



# Ridgeway News

SHARING THE DETAIL AND THE BIGGER PICTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY



**Issue 92  
Fortnightly  
February 2023  
Week 1**

# Ridgeway Academy

## Headteacher's Message

Today brings the end of a busy half term of Learning at Ridgeway. Year 11 and Year 13 are preparing for their examinations, with the support and guidance of expert staff working through model exam questions and online resources. The Study Support programme is operating well, with students taking up this period 6 and online tuition. For some vocational subjects, the real examination period has begun and we wish students well who are undertaking these currently. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our measures to raise standards. We are constantly trying to improve the education that we offer the students of our school and you are a fundamental part of that.

Tomorrow we have the Alban Academies Trust Teaching & Learning Conference: A Vision for Learning. We all know the power of teamwork. Teamwork relies on people connecting with what they are doing, and where the collective outcomes are greater than the sum of individual parts. Learning is no different from teamwork. The power of learning comes from us being able to make the connections between things we are learning, and how we learn them. An example might be the student surgeon who is struggling to learn the anatomy of the Human Body. A powerful way of learning anatomy is to firstly understand the function of the part of the anatomy being studied. Take a foot and ankle. We know that these are there to support us and help us move. By knowing the function of the foot and ankle in detail means the surgeon can better remember all the moving and fixed parts, and consequently do their job better! So, our job, as teachers and adults supporting teaching, is to consistently evaluate how we are promoting learning so that students remember more and can do more with their knowledge and understanding. We look forward to working with colleagues from across the AAT.

Well done to the cast, crew and all involved with RENT. Amazing performances from all and obviously an immense amount of work went into the



show. Everyone involved should feel very proud. I hope that the students who are participating in the Performing Arts trip to New York have a great time.

I wish you and your families a healthy and enjoyable half term.

**Mrs S Mitcherson**  
Headteacher

## Site Security

To protect students and staff on site and control unplanned visitors to the school site, automated pedestrian and vehicle security gates were installed at the two entrances on Herns 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.

We ask that pedestrians do not access the school site via the vehicle gate behind vehicles or via the pedestrian gate behind other people.

Students arriving by car should be dropped safely outside school. There will be no vehicle access to the school site for parents and we would ask that you do not attend school to bring lunches or equipment that students have forgotten.

## Pupil Success

Two Year 11 students have achieved great success in Karate. Beatrix Smith (11A) did regional championships and came gold in kata and silver in kumite. Beatrix got Student of the Year for karate. Aimee Anderson (11A) got most improved student of 2022. Since December Beatrix has become a green belt and is preparing for orange belt and likewise Aimee is a purple belt looking to become blue. Incredible achievements, well done.



Ms S Syed  
Teacher of English

## School Vacancies

The school is currently recruiting for the following roles:

### Subject Leader for Computing and ICT

Closing date: 9:00am Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Interview date: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Start date: Easter 2023 negotiable

### Science Technician

Closing date: 9:00am Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Interview date: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Start date: March 2023

If you are or know someone who is a retired teacher and would like to work on a temporary supply basis (part or full time) directly with the school, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please see contact details below.

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

We are very excited to have so many Year 7s involved in Rent. They have done extremely well. The football girls made themselves proud in yet another tournament. It is great to see Year 7 settling in and getting involved in activities around the school. I am very proud of you.

### Year 8 - Mr R Nelson

Well done for all of the Year 8 students that were involved in the school production of Rent - you were all amazing! A Huge congratulations to the Year 8 football team, who beat our local rivals Stanborough School 3-2 in a thrilling game. Please enjoy the upcoming half term, taking the time to rest and recover, ready for the start of the Spring 2 term.

### Year 9 - Miss S Standage

Year 9's have been busy learning about their option choices for their GCSE and Vocational routes. Some of these subjects like Sociology, Dance, 3D Design and Photography will be new to the students. Please ensure you have booked your appointment with myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team for the Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> or Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

### Year 10 - Mr M Pring

It has been nice to hear about some of the work experience placements students have secured for the summer term. For those students who are attending the Madrid Trip, special dispensation can be made to still attend work experience the week prior to the trip. If this is of interest, please contact Mr Pring directly. Students will also be told in assembly this week about the Year 10 Reward Trip to Snowdonia which will run at the end of the school year. Approximately 20 students will be invited who have collated a large number of reward points and posted a high % of attendance.

### Year 11 - Mr D Tansley

Year 11 have their PPE 2's starting the week beginning the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb and core subject teachers are busy preparing their students for those assessments in both lessons and after school interventions.

The whole cohort will be given a pack of revision tools to help revise for these exams in an assembly on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

The Rewards committee met last week and are now busy putting together the first stage of the yearbook.

### Sixth Form - Mrs N Picariello

Year 12 are finishing their application letters for the Student Leadership team this week, ready for the interview process after half term. There is still time to get your letter to Mrs Picariello - this is an excellent opportunity to shape our school and build your CV at the same time.

Year 13 are looking forward this week to their Leavers celebration! Having missed out on Prom in Y11 we want to plan something special so get your ideas to Mrs Felton and Mrs Picariello.

## Top 20 House Point Winners

Period: 18<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Name	Year	House
Lily Carder	10	Parks
Conor Divers	10	Lytton
Xander Burt	10	Mandela
CJ McBride	10	Lytton
Jack McMillan	10	Mandela
Reuben Thompson	10	Parks
Morgan Kane	10	Turing
Olivia Mann	10	Lytton
Callum Cubis	10	Mandela
Liam Du Plessis	10	Parks
Cameron Charlton	10	Anderson
Annie Dykes	10	Lytton
Ciaran Lewis	11	Anderson
William Potter	11	Anderson
Harley Ingham	8	Parks
Alex Ferris	11	Anderson
Libby Tanner	7	Anderson
Jonathan Seeley	10	Lytton
Lily Hall	10	Turing
Joziah-Ray Mbangu	8	Anderson

## World Book Day - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

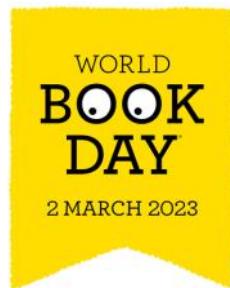
### Changing Lives Through a Love of Books and Reading

To access your World Book Day token for a FREE book, please click

<https://www.worldbookday.com/secondary-digital-token/>

The tokens are marked as single-use, and can only be used once by each student.

TOKENS VALID: 16<sup>th</sup> February - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023



## Theme of the Week

### Online Safety / Data Privacy

The definition of online privacy is the level of privacy protection an individual has while connected to the Internet. It covers the amount of online security available for personal and financial data, communications, and preferences.

### How To Protect Your Online Privacy

- Commit to sharing less online
- Use strong, unique passwords and two-factor authentication
- Tighten privacy settings for your online accounts
- Purge unused mobile apps and browser extensions
- Block search engines from tracking you
- Browse online with a secure VPN



## Headteacher Commendations

### Student of the Week

#### Week commencing: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - Year 9

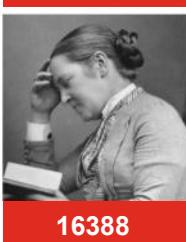
9A	Lauren Hill
9H	Kya Finch
9L	Ella Goudge
9M	Nathan Baughan
9P	Honey Mae Tate
9T	Heather McDaid
HOY	Ameera Hayhoe



## House Points

Currently in the lead are Parks with 19508 points.

### Anderson



16388

### Hawking



15214

### Lytton



17404

### Mandela



17912

### Parks



19508

### Turing



16264



## Subject Focus

### History

In History at Ridgeway we take a chronological sweep through time from the Anglo Saxons at the start of Year 7 right up to 20th Century History in Year 9, and then specialise at GCSE and A Level.

Year 7 are currently learning about life in Norman England, after their study of the Norman Conquest before Christmas and exploring how the shift in power to the Norman monarchs impacted life for ordinary people.

Year 8 are studying the French Revolution, and exploring how events in France impact the rest of the world. This will lead into their study of Empire and Enslavement after half term.

Year 9 have just had their Holocaust Education day, where they were off timetable having lessons designed by the UCL Holocaust Education Trust looking at the stories of people affected by the Holocaust. They were then privileged to be joined by Susan Pollack, a Holocaust survivor, who shared



her experiences and answered questions from the students. This is a very challenging subject for students to learn about, and Year 9 were excellent in their engagement during the day.

At GCSE we are starting our study of Weimar Germany with Year 10 and completing our GCSE course with Early Elizabethan England in Year 11. This is our last topic for GCSE and students are enjoying the change of pace and content after the Cold War.

Mrs N Picariello  
**Head of History**

## GENERATION WELWYN HATFIELD

**Planning your future career?  
Discover the amazing employers on your doorstep.**

Join us at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield, AL10 9TP

Friday, 24 February 2023

15:30 – 17:00

Register now for this FREE event:

[www.hopinto.co.uk/generation-welwyn-hatfield/](http://www.hopinto.co.uk/generation-welwyn-hatfield/)



St Albans Plus Schools' Partnership



## The Hub ASC/SEND Coffee Morning

Vista St Albans will be hosting a number of coffee mornings with a School Family Worker to help support Parents/ Carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, diagnosed or not. This is an informal and safe place for Parents/Carers to share information and chat.

Running alongside our coffee morning, there will also be the opportunity to pre-book an appointment with a member of staff from the SEND Specialist Advice and Support Service (These sessions are for ASC advice). Times available are: 9.30am, 10.00am, 11.00am and 11.30am

**Time:** Coffee Morning starts at **9.15am until 11.00am**  
(no need to book)

**Venue:** The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW  
(The Hub is situated to the right hand side of the School building)

**For more information about this service or to book an appointment**  
please call Vista/St Albans Plus on 07584 798528  
Email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com)

**Dates:**  
Wednesday 18 January 2023  
Wednesday 08 March 2023  
Wednesday 26 April 2023  
Wednesday 28 June 2023

[www.vistastalbans.org.uk](http://www.vistastalbans.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/Vistastalbans](http://www.facebook.com/Vistastalbans)

## Neurodiverse Support Organisations

### [www.add-vance.org](http://www.add-vance.org)

ADD-vance is a dedicated group of professionals, who also happen to be parents of children affected by ADHD and/or Autism. Our mission is to support the families of children affected by these conditions and the professionals involved in their care. We want to increase understanding, provide support, and change perceptions of these complex neurological conditions, so as to improve the wellbeing and reduce the social isolation of these young people and their families.

### [www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk)

Angels is an experience-led charity, based in Hertfordshire, which provides individualised, professional expertise and advice. We work alongside parents to build understanding and to empower them to hear their child's voice. Our key aim is to maximise the individual potential of each child and young person.

### [www.spaceherts.org.uk](http://www.spaceherts.org.uk)

Space is an award-winning Hertfordshire based charity supporting families of children and young people who are on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD), have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other neurodiverse conditions.

### [www.spectrumgaming.net](http://www.spectrumgaming.net)

Spectrum Gaming is an online community for autistic young people which has three main intended outcomes:

- 1) Building Friendships
- 2) Increasing Self-Acceptance
- 3) Advocacy

Further Resources can be found here:  
[Mental Health & Wellbeing Information](#)



### Greenside School

and

### Dean Beadle

Present

on February 23 2023 at Greenside

6.30-8.30pm

### Autistic identity

To book email [admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk)

As an autistic person navigating a world that is often judgemental and hostile, how do you go about building a sense of self esteem and identity? Looking at both his school and adult experiences, Dean discusses the changes that are needed to make society more accessible for autistic people. Of course part of this involves challenging the harmful attitudes that still exist in society, and in this session Dean will use current research to dispel common myths and misconceptions that remain prevalent. The session goes on to look at disclosing diagnosis and concludes by looking at ways to empower neurodivergent young people.

To book a place please email - [admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk)

Greenside School Shephall Green Stevenage Herts SG2 9XS

Stalls from - Families in Focus – Carers in Herts – SPACE – Angels – Herts Parent Carers - ADD-Vance for information and networking at the event

Event open to parents and professionals living in Hertfordshire (DfE schools and parents are free). £10 for all others. Places strictly limited to 100 after which a waiting list will be employed.  
Please contact Greenside at [admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk) to book a place.

## TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

 Supporting Links  
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

NOW ONLINE



WEDNESDAYS  
22nd Feb - 29th Mar 2023  
9.45 -11.15am

A free 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 2-19 years with a recognised additional need. Diagnosis is not essential.  
We will help you to:

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Find strategies that really work.
- Understand conflict: why it happens and how to handle it.
- Manage anger effectively.
- Motivate, encourage and support your child.
- Manage the different needs within your family.

'I have been on a few courses to help me with my son, this was by far the most helpful.'

 PARENTING COURSES  
DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME VIA ZOOM

For parents and carers in Herts

'I was in a lot of distress as I had no idea how to deal with my daughter's anger and frustration, now I have harmony in my home and I feel more in control and less of a failure.'

Pre-booking essential

To check eligibility and book a place, please call Supporting Links on:

07512 709556

[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)

[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)

QUOTING REFERENCE SL 550

 These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund

Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

First Steps ED is a leading eating disorder charity providing **hope, opportunities, and choices** to lives affected by eating difficulties and disorders...



### Join us!

If you are a parent, carer, or loved ones of someone with disordered eating, you can refer yourself for our 4-week workshop.

To self-refer, use the QR code or visit  
<https://form.jotform.com/22096404104343>

We believe in early intervention and prevention of eating difficulties and disorders which is why we're passionate about supporting parents, carers, families and professionals to help them play an effective role in recognising the signs of an eating disorder, and providing effective supporting and guidance.

Workshops are available monthly. To register your interest in any upcoming series please scan the QR code or contact our team at [info@firststepsed.co.uk](mailto:info@firststepsed.co.uk)



SCAN ME

### Skills for Carers Workshop

What we'll cover:

Our 'Skills for Carers' course is a four-week course for parents, partners and siblings who wish to understand their role in a loved one's recovery. Each session will offer practical tips and information to help you develop self-reflective and care-giving skills to help support a loved one.

For more support & resources visit



[www.firststepsed.co.uk](http://www.firststepsed.co.uk)



# School Dinners

Below are the School Menus for the second half of Spring term and the Summer term. Click below to enlarge.



### WEEK 1

	AMERICAN Diner	MEZZE MEDITERRANEAN	Home STYLE	CARIBBEAN fusion	Jaha Dory
<b>STREET</b>	Smoky BBQ Pulled Pork Burger	Chicken Shawarma & Pickled Red Cabbage	Glazed Gammon Carvery with Gravy	Jerk Chicken Thigh Burger with Pineapple Salsa	Hand Battered Fish
<b>VEGGIE</b>	Jalapeno Loaded Mac & Cheese	Smoky Aubergine & Apricot Tagine	Veggie Sausage & Summer Vegetable Tray Bake	Curried Jackfruit Rundown	Beetroot & Feta Burger
<b>SIDES</b>	Garlic & Herb Wedges Smoky BBQ Beans	Pearl Barley & Courgette Ribbon Mezze Salad	Roasties Fresh Veggies	Whole Grain Rice & Peas Spinach & Coconut Slaw	Chips Peas

Aspens 

20/2, 13/3, 3/4, 24/4, 15/5, 5/6, 26/6, 17/7



### HOT DESSERT SELECTOR

DESSERT	Peach Cobbler	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Chocolate Brownie	Apple Sponge Cake	Sticky Toffee Pudding
DESSERT	Marble Cake	Carrot Cake	Apple & Cinnamon Strudel	Rice Pudding & Jam	Golden Syrup & Apple Sponge
DESSERT	Pineapple Upside Down	Chocolate Oat Cake	Banana Loaf	Vanilla Sprinkle Sponge	Apple Crumble

Aspens 



### WEEK 2

	INCREDIBLE INDIA	Plant POWER	Home STYLE	PRN ASIAN	Jaha Dory
<b>STREET</b>	Bengali Pork Shoulder	Superfood Quinoa & Feta Salad	Roast Pork & Stuffing Baguette	Breaded Chicken Katsu	Hand Battered Fish
<b>VEGGIE</b>	Roast Cauliflower & Chickpea Korma	Veg Chilli Nachos With Homemade Salsa	Butterbean & Root Veg Stew	Kung-Pao "Chicken Style" Strips	KFC Cauliflower Wings with Chilli Hummus
<b>SIDES</b>	Whole Grain Rice Coconut Green Beans	Parsley Crushed Potatoes Burnt Broccoli	Roasties Fresh Vegetables	Lime & Coriander Rice Soy Glazed Mushrooms	Chips Peas

Aspens 

27/2, 29/3, 10/4, 1/5, 22/5, 12/6, 3/7, 24/7



Aspens 



### WEEK 3

	INCREDIBLE INDIA	AMERICAN Diner	Home STYLE	PRN ASIAN	Jaha Dory
<b>STREET</b>	Beef Keema Curry	American Mustard & Crispy Onion Hot Dog	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Baguette	BBQ Mandarin Pork	Hand Battered Fish
<b>VEGGIE</b>	Chana Saag (Spinach & Chickpea)	Sweet Potato Gumbo with Cornbread	Healthy Egg & Spinach Brunch Pot	Thai Green Curry	Cajun Bean Burger
<b>SIDES</b>	Whole Grain Rice Mushroom Bhajia	Cajun Wedges Red Slaw	Roasties Fresh Vegetables	5 Spice Rice Pak Choi Stir Fry	Chips Peas

Aspens 

6/3, 27/3, 17/4, 8/5, 29/5, 19/6, 10/7, 31/7

**Breakfast**

½ Bacon Baguette	£1.00	Just Sandwiches	From £1.50
½ Sausage Baguette	£1.00	Classic Sandwiches	From £2.00
Breakfast Wrap	£1.00	Deli Sandwiches	£2.30
Hash Brown	£1.00	Deli Baguettes	£2.30
Bacon Wrap	£1.00	Deli Wrap	From £2.00
Sausage Wrap	£1.00	Deli Bagels	From £2.10
Danish	£1.20	Cold Pasta Pot	£2.00
Croissant	£1.20		
Pain au Choc	£1.20	Fresh Bakery	From £1.00
Chocolate Twist	£1.20	Fruit Pots	From £1.10
		Dessert Pots	From £1.45

**Deli Kitchen Cold**

Pizza Slice	From £1.40	Main Meal, Hot Pasta Pot or Just Sandwich plus Meal Deal Dessert, Homebake or Bottle of Water	
Theos Wraps	£2.00		
Sausage Roll	£1.40		
Vegan Roll	£1.40		
Popcorn Pots	£1.00		
Chicken Nuggets	£1.50		
Beef Burger	£2.00		
Chicken Burger	£2.00		
Belgian waffle	£1.00		
Theo wings x 2	£1.50		
Panini Selection	From £2.10		

**Deli Kitchen Hot**

Pizza Slice	From £1.40	Meal Deal	
Theos Wraps	£2.00	Main Meal, Hot Pasta Pot or Just Sandwich plus Meal Deal Dessert, Homebake or Bottle of Water	
Sausage Roll	£1.40		
Vegan Roll	£1.40		
Popcorn Pots	£1.00		
Chicken Nuggets	£1.50		
Beef Burger	£2.00		
Chicken Burger	£2.00		
Belgian waffle	£1.00		
Theo wings x 2	£1.50		
Panini Selection	From £2.10		

**Drinks**

Water 500ml	£0.70		
Radnor Flavoured Water	£1.00		
Radnor Sparkling 330ml	£1.00		
Radnor Fruit Cartons	£0.70		
Iced Fruit Drink	£1.20		
Flavoured Milk 200ml	£0.95		
Any Coffee	£1.25		
Hot Chocolate	£1.25		

**Streateries**

Main Meal plus sides and vegetables or salad £2.00

**TARIFF**



## Sports Centre News

### A-Z Basketball

### J4K Goalkeeper Camp

We are pleased to be hosting a goalkeeper course run by Just for Keepers Bedfordshire in the upcoming half term.

**Monday 13th February 2023**

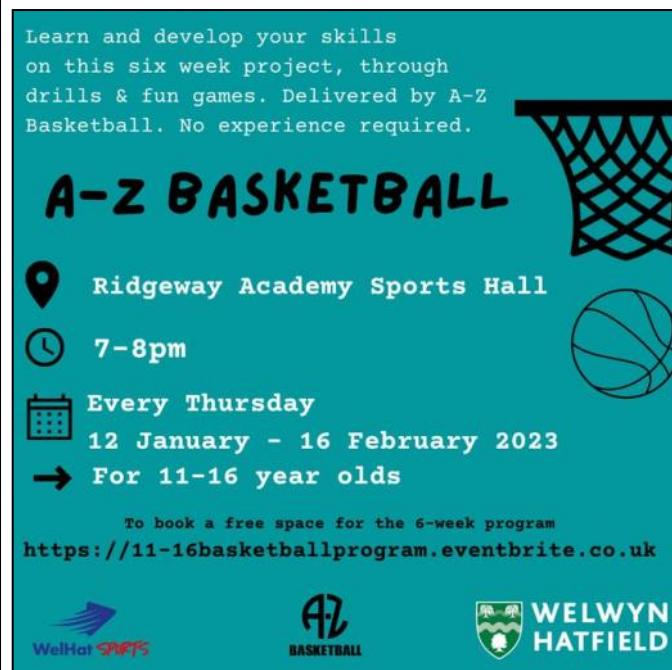
10:00am-14:00pm

Ridgeway Academy, WGC

£25 for the day (discount for Welwyn Garden City Youth FC keepers)

For full details and to book please visit:

<https://j4kcoaching.class4kids.co.uk/camp/37>



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>

### Barracudas

We're delighted to be hosting Barracudas this February half term.



The UK's Favourite BARRACUDAS Activity Day Camps

BOOK NOW!

EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT QUOTE CODE: HSCP23

Visit [barracudas.co.uk](http://barracudas.co.uk) or call 01480 467567

Mr R Goodship  
Sports Centre Manager



**Goalkeeping Development Centres at a location near you!**

**Professional weekly group sessions,  
1-2-1s, gloves and apparel**

**T: 07312 085 886**

**E: [conormurphy@just4keepers.co.uk](mailto:conormurphy@just4keepers.co.uk)**

**PAY & PLAY**  
**AGE 11-18**  
**HALF TERM**



**Tuesday 13th - Friday 17th February 2023**



**3G All Weather Pitch Only**

**Unsupervised sessions**

correct usage must be adhered to at all times

**Correct footwear must be worn**

football boots or astro trainers (no metal studs)

**Must bring own equipment**

(balls/boots etc)

**CASH PAYMENTS ONLY**

**£1**  
Per Hour  
RWA Students

**£2**  
Per Hour  
Students

**£3**  
Per Hour  
Non-Students

\*Non Ridgeway

students must bring

Student ID

\*\*Adults must be

with a student

For booking enquiries:  
Email: [ross.goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:ross.goodship@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk)  
or Contact us via our Social Media Channels below

 /RASportscentre  @RASportscentre  @RASportscentre

[www.ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/sportscentre](http://www.ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/sportscentre) 01707 351352

Non students must attend with a student. \*Failure to provide ID will result in non student rate



@RASportsCentre



@rasportscentre



@RASportsCentre

## Dates for Your Diary

### SPRING TERM 2023

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last Day of Term

### SUMMER TERM 2023

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Term
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half Term
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Wednesday 19th July	Last Day of Term

