



Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Issue 90
Fortnightly
December 2022
Week 2

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

It's been a challenging couple of weeks, but we've made it to the end of term. Despite the weather conditions, students have been brilliant and the school has been able to run as normal. This week, we have achieved levels of attendance above national average and maintained learning, a fantastic effort from all our community.

Each Head of Year delivered their achievement assemblies, and it has been a real pleasure to see so many students receiving them for doing amazing things, not just for learning. Congratulations to all our award winners but particularly to those that received my Headteacher Award, Jack Ferris 7T, Grace Hines 7P, Luke Emms 8L, Lucy Bailey 8L, Ethan Newvell-Pentney 9P, Sophie Healy 9M, Theo Dawson 10H, Katie Dawson 10H, Thomas Savage 11A, Millie Singleton 11T, Alex Sarkozi 12H, Abigail Jakes 12M, Kamil Maczan 13M and Megan Singleton 13M. Enjoy your celebrations.

Our Year 11 students have been given their Mock results this week. For those that have already achieved over and above, congratulations and keep up the good work. Please don't let your child worry if they haven't got what they had hoped for, all our students aim high. Now is the time for reflection, we have the right support in place and intervention programmes will be running. We are here to help them achieve their best, they can do it.

Congratulations to all participants and award winners at the Senior Prize Giving and Duke of Edinburgh Award evenings and enjoy reading some more of the achievements over this term.

All that is left is for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher



www.welwynmatfieldtimes.co.uk/news/23201532-welwyn-garden-city-school-donates-130-toys-lister-hospital/

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Welwyn Garden City school donates 130 toys to Lister Hospital

19th December

CHARITY EDUCATION PEOPLE

Ridgeway has now donated just under 800 gifts to Lister's children ward. (Image: Ridgeway Academy)

By Dan Mountney [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [Comments](#)

A Welwyn Garden City school has donated more than 100 toys to Lister Hospital as part of their Christmas appeal.

Ridgeway Academy visited the Stevenage-based hospital on Friday, December 16, to donate 130 toys, books and games collected with the help of the Ridgeway Academy and Welwyn Garden City community.

This year's donations mean Ridgeway has now donated just under 800 gifts to Lister's children ward, with their effort bringing plenty of Christmas cheer to the youngsters at the hospital.

Ross Goodship, sports centre manager at Ridgeway, said: "We would like to say a massive thank you to everybody who donated, shared or helped in anyway with our donation.

"This is now our sixth collection on behalf of the East and North Hertfordshire Hospitals' Charity with our total now up to just under 800 toys.

"Donations like these are vital as they spread happiness to the children not just at Christmas but all throughout the year.

"We look forward to supporting the amazing work the charity does again next Christmas."

CHARITY EDUCATION PEOPLE

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Returning to School

Please note that we return to school on Friday 6th January 2023 which will be week 2 in the timetables.



Theme of the Week

Volunteering and Charity at Christmas



This can take many forms; raising money for charity, donating some of your own belongings, sorting through donated toys and gifts at a charity centre, serving festive meals or helping out in at night shelters.

Notice from Director of Public Health

We are sharing the following letter from Jim McManus, Director of Public Health. Please direct any replies or queries to:

HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk

[Please click here to view the letter](#)

Top 20 House Point Winners

Period: 21st November - 5th December 2022

Name	Year	House
Reece Cooper	9	Parks
Dylan Bragg	7	Parks
Daniel Hornsey	9	Hawking
Thomas Casserley	9	Parks
Jessica Reed	7	Hawking
Lily Carder	10	Parks
Olivia Ghumania	9	Parks
Caitlyn Monk	7	Turing
Edward Smith	9	Turing
Finn Stratton	7	Parks
Lois Friend	7	Hawking
Harry Fyall	10	Parks
Marley Glenville	9	Lytton
Lauren Hill	9	Anderson
Grace Hines	7	Parks
Felicity Atkins	8	Lytton
George Isherwood	8	Lytton
Maia Keaveney	9	Hawking
Timur Kurbanov	7	Hawking
Jayden Ngahuro	9	Lytton

Orange the World

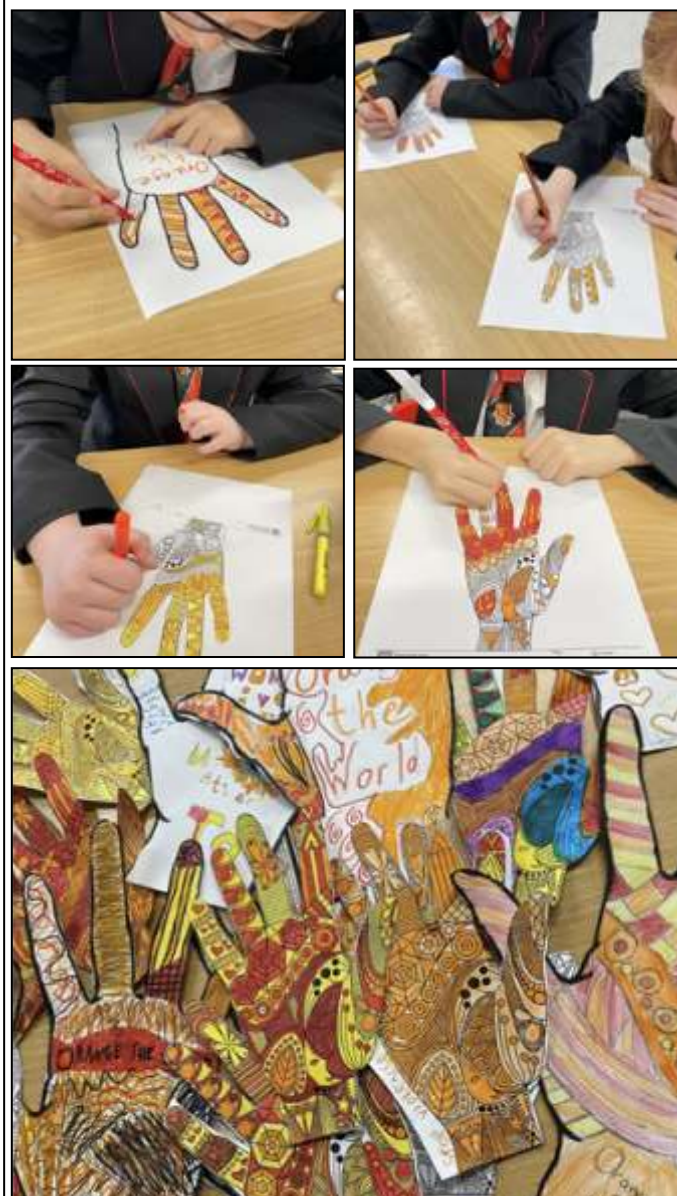
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women at Ridgeway Academy

Personal Development & Assemblies

Orange the World was a running theme in form times for students in Years 7 to 11 for the week beginning 18th November, which culminated in a personal development form time lesson on the Friday morning. This falls under their 'social me' section of personal development. Students were educated on the global issues of gender-based violence. They were taught how they can help with such a seemingly large, worldwide issue, on a smaller, more manageable scale. This included participating in discussions like those in their lesson, knowing the signs of abuse and how to help, and understanding the dangers of victim-blaming.

Art

In Year 7 Art lessons we considered ways to show solidarity for gender-based violence and worked



Orange the World continued...

collaboratively to create a "wall" of STOP hand prints.

English

To mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, KS3 students worked hard to raise awareness of the issues plaguing society today.

Year 7 created acrostic poems.

Year 8 created postcards which included a pledge of they wished to create a better world for everyone.

Year 9 created blackout poems (taking a written piece of text and redacting the words, in order to come up with your own poem) to send a message to those who are voiceless.

Here are examples of their wonderful work.



ORANGE THE WORLD
25 NOV - 10 DEC

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Why have we turned Orange?
We're joining Soroptimist International St Albans & District to **ORANGE THE WORLD** and say **NO** to violence against women and girls in Hertfordshire!

"As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls" UNITE, UN Women.

@sistalbans
#OrangeTheWorldHerts
#HertsUnitedAgainstAbuse

Queries to:
sistalbans@hotmail.com

Soroptimist International
St Albans & District

ORANGE THE WORLD
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Soroptimist International
St Albans & District

Mrs L Hyde
Associate Deputy Headteacher

Head of Year News

Year 7 - Mrs M Tinker

What a couple of weeks it has been. We have had lots of sporting fixtures and also enjoyed a trip to the Pantomime to see Cinderella. We had a fantastic time, and lots of laughs.

With the Christmas holidays fast approaching we may well see a white Christmas. I have seen some beautiful snowmen and it seems a lot of fun has been had in the snow.

We have our celebration assembly next week. This is our chance to celebrate all the students who have shown the Ridgeway values.

You have all done so well this term. Have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to your safe return to school next year.

Year 8 - Mr R Nelson

Well done to Year 8 for showing great resilience, in getting yourselves in and continuing to smile through the recent arctic conditions... the Christmas holiday is nearly here!

Well done to the Year 8 Football team who have had some fantastic results recently, including a huge 11-0 win and a narrow (last second) loss in the knockout stages of the County Cup.

Many of you will be receiving rewards for your fantastic efforts this term in our termly Rewards Assembly - well done to all the winners! Lets have even more at the Easter celebration!

Have an enjoyable and well deserved rest over the Christmas Holidays and I look forward to seeing you all in 2023!

Year 9 - Miss S Standage

Well done Year 9 over the past two weeks in your commitment to your extra curricular activities. We have been busy with Rent rehearsals, Basketball games, the STEM and pantomime trip.

Well done to 9 Parks who have collated the most points in our weekly form leadership competition. A reward will be organised for you in the new year.

Please remember there is a talent show on Tuesday 20th December and lots of our Year 9s are involved.

Please support your son/daughter by purchasing a ticket. All proceeds will be going towards the School Musical Rent.

Year 10 - Mr M Pring

Congratulations to the Year 10 Football and Basketball teams who have been performing superbly in the last few weeks. Some excellent progress being made by both.

A great STEM trip for the Year 10's to the Science Museum was undertaken last week with lots of great learning opportunities that were shared on social media.

Also a great opportunity for our dance students last week to attend a theatre production in London, giving them an insight into what goes on behind the scenes in professional performances.

Year 11 - Mr D Tansley

Year 11 have got the opportunity to spend one form time in the 6th form block, in order to look at Unifrog and look more into the process of applying for 6th Form.

Any students who are interested in being on the Year 11 Rewards committee have been asked to write a maximum 300 word letter to Mr Tansley by Friday 16th December. The first meeting will be after Christmas and will be centred around The Year 11 Yearbook, hoodies and the prom.

Key dates

21st December: Year 11 will receive their results

12th January: Parents Consultation Evening

19th January: Application for 6th Form Deadline

Sixth Form - Mrs N Picariello

It has been a busy week in the Sixth Form Centre: the Year 11's have been visiting in the morning to complete their applications for Sixth Form and ask any questions. We are looking forward to receiving record numbers of applications to our new courses this year.

Year 12 are looking forward to their GCSE and A Level Celebration event, when we will welcome back students to receive their awards and certificates. What a lovely way to end the year!

House Points

Currently in the lead are Parks with 9146 points.

Anderson	Hawking	Lytton	Mandela	Parks	Turing
					
16388	15214	17404	17912	19508	16264
					

Subject Focus: PE

Physical Education Focus

It's been an incredibly busy term for the physical education department including 60 fixtures ranging from basketball, football, netball and cross-country competitions. All teams have had varied successes most notably however is the Year 7 and 8 football teams who are both still in the County Football competition, making it into the last 16 teams across Hertfordshire. What an amazing achievement for two very talented teams, we are very proud of you all.

Whilst in basketball this term Year 9 and 10 have had some excellent successes, it has been brilliantly challenging for all involved, competing in the District and County competitions. Year 9 have shown dedication and hard work within their training sessions and it's been great to welcome some new players to training so we have seen an increase in numbers which is fantastic. Year 9 won their District Rally and are working hard in the league and cup to produce some good results.

Year 10 have shown unwavering commitment to basketball through their lunchtimes, before school and after school clubs. Their ability to take control of training sessions and be an example to our younger students within the school both on and off the court is amazing to see. Year 10 are currently undefeated in the District and should have a good run in the county games coming up after Christmas!

Year 7 and 8 basketball is just getting going with their first fixtures happening. The junior NBA competition has kicked off for these year groups and we look forward to seeing them progress through this league and district in the new year.

Year 11 have had a busy term academically however they have managed to squeeze in fixtures in netball, football and basketball and they continue their successes from Year 10 through to Year 11 with various wins across all sports but noticeably in Basketball where they are still competing exceptionally in the county competition.

Girls across all year groups have been competing in district netball games, we have seen much improvement across all teams and have had some excellent results against schools which are historically strong at Netball. Year 11 have now completed all their netball games as a team, they have been an absolute pleasure to coach over the years and have had some real success stories which we will all treasure!

From the end of one team comes the start of another with the Year 7 girls making an amazing start to their netball season. There has been a great turn out to both practices and games. A big thank you to our parent supporters, even in the cold. They have been dedicated to their practices and learning the strategies of the game. They have played a number

of games and improved each time. We are so proud of the girls for their continued positive attitudes and never forgetting to have fun.

The Year 10 football team has picked up after a slow start and will enter 2023 in the County Cup plate quarter final against either Barnwell or Hertswood and also face Monkswalk in a must win District league game.

We also have seen numbers at training reach 25+ pupils meaning we have been able to run B team fixtures for the first time with more scheduled in the new year.



Congratulations to Rhianna Russell (Year 12) who became the youngest ever National Senior Title Winner in bowls winning the National 2 Wood competition.

Just before half term all key stage 3 students completed a block of heart health, learning about the heart and how best to keep fit. The block finished with all students completing a mini London Marathon of 2.6 miles. We saw the top students in each year group represent the school at the district cross country at Queenswood school. We had some exceptional placements this year, we are just getting better and better each year.



At Key stage 4 the students have been involved in taking part in Fit for Life activities with the emphasis on fun and lifelong involvement. This was only a small part of a very varied curriculum our students have taken part in throughout the term. We have



Subject Focus continued...

also ended the term with an 'alternative sports' week where we have seen some of our students taking part in boxing, boccia, yoga and Thai kickboxing to name a few.



The Year 7's started the term with some handball and have just finished their block of basketball, football, badminton and netball along with the rest of KS3.

Ridgeway Physical Education on Twitter



For more updates follow us on Twitter:  @ridgewaypedept

Weather

With the weather getting much colder we want to remind students to be prepared for their outdoor lessons. Layers are advised to be worn under your Ridgeway PE kit such as t-shirts, long sleeves top and skins. Ridgeway zip ups are also encouraged as the top layer.



Lost Property

Can I ask that all students' PE kit be labelled as it's easier to return to students should it become misplaced.



Mr J Chappell
PE Subject Leader

Sports Centre News

Christmas Toy Collection

We would like to thank everybody who donated to our 6th Christmas Toy Collection on behalf of the East & North Hertfordshire Hospitals' Charity for the Children's ward at Lister Hospital, Stevenage.

They were delighted to receive 130 presents that they can distribute to children throughout the year. Thank you to our wonderful Ridgeway Academy Community! See the article in Welwyn Hatfield Times on the following page.



Job Vacancies – NOW CLOSED

Thank you to those that applied for the position of Duty Manager and Leisure Assistant. Please keep an eye on our social media channels for updates on our appointments!

Year 7 Mixed Football Team

I have been very proud of the Year 7 Mixed Football Team who have now played 4 games against other schools.

Results:
Monks Walk (L 3-2)
Stanborough (D 1-1)
Nicholas Breakspear (L 4-2)
Hertswood (W 5-1)



Our last game of 2022 against Hertswood was an amazing game with both teams playing really well, despite the score line it was a really tight game, 1-1 at half time.

All of our players were amazing, our joint players of the match were Jake V and Finn S who played amazing, Finn making his debut with 2 goals!

Goal scorers: Keelie-Ann x3, Alfie, Kieran, Niamh, Gino, Finn x2 and Riley. A big thank you Alfie D in Year 10 for refereeing!

Christmas Opening Times

We are pleased to share with you our opening times over the Christmas and New Year period. Please contact Ross.Goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk if you would like to discuss a booking.

Day	Opening Hours
MONDAY 19TH	OPEN AS NORMAL
TUESDAY 20TH	OPEN UNTIL 9PM
WEDNESDAY 21ST	OPEN UNTIL 9PM
THURSDAY 22ND	OPEN UNTIL 8PM
FRIDAY 23RD	CLOSED
SATURDAY 24TH	OPEN 9AM-11AM
SUNDAY 25TH - FRIDAY 30TH	CLOSED
SATURDAY 31ST	OPEN 9AM-11AM
SUNDAY 1ST - MONDAY 2ND JAN	CLOSED
TUESDAY 3RD JAN	OPEN AS NORMAL

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

Every Thursday
12 January - 16 February 2023
→ For 11-16 year olds

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

Mr R Goodship
Sports Centre Manager



Dates for Your Diary

SPRING TERM 2023

Thursday 5 th January	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Friday 6 th January	Start of Term - Week 2
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

SUMMER TERM 2023

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

