results on Tuesday 20 December.

Parent teacher consultations take place over the next 8 school weeks. We look forward to welcoming you to school from 4pm.

Please book your meeting times via the school Cloud.

Dates for your diary:

Parent teacher consultations:

- Year 11: 12th January
- Year 10: 23rd February
- Year 9: OPTIONS evening 26th Jan, PTC 2nd March
- Year 8: 19th January
- Year 7 15th December

Bullying survey - Student voice

We are conducting a google survey for all students to raise awareness on anti-bullying. This will be preceded next week by assemblies on this theme and will be followed up with a 'You said, We did' response which we will share in Ridgeway News.

We look forward to a busy end of term with Achievement evening, Year group Celebration assemblies and Charity Day to look forward to.

Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher



School Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will take place on **Wednesday 14th December**. The canteen are going to cater for 350/400 Christmas lunches so there will still be other options available for students who do not want the Christmas lunch.



Miss M Harrigan
School Operations Manager

Headteacher Commendations

Student of the Week

Y7

Charlie Tuvey
Brian Brahimetaj
Frank Rozanek
Isaac Redmond
Niamh Taylor
Ella Taylor
Keelie-Ann Beaumont
Alfie Stride
Kieran Smith
Riley Musk
Benjamin Weetman

Y8

Isabella Bowman

Y9

Jayden Ngahuro

Y10

Ashton Cowan

Y11

Laura Harris



Parents' Meetings

Year 7

Our Year 7 Parents' Evening will be on 15th December from 4:30pm to 7:30pm in Osborn Hall. You will receive an email next week advising you when the booking system will be open.

Year 11

The Year 11 Options Interviews are available to book on SchoolCloud with a member of the SLT to discuss your child's post-16 options. The interviews will take place on Thursday 8th December between 3:30pm and 6:30pm with options of virtual or face to face in Osborn Hall.

Rent Rehearsal Schedule

These dates and scenes could be subject to change. Details will follow.

Dance Numbers (D): One Song Glory, Tango Maureen, Out Tonight, I'll Cover You, La Vie Boheme

Date & Time	Scene/Event	Cast/Crew Required	Cast/Crew unavailable
Monday 5 th December - 3:15pm-4:15pm	"Seasons of Love" "Happy New Year" "Voice Mail #3" "Voice Mail #4" "Happy New Year B"	All Cast Maureen & Joanne Mark & Benny Roger & Mimi Angel & Collins Mark's Mum Alexi Darling	
Tuesday 6 th December - 3:15pm-4:30pm (Possibly 5:00pm)	"Valentine's Day Crossover" "Take Me or Leave Me" "Seasons of Love B"	All Cast Mark Joanne & Maureen	
Wednesday 7 th December - 3:15pm-4:30pm D1 & D2	Music Rehearsal "Seasons of Love/B" "Happy New Year/B" "Voice Mail #3/#4" "Valentine's Day Crossover" "Take Me or Leave Me"	All Cast Mark, Benny, Roger, Mimi, Angel, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, Mark's Mum, Alexi Darling	
Monday 12 th December - 3:15pm-4:30pm	"Without You" "Voice Mail #5" "I'll Cover You - Reprise"	All Cast Collins Angel Mark, Maureen Mimi, Roger Alexi Darling	
Tuesday 13 th December - 3:15pm-4:30pm (Possibly 5:00pm)	"Halloween" "Goodbye Love" "What You Own" "Voicemail #6"	Mark, Roger, Mimi, Joanne, Benny, Maureen, Collins, Rogers mum, Mimi's mum	
Wednesday 14 th December - 3:15pm-4:30pm	Music Rehearsal: "Without You" "Voice Mail #5" "I'll Cover You - Reprise" "Halloween" "Goodbye Love" "What You Own" "Voicemail #6"	All Cast Angel, Mark, Roger, Mimi, Joanne, Benny, Maureen, Collins, Rogers mum, Mimi's mum, Alexi Darling,	
Monday 19 th December - 3:15pm-4:10pm	"Finale A" "Open Your Eyes" "Finale B" "Exit Music (I'll Cover You)"	Seven Homeless, Mark, Roger, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, Mimi All Cast	

Miss S Standage

**Subject Leader for Drama and Dance
Head of Year 9**

Theme of the Week

What does football teach us about the wider world?

In addition to helping children get active and healthy, team sport participation can have other major benefits such as mental well-being and increased self-esteem. Studies have found that young people who played sport in school had a better career outlook and performed better in their jobs later in life.



This Week's Top 20 House Points

Period: 14th November to 21st November

Name	Year	House	Points
Benjamin Weetman	7	Turing	30
Austin Woods	7	Hawking	27
Lois Friend	7	Hawking	25
Caitlyn Monk	7	Turing	25
Gino Anastasi	7	Turing	24
Jack Cronin	7	Parks	24
Alfie Jewitt	9	Turing	24
Frank Rozanek	7	Turing	24
Brian Brahimetaj	7	Turing	23
Cameron Burt	7	Turing	23
Roman Flack	9	Parks	23
Kenan Kaya	7	Turing	23
Eleanor Mcdonald	7	Turing	23
Maika Taylor	7	Turing	23
Reece Cooper	9	Parks	22
Evie Hamm	9	Turing	21
Joe Rayment	8	Parks	21
Jake Williams	9	Turing	21
Willow Beer	7	Turing	20
Lauren Hill	9	Anderson	20

Subject Focus

Performing Arts

The run up to Christmas is always busy, especially when you are a performer. In recent weeks, throughout each year group, every student has been developing their knowledge and problem solving skills via different means of drama techniques. Year 7's have been using Greek masks and creating sock puppets for pantomime ("Oh no they're not!"), Year 8 are developing skills using script connected to knife crime, Year 9 have been building naturalistic techniques with the assistance of Blood Brothers; Whilst Key stage 4 are in rehearsals for their big performances of Blood Brothers (Yr10), multiple monologues and duologues (Yr11) and the piece de la resistance; Macbeth by Year 12. Yet, alongside this, they are also finding time to prepare for a larger, whole school performance.



The school show has always been a highlight for many (Students and Staff) and this year's rehearsals are well underway. It's worth noting that this year's show is proving to be one of the biggest challenges we have ever undertaken. Rent is a big production to take on; with songs that aren't as well known and it's also a rock opera (meaning there is a lot more singing than in a standard musical), but many of the students are rising to the challenge. With the hard-hitting topics that are discussed in the show (addiction, the AIDS epidemic), it is also a celebration of the LGBT+ community, which a lot of our students support and embrace whole-heartedly and as a school are very proud of.

The show gives students a chance to use and develop the skills they are learning in their lessons, but also experience what it is like to put on a real show, for a paying audience. There is a lot to learn and rehearse in a short space of time but the department is hugely proud of the way many are



stepping up the plate, learning lines, remembering songs, attending multiple rehearsals a week and going the extra mile to make this show a huge success.

If you wish to support, then please come and see the show. Between Thursday 2nd of February and Saturday 4th of February (Tickets will be on sale soon) or even come and support one of our fundraising events, like the Quiz night in January or the Talent show in December; which anyone is able to audition and participate in (including teachers!). Please look out for tickets and advertising on these events, through the school and the Performing Arts Social channels and help us to make this show unforgettable.

Mr D Edmonds
Head of Performing Arts

School Vacancies

The school is currently recruiting for the following roles:

Data Manager

Closing date: 9:00am Monday 12th December 2022
Interview date: Thursday 15th December 2022
Start date: January 2023

Examinations Invigilator

Closing date: 9:00am Monday 12th December 2022
Interview date: Soon there after
Starting date: January 2023

Sports Centre Leisure Assistant (casual)

Closing date: 9:00am Wednesday 14th December
Interview date: Friday 16th December 2022
Start date: January 2023

Sports Centre Duty Manager (casual)

Closing date: 9:00am Wednesday 14th December
Interview date: Friday 16th December 2022
Start date: January 2023

For more information visit:

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

Mrs K Biss
Human Resources Officer

Head of Year News

Year 7

Mrs M Tinker

After an assessment week, Year 7 are looking forward to the Cinderella pantomime at the Gordon Craig theatre in Stevenage. It is always a fun-filled afternoon. If you have not signed up already, join us! We have had a great participation in our extra curricular activities. Please do come down, no experience necessary!

Year 8

Mr R Nelson

Myself and the Year 8 Tutor team enjoyed meeting with so many of the Year 8 students last week, and found the PRD meetings very useful. Please make sure you use the information received from these meetings, along with your recent reports to drive your progress in school.

I also wanted to say a huge well done to the Year 8 football team who recorded a huge 11-0 win in a recent football fixture against Mount Grace School. On to the next game!

Year 9

Miss S Standage

Year 9's have been working hard this week and competing for the most house-points between forms. For last week: well done to 9 Lytton for the highest attendance and 9 Parks for the most house points and fewest negative behaviour points. Well done to Jayden N 9L for the Student of the Week award for continued great work in History. Superstars of the winning football game this week were Harley H 9L and James M 9A scoring goals.

A reward lesson has been set up for the students in the Year group who have achieved the highest average Attitude to Learning score on their reports. Please check your emails for communication about this exciting event. Well done.

Year 10

Mr M Pring

Well done to Year 10 students in the Football Team for some excellent progress of late, culminating in a 4-0 victory over Stanborough recently. The brilliant club have continued their great work outside of school as sessions continue.

Year 10 report information has been collated and will be shared with parents in the next few weeks. This will give a clear indication of how your child has started their GCSE courses and what is required moving forwards to achieve and exceed their target grades.

Year 11

Mr D Tansley

Year 11 have been reflecting on their PPE's in form time and are starting to put a plan in action ready for the next set of exams in February. We were lucky to have Dr Martijn van der Spoel coming in school on Thursday 1st December.

He spoke to the whole year group in an assembly to discuss:

- Reflection
- Growth mindset

There will then be some workshops focussing on the below:

- Dealing with anxiety
- Introduction to flashcards

Sixth Form

Mrs N Picariello

This week has been my first week as Director of Sixth Form at Ridgeway. Year 13 continue to work on their UCAS applications, and a highlight has been the offers and interviews that have already started to come through for our students who have submitted already. The deadline for meetings with Mrs Merrigan to submit is 16th December.

Two Year 12 students have the opportunity to take

House Points

Currently in the lead are Parks with 9146 points.

Anderson	Hawking	Lytton	Mandela	Parks	Turing
					
7634	6458	7306	8046	9146	6698
					

Sports Centre News

Christmas Toy Collection

There is now just 1 week to go until our 6th Christmas Toy Collection on behalf of the Children's ward at Lister Hospital closes.

Last year we managed to collect 150 presents, bringing our overall total to 650!



RASC
CHRISTMAS
TOY
COLLECTION

DEADLINE FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER

ALL DONATED ITEMS MUST BE:

- BRAND NEW
- WRAPPED
- SUITABLE FOR AGES 0-15

WITH THE HELP OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WE HAVE NOW COLLECTED OVER 650 TOYS, INCLUDING 150 IN 2021!

TOY DROP OFF:
MAIN RECEPTION (HERNS LANE) OR SPORTS CENTRE (APPLETREE WAY)

FOR VOLUNTEER CONTACT US ON: 01707 241 241 OR ROSS.GOODSHIP@RIDGWAY.HERTS.SCH.UK

ALL GIFTS WILL BE DONATED TO THE CHILDREN'S WARD AT LISTER HOSPITAL, STEVENAGE

We are again asking for your help to make this possible and to make more children happy at Christmas time (and throughout the year).

All toys, books and games that are collected must be brand new and in original packaging suitable for 0-15 year olds.

The gifts are then distributed at Christmas time and throughout the year on birthdays so the gifts do not necessarily have to be Christmas themed.

Full details can be found on the poster or if you would like to find out more please contact Ross on ross.goodship@ridgway.herts.sch.uk

Please drop donations in to the Sports Centre (Appletree Way) or Main School Reception (Herns Lane). Thank you in advance for your support.

Basketball Sessions

The final A-Z Basketball session of 2022 in partnership with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council is on Thursday 8th December. The sessions then restart after Christmas on Thursday 12th January. For full details please see the poster.

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 Sports Hall

🕒 7-8pm

📅 1 November - 8 December 2022

➔ For 11-16 year olds

To book a free space for the 6-week program
<https://11-16basketball.eventbrite.co.uk>

Welwyn Hatfield Council logo, A-Z Basketball logo, and Welwyn Hatfield logo.

Job Vacancies

We are pleased to share with you job vacancies to work in the Sports Centre!

WE'RE HIRING!

Sports Centre News continued...

If you are dynamic, customer focused and can work on your own initiative we would love to hear from you.



The job descriptions and full details can be found on www.teachinherts.com and searching for Ridgeway Academy.

Closing date: 9am Wednesday 14th December 2022
 Interview date: Friday 16th December 2022
 Start date: January 2023

Mr R Goodship
Sports Centre Manager



Term Dates

School Term and Holiday Dates 2022-2023

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

We are a school
 delivering
 personal
 development
 excellence.



PE DEPARTMENT AUTUMN TERM CLUB LIST

	<u>Lunch Clubs</u>	<u>Location</u> <u>LUNCH TIME</u>	<u>After School Clubs</u>	<u>Time/Requirements</u> <u>Location</u>
Monday	Year 8 rewards Football 9 & 10	SH - RNE AWP - MTI & PE	Intervention Year 8,9 & KS4 Netball Year 7 Football Year 8 Basketball Girls Basketball	B15 - KAM Tennis Courts - SV & HB AWP - MPR & RG Sports hall - DB Old Gym - APR
Tuesday	Basketball Football	SH - SV + KAM AWP - MTI & RNE	Year 10 Football Staff Meetings	AWP - RA All staff
Wednesday 7-45-8-20am Basketball KAM	Basketball Football	SH - APR AWP - MTI & DT	Basketball 9 & 10 Year 7 Basketball Year 8 Football	Sports Hall - KAM Old Gym- JC AWP - RNE
Thursday	Basketball Football 9 & 10	SH - JC AWP - MP	Year 7 & 9 Netball Basketball Year 11 Running Club	Tennis Courts - APR & MTI Sports Hall - JC Field - SM
Friday	Basketball Football	SH -KAM, MPR AWP - MTI & RNE	Year 9 Girls basketball	Sports Hall - JC

Vista

St Albans Plus Schools' Partnership

Access to Family Support Services



07584 798528

www.vistastalbans.org.uk

St Albans

Schools' Partnership

Multi-agency work: Our School Family Workers work closely with CAMHS, DSPL7, Children's Services, Police, Step 2, Carers in Herts, district, county and community agencies and support groups. We also work closely with Harpenden Plus Schools' Partnership.

Intervention and Behaviour Support: The Vista Behaviour Support service offers interventions with individual students and small groups. This is a bespoke service tailored to the needs of each school. Our staff and associate facilitators are experienced and able to deliver these programmes to school staff, parents/carers, children and young people in our schools which include:

- Behaviour and boundaries
- Self Esteem and Confidence
- Friendships
- Resilience
- Protective Behaviours
- Transition

Mentoring: We can help children and young people as they go through challenging life transitions. Mentors offers a 'listening ear' to explore a variety of issues such as low self-esteem, family breakdown, anxiety, anger and behaviour. Mentors can help guide children and young people to develop strategies to move forward.

Counselling: The Vista Counselling service is particularly beneficial for children and young people experiencing bereavement or separation, bullying, self harm or relationship difficulties and problems at home. All of our Counsellors are experienced practitioners who follow the BACP ethical codes of practice and receive regular clinical supervision.

Parenting Courses and Workshops: Our staff are trained to deliver a variety of parenting courses and workshops of the following topics. We work with partners to offer courses detailed below:

- Families Feeling Safe
- My Teen Brain
- Raising Boys and Resilient Girls
- School Transition
- Additional Needs
- Anxiety
- Emotional Outbursts
- Dealing with Anger
- Understanding Teenagers



About us...



Vista St Albans CIC was set up in 2011 and is an educational organisation offering services for children, young people and families. The people we serve learn new strategies of coping and ways of dealing with issues in their everyday lives. By providing access to emotional wellbeing and early intervention, we are able to support families through difficult times enabling our children and young people to have better outcomes.

Vista St Albans CIC is made up of two elements:

- **St Albans Plus Schools' Partnership - Core Services**
- **Vista St Albans - Additional Services**

St Albans Plus Schools' Partnership – we are a partnership of 49 schools from St Albans who are commissioned to support their children, young people and families across the district via a School Family Worker service. The focus is to work with the whole family holistically to deliver positive outcomes. The School Family Worker service is part of Hertfordshire's Families First Early Intervention strategy. This partnership is funded from school grants and directly from the Government. The lead school is Fleetville Junior School/Spiral Trust. Referrals for this service come directly from the schools.

Vista St Albans - Additional Services – we offer a number of services which include Mentoring, Counselling, Behaviour Support, Parenting Courses and Workshops. Our services are delivered in schools to school pupils on site. The sessions are either funded by the school or they can be referred and funded by a parent/guardian.

Our Services

Family Support: Working with parents and carers in the home and school to deliver a targeted programme of support or signposting to relevant services. This programme is varied and offers information and advice in regards to (but not limited to):

- School Attendance
- Emotional wellbeing
- Boundary setting and routines
- Parental Relationships
- Bullying
- Signposting to specialist agencies
- Employment and work skills
- SEND
- Family Breakdown
- Support when seeking a diagnosis
- Financial concerns and benefits advice
- School Transition
- Housing
- Young Carer support

Penn Resilience: is a group intervention for school children, the curriculum teaches cognitive-behavioural and problem solving skills.

Protective Behaviours: Our staff are trained to deliver Protective Behaviours which is an effective personal safety and child abuse prevention strategy. We can offer this service on a one-to-one basis or as group work.

Each support scheme will start with a referral, a conversation to discuss what intervention is required and the desired outcomes. Programmes can be tailor-made to address the issue and sessions take place in a secure and safe environment.

Our Staff...

The Vista team of School Family Workers, Counsellors, Mentors and Behaviour Support Workers are there to support children and remove barriers to their learning. All staff are experienced and qualified in their field and have an up-to-date DBS check and hold relevant Safeguarding certificates.

Confidentiality

Information which you or your child shares with us will only be shared with other agencies with your consent. However, if at any time a disclosure made to us give rise to Child Protection concerns, we will pass the information on to the relevant Designated Senior Person within the child's school.

Vista is GDPR compliant. Our ICO registration number is ZA354653

How to make a referral

Please visit our website to access our referral forms or email referrals@vistastalbans.org.uk

Contact

Director: Karen Broom

228 Hatfield Road,
St Albans, AL1 4LW



Vista Office: 07584 798528



www.vistastalbans.org.uk



vistastalbans@gmail.com



Dates for Your Diary

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Thursday 8 th December	Year 11 Options Evening 3:30pm to 6:30pm Face to Face and Osborn Hall
Thursday 15 th December	Year 7 Parents Evening 4:30pm to 7:30pm Osborn Hall
Monday 19 th December	Senior Prize Giving Evening
Wednesday 21 st December	Charity Day (non uniform - Christmas jumpers/ accessories)
	Last day of Term school ends at 12.15pm

SPRING TERM 2023

Thursday 5 th January	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Friday 6 th January	Start of Term
Thursday 2 nd to Saturday 4 th February	Rent School Production
Thursday 9 th February	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Friday 10 th February	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th February	Half Term
Friday 31 st March	Last Day of Term

