



Issue 103
Fortnightly
October 2023
Week 1

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

Today brings the end of a very busy half term, packed full of learning and enrichment opportunities, which you will read about in this edition. Today we hosted the annual strategic meeting for the Alban Academies Trust and I thought it pertinent to share our mission and key values with you.

VISION AND VALUES

Our mission is to build a learning community of schools which share 'Educational Excellence for Everyone'.

Our vision is to:

- ◇ provide safe, stimulating and aspirational environments to enable all children and young people to realise their full potential
- ◇ ensure all families are confident that their child or young person is receiving a high-quality education
- ◇ grow a supportive and sustainable trust which serves our local communities
- ◇ be an employer of choice which values its people and of which our employees are proud to be a part

Our key values and ethos are to:

- ◇ prioritise the wellbeing of all our children, young people and staff
- ◇ promote a culture of mutual respect and high expectation
- ◇ collaborate effectively, sharing expert knowledge and practice
- ◇ believe in the potential of all children served by the Trust and enable them to make the best progress possible
- ◇ actively promote equity at all levels in the Trust
- ◇ take account of stakeholder voice in the decisions we make
- ◇ continuously strive to improve in an ever changing world

My Deputies, Ms Smith and Mrs Hyde have given an update on the school priorities they lead on and we are pleased with the progress we are making together.

I would like to wish all staff, students and their families a healthy and restful half term break, ready to return re-energised for Autumn 2.

Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher

School Art Competition Winners

This month we launched a competition in the Art Department for KS3 students to enter. They were tasked with creating a sketchbook title page for their year group.

Over 25 pupils entered the competition and we chose three winners. Their designs will be copied and presented in their year group sketchbooks to introduce the new academic year!

Well done to those who entered and congratulations to Gracie Agombar-Cope 7M, Lily Hobbs 8P and Amelia Hembury 9L who can be seen below receiving their certificates from the Headteacher.

Miss R Smith
Tech / Art Teacher



ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Do you know what your attendance was last school week?

Do you know your overall attendance for the year?

Do you know how many school days you have missed this year?

Do you know how many late marks you have this school year?

Make sure you know of this information, you can ask your form tutor for this, and work hard to improve it each week!

80% & Below

Drastic effect on academic achievement



95% - 90%

Cause for concern



100% - 96%

Excellent!



Ridgeway Pupils with 100% Attendance - start of term to 5th October 2023

7 Anderson

Martin Bhala
Lewis Bonser
Oscar Buchanan
Tyler Burr
Ethan Butler
Jaeden Charles
Riley Elliott
Autumn Griffiths
Rayyan Ibrahim
Emil Johnson
Hamza Sajid

7 Franklin

Melody Buxton
Jadah Chipangura
Hollie Clark
Chase Curtis
Darsi-Bleu King
Lily Lawrence
Raphael Mcmurdock
Albert Mhosva
Angus Moore-Shields
Abdul Mumuni
Maisie Norris
Theo Petrou
Mia-Joy Roberts
Roxy Taylor
Zachary Taylor
Alex Angell
Harley Ashton

7 Hawking

Valentina Carrasco
Leo Davey
Adam Gancarz
Jessie Greaves
Jay Hickson
Callum Hughes
Olivia Matthews
Kaydence Mbangi
Harvey Meager
Mia Roberts
Finlay Robinson
Teagan Rogers
Max Shuckard
Isabelle Tilley

Leo Willson

7 Lytton

Ayden Akinkugbe
Jackson Buttress
Hayden Cattigan
Darcey Davey
Riley Farron
Olivia Gearing
Owen Hobbs
Tyler Jewitt
Amelia Jose
Samuel Kapay
Isabelle McCarthy
Charlotte Salmon
Alexandru Serbanica
Daisy Tebbutt
Louis Trichardt
Eva Vijlioi

7 Mandela

Gracie Agombar-Cope
Alissia Anastasi
Braidon Birney-Goff
Alli Bragg
Harry Clarke
Harrison Dealey
Milosz Demski
Maia Ghumania
Tyler Groome
Isaac Hurley
Ariel Idumu-Amaechi
Kieron Keaveney
Alfie Norris
Bo Robson
Harmonie Walker

7 Parks

Leah Allen
Asia-Kai Buena
K-Lea Claxton
George Cooper
Brooke Felters
Tommy Haworth-Maggs
Linus Hockley

Bella Jarvis
Dantes Joseph
Zachary Lines
Summer Michelin
Jude Rouse
James Slatter
Jaiden Solo
Zachary Twiggs
Leo Webb

7 Turing

Joshua Andrews
Imogen Darling
Mia Fahmy
Corey-James Walters

8 Anderson

Toby Bishop
Anna Cebula
Ellis Elliott
Didi Elue
Samuel Grimsley
Ben Hajczinger
Eva Harrison
Amilie Hopkins
Johann Laxa
Katie Luckins
James Seeley
Libby Tanner
Jasper Timms
Hayden White
Mati Wierzbinski

8 Hawking

Kaysie Davies
Harrison Neville
Laurie Pugh
Isaac Redmond
George Sadler
Grace Stickland
James Thake
Owen Thorogood
Austin Woods

8 Lytton

Bobby Bliss
Elizabeth Dawson

Riley Hall
Angelina Jhankur
Sanjana Kerai
Ranulya Kotalawela
George Mcandrew-Miller
Lilly Rogers
Kieran Smith
Bianca-Maria Stanciu
Harry Turner
Jaeden Umali
Nicholas Zaborowski

8 Mandela

India Arm
Harvey Carroll
Finn Cockram
Lacey-Mae Cushing
Lexi Gorman
Lois Grostate
Chloe Monk
Sienna Stevens
Alfie Stride
Ruby Walker
Lewis Webb

8 Parks

Zachary Arnett
Jasmine Bamgboye
Keelie-Ann Beaumont
Jayden Clarke
Jack Cronin
Lewis Farenden
Ryan Haxhiaj
Rafael Hilario
Lily Hobbs
Burt Quartley
George Rhodes
Tom Rhodes
Finn Stratton

8 Turing

Nyla Allen
Willow Beer
Brian Brahimetaj

Lacey Cullum
Emmie Devine
Jack Ferris
Kaila-Kelly Grice
Alina Ibrahim
Caitlyn Monk
Ben Preston
Paige Redhead
Frank Rozanek
Ella-May Shield
Samuel Smith
Maika Taylor
Niamh Taylor
Benjamin Weetman

9 Anderson













Aimee Andrews
Roxanne Clarke
Angelo Garkov
Clara Haworth-Maggs
Jasmine Hobbs
Harley King
Joziyah-Ray Mbangi
Archie Pickles
Olga Potocka
Roisin Roberts-Mcneilly
Abigail Slater
Archie Suant
Poppy Wheeler
Luke Windle

9 Hawking

Beau Brewster
Molly Day
Gracie Durrant
Dalila Fernando
Poppy Handley
Archie Hoad
Tilly Johnson
George Mann
Dominic McCarthy
Elizabeth Mcneill
Jasper Then-Bergh
Olivia Watt

<p>9 Lytton Hsian Aguirre Felicity Atkins Lucy Bailey Amelia Brownlee Princess Buckland Louie Corbit Luke Emms Oliver Farr Tyler Farrer Frankie Harris Jessica Hart Isabella Jose Tegan O'Leary Blake Walker-Mitchell</p> <p>9 Mandela Rihan Aajiz Eve Daley Lenny Fisher Eric Grostate Eva Gunning Theo Kent Andy La Kristina Lewinton Michael Olabanji Lois Welsh</p> <p>9 Parks Aaron Ansell Shylah-Malia Buena Verity Burnham Tyrese Finch Priya Flack Taylor James</p>	<p>Joshua Knight Alicja Lowczyk Dexter Rodway Ria Seetaram Amelia Sobolak Lucas Willcox</p> <p>9 Turing Violet Clayton Mia Davis Iris Dillon Emily Hardy Ebonie Peters Vladimir Rotar Charlotte Smith Jamie Tomlinson Olivia Turner Daisy Wakefield Sophia Wheeler</p> <p>10 Anderson Daisy Hackett Lauren Hill Kobie Nevill Jasmine Robinson Victor Rotar Sophie Savage Daniel Smith Amalia Taylor Tamara Tindling</p> <p>10 Hawking Sonny Anderson Faye Bailey Riley Birney-Goff Harry Edwards Kya Finch</p>	<p>Oscar Rowe Isla Timms</p> <p>10 Lytton Katie Cecil-Little Marley Glenville Ella Goudge Harley Hayes Macey Jacques Lilly Michelin Jayden Ngahuro Dora Sarkozi Oliver Smith Stanley Stevens Ava Surry Jade Turner</p> <p>10 Mandela Maddie Hamm Freya Harris Harmonie Young</p> <p>10 Parks Thomas Casserley Reece Cooper Francis Culibao Rhea Ganatra Sophie Gearing Charlie Jarvis Dejoie Joseph Connor Kennedy Ethan Newvell-Pentney Alfie Parkin Finley Pennell Anna-Mae Van Niekerk</p>	<p>10 Turing Ellie Anastasi Jack Gatrell Evie Hamm Emily Horsley Callum Howse Alfie Jewitt Kaytelyn Lockyear Edward Smith Oscar Smith Oliver Winnan Nadia Ziolkowska</p> <p>11 Anderson Lilith Albrecht Max Ambler Archie Bell Harrison Crilly Keira Galvin Leo Gordon Katie Hart Eloise Howse Ethan Luckins Caleb Olusegun Daniel Stackman</p> <p>11 Hawking George Amarica Theo Dawson Isobel Sterling Rhys Stratton Rebecca Wood</p> <p>11 Lytton Rose Clayton Ryan De-Lacy Conor Divers</p>	<p>Ella Graves Evie Hornsey Riley Josh Olivia Mann CJ McBride Alfie Noakes Libby Owen Jonathan Seeley Ted Wood</p> <p>11 Mandela Callum Cubis Alfie Jarvis Jonnell Mbangi Max McParland Lucy Oldridge Oliver Paramor Phoebe Shadbolt Chloe Treglohan</p> <p>11 Parks Callum Channa Ashton Cowan Jay Field Morgan Lilly Charlie Sadler Chloe Southcott</p> <p>11 Turing Leona Caulfield Kiyra Cumberbatch Cameron Jones William Paton Riley Wells</p>
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House Points

Anderson	Hawking	Lytton	Mandela	Parks	Turing
					
7183	6586	5926	7647	7476	7477
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.	Rosa Parks is known as the mother of the civil rights movement after fighting for racial equality in the USA through her leading role in the Montgomery bus boycott, which lasted over a year.	Alan Turing was a mathematician, widely celebrated as the father of computer science after cracking the Enigma Code during WWII. Turing was later subject to discrimination due to his sexuality.
					
Currently in the lead are Mandela with 7647 points. Last updated 5.10.2023					

Deputy Headteacher's News

BEHAVIOUR

This half term has been a really busy and successful one with 32,462 positive points being awarded to students and the highest rewarded students in Year 7, 8 and 9 being recognised with a film afternoon run by Mr Nelson.

We have worked hard to implement the new mobile phone policy which has made a really positive impact on the climate of the school and most importantly, significantly reduced negative incidents around misuse of mobile devices. Families have supported to make this successful and I would like to thank everyone for their support, I think we all recognise the potential dangers around young people misusing mobile devices.

We have responded to national concerns around misuse of substances in young people and have a range of activities planned for the next half term for every year group to raise awareness and offer support.

We have had a strong focus on attendance and will continue to work with families to help students have the best attendance they can. We know that absence from school is the single biggest factor in reducing performance of young people and absence has a negative impact on wellbeing and mental health. As we come into cold season it will be even more important for students to show resilience and make sure they attend every day.

We have been busy reviewing our current policies and practices and families will see changes being made to these over the coming weeks. We will always welcome constructive feedback from families to help us refine and improve our systems and will aim to respond within 72 hours to feedback sent.

We have continued our drive to improve standards, focusing on uniform standards and conduct. We really appreciate the support from families as we work to instill those really important values that will help students be successful in the world of work and beyond in the future.

Next half term we will focus on making sure we celebrate our student's many successes more loudly than we have and refining systems to make them more efficient and effective.

Miss J Smith
Deputy Headteacher

TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE

The staff have been very busy this half term working on their curriculum planning and developing the core learning for every lesson. This will ensure that all students are focused on securing the most important knowledge and skills for their educational journey. Subject Leaders participated in a Autumn conference with guest speakers Michele Geddes, the AAT Director of Education, Salma Riley-Haque, Deputy Headteacher Adeyfield Academy and Katie Wills from Sandringham. It was a great chance to spend some time discussing the subject journey's we want our young people to explore. We have also had further staff training on ensuring all learners, especially under served learners, achieve their potential and have high aspirations for their future studies and employment. This week we also welcomed Chris Russell from Space Herts, to run workshops on SEND, in particular effective strategies for our young people who may have a SEND need. This will continue to support our drive towards our OFSTED area for improvement – ensuring all learners can access the curriculum and that suitable adaptation are utilised.



We were very lucky to have staff training from Chris Russell at SPACE Hertfordshire this week. He shared with us the insights around ADHD, ODD and PDA and how students may be affected in their learning and interactions whilst at school. Chris shared some of the most effective strategies our staff could employ when they are interacting with our young people to ensure we get the best out of them during their time at school. It was excellent to have experts in the field work alongside our own SEND and inclusion teams to improve the practices which are currently in place and strengthen our skillset. SPACE is a fantastic source of advice for teachers and parents. We encourage you to look at the wealth of advice and information on their website to support with neurodiversity.

<https://spaceherts.org.uk/>

Mrs L Hyde
Deputy Headteacher

Head of Year News

Year 7 - Mrs C Hunt

As the colder season approaches, please remember that blazers are now mandatory attire. Additionally, you are welcome to wear a waterproof coat over your blazer for added warmth and protection. Please note that hoodies and fleeces are not considered acceptable outerwear options.

Year 8 - Mr K Amstutz

Year 8 students, your presence matters! Regular attendance is crucial for a productive learning experience and has huge impact on academic success. Thank you to all our students who consistently wear the correct uniform and arrive with the right equipment!

A big shout-out to our Year 8 students earning merits consistently. Your dedication to excellence is admirable. Keep striving for success, and your hard work will lead to a bright future. Finally a big well done to 8 Anderson who are currently in the lead for the top Merits in the year group!

As the colder season approaches, please remember that blazers are now mandatory attire. Additionally, you are welcome to wear a waterproof coat over your blazer for added warmth and protection. Please note that hoodies and fleeces are not considered acceptable outerwear options.

Year 9 - Miss G Picone

A big thank you to our Year 9 students who have consistently worn the correct uniform and shown respect to our staff and peers. This is a great example of students taking ownership of our three R's at Ridgeway. I'm impressed by the hard work Year 9 students put into their studies and involvement in school life. Please can I ask that all Year 9 students try to attend one extra curricular club going forward this year!

As the colder season approaches, please remember that blazers are now mandatory attire. Additionally, you are welcome to wear a waterproof coat over your blazer for added warmth and protection. Please note that hoodies and fleeces are not considered acceptable outerwear options.

Year 10 - Mrs M Tinker

First and foremost a big thank you who have been setting remarkable examples at Ridgeway Academy. Your dedication to learning, respectful conduct, and positive attitude is not unnoticed!

A gentle reminder: consistent attendance is vital for academic success. It ensures that students benefit fully from their education and helps develop crucial study habits.

We also encourage Year 10 students to engage in at least one extracurricular club or activity. These opportunities promote personal growth, skill development, and friendships with shared interests.

As the colder season approaches, please remember that blazers are now mandatory attire. Additionally, you are welcome to wear a waterproof coat over your blazer for added warmth and protection. Please note that hoodies and fleeces are not considered acceptable outerwear options.

Year 11 - Mr M Pring

Thank you to all parents who attended the parent information evening, it was lovely to see so many people attend. For those who were not able to make it, the link to the presentation on the website has now been sent home. Please pay particular attention to the 'Prom Passport' as all students will have to qualify to attend prom through their Attendance, Behaviour and Intervention attendance.

Sixth Form - Mrs N Picariello

Last Friday saw the first of our 'Charlie Lower Inspiring Minds' lectures for Sixth Form. Mr Lower was a teacher at Sir Frederic Osborn school who sadly passed away earlier this year. His passion was inspiring our students to achieve, and in his memory Sixth Form has organised a series of monthly lectures to help our students find their next steps.

Our first speaker was Mabinty Esho, Head of Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Belonging at Comic Relief. She talked to students about her pathway to success, and about her role in Comic Relief; she's promised to come back to school on Red Nose Day too. With helpful hints to focus our students on their journey, she closed with the powerful message 'It will be ok in the end; if it's not ok, it's not the end!'

Sixth Form are also having a focus on dress code this week - please check out the Sixth Form Newsletter for details.

School Vacancies

The school is currently recruiting for the following roles:

Examination Invigilator

Closing date: 9:00am, Friday 27th October 2023

Administrator (SEND)

Closing date: 9:00am Monday 30th October 2023

Learning Supervisor

Closing date: 9:00am Monday 30th October 2023

Lead Practitioner - Mathematics

Closing date: 9:00am Monday 30th October 2023

Behaviour Improvement Officer

Closing date: 9:00am Monday 31st October 2023

For more information visit:

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

Mrs K Biss
Human Resources Officer

School Communications Policy

Emails

Please use the following email addresses when communicating with Departments:

For all communication around Attendance:

attendance@ridgeway.aat.school

For all communication around Detentions:

detentions@ridgeway.aat.school

If you need to contact staff for any other matters:

admin@ridgeway.aat.school

If you need to make reference to your child in the subject header of your email, please use initials.

Do note that: Teachers are not in a position to check emails consistently throughout the day and the school does not expect work email to be checked during a teacher's personal time.

We aim to respond to you as soon as possible **within three working days**. Part-time staff may take longer to reply.

[or detentions/attendance] address so that it can be tracked and routed accordingly.

Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher

Plea for Plastic Bottles

The Art Department are looking for large plastic bottles to use to create poppies for a memorial for the school remembrance day. Any make with the flower type bottom. All donations gratefully received.



Attendance News

A reminder that our students are expected to be on site by 8:25am. The gate nearest H block will close at 8:25am ensuring all students reach their registration rooms by 8:30am. Students arriving after 8:25am are late to school, and must enter through Student Services. Students who arrive after 8:45am will be marked as unauthorised absence for AM registration. Please remember to notify Student Services of any legitimate absence from school before 8:15am via telephone message or email Attendance:

attendance@ridgeway.aat.school

School Day Timings

8.25	Arrival Deadline
8.30	Registration
8.45	Period 1
9.45	Movement time
9.50	Period 2
10.50	Morning Break
11.10	Period 3
12.10	Movement time
12.15	Period 4
1.15	Lunch
1.55	Period 5
3.00	Registration
3.10	School Finishes
3.15	Clubs & Activities / Detentions

Mrs M Tinker
Assistant Headteacher

Equipment Reminder

Students must be prepared for learning - every lesson, every day. Form Tutors will check full equipment each morning during form time. It will be a school standards focus for the next two weeks. All students must have the following equipment:

- Two black pens
- Two pencils
- A green pen
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Pair of compasses
- Scientific calculator (preferably Casio Classwiz)

Lost Property

Reminder to all Parents to name all school clothes please. This will ensure items can be returned to owners.

Mrs J Airey
Student Liaison Officer

At Ridgeway we are committed to developing a culture where **equality, diversity and inclusion** are **celebrated**



Every **Tuesday lunchtime**, students can meet in **K2**, to discuss how we can promote **Diversity** within our school. We will be asking students and staff to contribute ideas and celebrate the work we do. Students and staff are welcome to come along and support each other.

No need to book. Just turn up.
Miss C Wesson



Every **Thursday lunchtime**, students can meet in **K2**, to discuss **Young Carers** within our school

Students of the Week - Year 7

Year 7 students with the most reward points from each house over the last 5 school days.

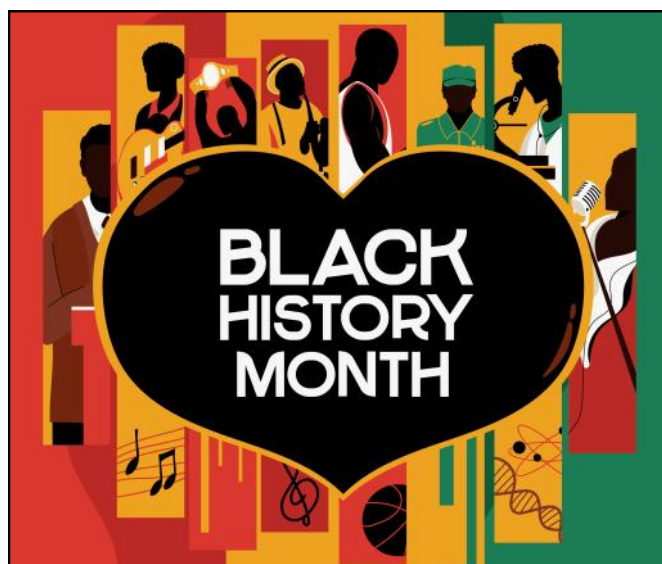
Name	Tutor Group	Points
Gracie Agombar-Cope	7 Mandela	28
Brooke Felters	7 Parks	28
Daisy Cousins	7 Hawking	25
Tyler Burr	7 Anderson	24
Mia Fahmy	7 Turing	22
Darcey Davey	7 Lytton	17

Top 20 House Points

Top 20 House Point Achievers start of term to 5th October 2023.

Name	Tutor Group	Points
Kristina Lewinton	9 Mandela	130
Eloise Flowers	9 Mandela	123
Angelo Garkov	9 Anderson	116
Michael Olabanji	9 Mandela	109
Johann Laxa	8 Anderson	105
George Cooper	7 Parks	104
Jack Cronin	8 Parks	104
Jack Ferris	8 Turing	104
Finn Stratton	8 Parks	103
James Seeley	8 Anderson	102
Daniel Brassett	9 Mandela	101
Katie Luckins	8 Anderson	101
Riley Birney-Goff	10 Hawking	99
Lenny Fisher	9 Mandela	99
Eva Harrison	8 Anderson	98
Rafael Hilario	8 Parks	97
Eleanor Mcdonald	8 Turing	96
Jayna Raiytt	9 Mandela	96
Ellen Aitken	9 Mandela	95
Arron Ziobakas	9 Mandela	95

Theme of the Week



Black History Month launches with hundreds of events planned across the UK in October, with celebrations focusing on the contributions of black women and the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush.

First celebrated in the UK in October 1987, Black History Month has since morphed into a big cultural and political event to highlight the historical and contemporary contribution of black Britons.

Subject Focus - Performing Arts

Music

Over the summer the Music Department has been moved to F block. We are very lucky to have 2 large and lovely classrooms, a music technology suite, 3 practice rooms and a recording studio.

In Year 7 we are learning about the musical elements and have had some fun making some short percussion pieces on the djembe drums. Year 8 have been learning about the history of rap and are now creating their own raps. In the coming weeks we will be making beats to go alongside this. Year 9 have been learning about Harmony and Tonality and how this affects how music sounds in film. Whilst in Year 10 and 11 we have been doing a mixture of performance, composition and music theory.

As of this week we are starting up some new and exciting music clubs:

Monday	Rock Band
Wednesday	GCSE Music support
Thursday	Music Tech

You can keep updated on what's happening in performing arts by following our instagram page: [ridgewayperformingarts](https://www.instagram.com/ridgewayperformingarts)

Drama

In Year 7 Drama we are creating spooky sketches based on a haunted mansion in the unit entitled The Dark Manor. In Year 8 this gothic theme continues as we learn about the infamous Jack the Ripper and piece together the everyday lives of Victorian Londoners who lived in fear of being his next victim. And in Year 9 we have begun to prepare for GCSE with a short unit on Naturalism. Year 10's are immersing themselves in Stanislavski's System learning about Emotion Memory, The Magic If and Given Circumstances while Year 11 is preparing for their Component 3: Texts in Practice which is a practical exam based around extracts from scripted plays.

Following the Open Evening, our excitement for this year's drama course has increased immensely. The Year 10's showcased their physical theatre skills in an improvised piece entitled Mission Impossible. Secret Agents go through their daily routine and encounter big baddies. We were so excited that a number of Year 5 and 6 students felt comfortable enough to get up on stage and have a go at being a hero or a villain. It was also wonderful to watch a rehearsal of this year's school show 'Sweeney Todd', led by our talented sixth formers and involving Years 8 to 13. Make sure that you get tickets to see this musical in February 2024!

Here is a sneak peek into 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street':

The story of a barber and a baker whose pursuit for revenge takes them down a twisted path. This is a show driven by love and ambition with many dark turns along the way.

Dance

In KS3 dance we have been developing our knowledge on musicals, understanding the different styles of musical theatre and what 3 elements make up a good performer. For example singing, dancing and acting.

In KS4 Dance we have been focusing on the force of gravity and how we can create a dance based on this idea by looking at how gravity works, and how we can show that effectively within our bodies.

In clubs we are simply getting to know each other and learning different styles of dance each week:

Tuesday	KS3 Dance Club
Thursday	KS4 Dance Club

Look forward to seeing you there.

Miss F Whitbread
Head of Performing Arts





At Ridgeway we are committed to developing a culture where
equality, diversity and **inclusion**
are **celebrated**

K2

Monday	Lunchtime Hub Club
Tuesday	Diversity
Wednesday	Lunchtime Hub Club
Thursday	Young Carers
Friday	Lunchtime Hub Club

No need to book. Just turn up. Miss C Wesson

Diversity

Every **Tuesday lunchtime**, students can meet in **K2**, to discuss how we can promote **Diversity** within our school. We will be asking students and staff to contribute ideas and celebrate the work we do. Students and staff are welcome to come along and support each other.



Hub Club

Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes, we have **Lunchtime Hub Club** in **K2** which gives students the opportunity to complete **homework** at lunchtime as well as **drop-in sessions** if they wish to speak to a member of the **safeguarding** team with any concern.



Young Carers

Every **Thursday lunchtime**, students can meet in **K2**, to discuss **Young Carers** within our school.



Competition

ROUND 1 SIGNATURE BAKE

Bakers make an Autumn theme bake at home and upload photo to google classroom by 29th October.

ROUND 2 TECHNICAL BAKE

10 bakers are selected to take part in a live technical bake in the Ridgeway Kitchen.

ROUND 3 SHOW STOPPER

3 finalist bakers are selected to take part in the ginger bread house show stopper live in the Ridgeway Kitchen.

BAKE OFF WINNER IS CROWNED

THE GREAT RIDGEWAY
BAKE OFF



Signature Bake

This challenge is to bake something cute and rustic within the theme of **AUTUMN**. Bakers should show their personality, creative flair and baking ability. A photograph of your entry should be uploaded to the “Signature Challenge” assignment on your year group google classroom. The best 10 bakers will then be selected to take part in the Technical Bake challenge live in the Ridgeway Kitchen.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

29th October

THE GREAT RIDGEWAY
BAKE OFF



THC Vape Awareness

There is an increased trend in young people nationally, for using vapes and illegal substances in the form of vapes. A recent study in 2022 found the use of Vapes in young people had tripled from 15% in 2021 to 44% in 2022 <https://cdn.themix.org.uk/uploads/2022/10/Drug-and-alcohol-usage-amongst-youngpeople-2022.pdf>.

There is an increase in the use of a specific type of vape containing THC oil. THC is the main oil present in cannabis plants and is an illegal psychoactive substance. Most concerning, these vapes are being produced in a range of bright colours and styles to appeal to young people. Side effects of using THC vapes can include drowsiness, vomiting, hallucinations, tiredness and memory loss. Any Cannabis based product is especially damaging to a teenage brain.

We are increasing our drug awareness education through PDE lessons, assemblies and ELD days and have already increased our searches of individuals where we may have a suspicion that vapes are being used. Any student found in possession of an illegal substance is at risk of significant school sanctions. We strongly advise families to discuss this trend with their children and make them aware of the dangers associated with any kind of drug use. If you have a suspicion that your child has been offered vapes outside of school, we encourage you to inform us and the police.

Over the coming weeks, we will provide more information around drugs awareness events we are planning and how this will be delivered to each year group. If your child is concerned or has information around the use of vapes, THC vapes or other substances, they should discuss this with their trusted adult at school. If family members have specific concerns or information, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Miss J Smith
Deputy Headteacher



Essential support for under 25s

themix.org.uk/get-support

Speak to our team

One to one focused support with our trained team, either by phone, webchat, or email.



Helpline

Did you know we have a free helpline for 11-25 year olds where you can talk to trained supporters about any issue that's troubling you? Call us on 0808 808 4994. We're open from 4pm to 11pm Monday to Friday. Please note that this service is closed on weekends.



Email

If you're aged 11-25, you can email the helpline at any time and our trained supporters will respond within 24 hours Monday to Friday. Please note that this service is closed on weekends.



Crisis Messenger

If you feel like you can't cope or are worried about how you are feeling, you can contact our crisis messenger 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our text messaging support service is free and for any issue. We provide in-the-moment support and problem solving when you need it most. This service is delivered in partnership with Crisis Text Line and Shout.



One-to-one chat

Live message our trained helpline supporters about any issue that is troubling you. We're open from 4pm to 11pm Monday to Friday. Please note that this service is closed on weekends.



Counselling services

The Mix Counselling service is suitable for you if you are looking for short-term help with your mental health and emotional wellbeing. Our phone and webchat counselling service is available to young people aged 11-25 years old. Our counsellors aim to support by listening to your problems and helping you find ways to cope in a confidential, safe space.

Year 11 PPE Timetable

The Year 11 PPE Timetable is available on our website: <https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/examinations/>

Monday 30 th October 9am	Tuesday 31 st October 9am	Wednesday 1 st November 9am	Thursday 2 nd November 9am	Friday 3 rd November 9am
Biology 1h 45m Combined science P1 1h 15m	English Language 1h 45m	Chemistry 1h 45m Combined science P2 1h 15m	Maths non calc paper 1 1h 30m	Drama 1h 45m Spanish Writing 1h 15m
Lunch 12.30pm	Lunch 12.30pm	Lunch 12.30pm	Lunch 12.30pm	Lunch 12.30pm
Monday 30 th October 1.30pm	Tuesday 31 st October 1.30pm	Wednesday 1 st November 1.30pm	Thursday 2 nd November 1.30pm	Friday 3 rd November 1.30pm
History P1 1h 15m	Dance 50m Computer Science P1 1h 30m	Hospitality and Catering 1h 30m Geography P1 Physical Environment 1h	French Writing 1h 15m Philosophy and Ethics 1h 45m	Music 1h 30m Product Design 1h 30m

Monday 6 th November 9am	Tuesday 7 th November 9am	Wednesday 8 th November 9am	Thursday 9 th November 9am	Friday 10 th November 9am
Maths calc paper 2 1h 30m	Media 1h 45m	Maths calc paper 3 1h 30m	English literature 2h 15m	
Lunch 12.30pm	Lunch 12.30pm	Lunch 12.30pm	Lunch 12.30pm	Lunch 12.30pm
Monday 6 th November 1.30pm	Tuesday 7 th November 1.30pm	Wednesday 8 th November 1.30pm	Thursday 9 th November 1.30pm	Friday 10 th November 1.30pm
History P2 1h 20m	Spanish Reading 60m Spanish Listening 50m + 5m reading time Business 1h 30m	Computer Science P2 1h 30m Geography P2 Human Environment 1h	French Reading 60m French Listening 50m + 5m reading time Sociology 1h 45m	Physics 1h 45m Combined science P3 1h 15m

Extra-Curricular Clubs List Autumn Term 2023

PE clubs may be postponed due to staff running fixtures on the same night.

Club Name	Day	Time	Location	Staff Member Leading Club
Year 9 & 10 Football	Monday	3:15 - 4:15pm	Astro/Grass pitches	Mr Nelson
Year 8 Football	Monday	3:15 - 4:15pm	Astro/Grass pitches	Mr Pring
Year 7 Football	Thursday	3:15 - 4:15pm	Astro/Grass pitches	Mr Pring
KS3 Book Club	Wednesday (week 1 only)	3:15 - 4:15pm	Library	Mrs Broadhead
KS3 Science Club	Wednesday	3:15 - 4:00pm	Science dept.	Mr. Khan/Mr. Blaxill
Year 7 & 8 Netball	Monday	3:15 - 4:15pm	Netball courts	Mr Chappell/Miss Vaughan
Year 9 Netball	Wednesday	3:15 - 4:15pm	Netball courts	Miss Wilson
Year 7&8 Basketball	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.30pm	Sports Hall	Mr Chappell
Year 7 Girls Football	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15pm	Astro/Grass pitches	Miss Harvey
Year 9/10/11 Basketball	Monday	3:15 - 4:15pm	Sports Hall	Mr Amstutz
Senior Basketball	Friday	3.15 - 5.30pm	Sports Hall	Mr Chappell
Year 7 and 8 Dance	Thursday	3:15 - 4:15pm	Dance studio	Miss Wilson
Year 7,8,9, Homework Club	Monday-Friday	3pm - 4pm	Library	Mrs Hanratty/SEND
Year 7, 8, 9 Sanctuary Club	Monday-Friday	Breaktime and Lunchtime	Haven	Mrs Mills
Fight Club	Wednesday	3:20 - 4:20	Attimore fitness room	Mr Loftus/Mr Serinash
Year 10&11 Art & DT Homework club	Thursday	3:20 - 4:20	C block	Mrs Parsons/Miss Harris/Miss Smith/Mr Warren
Y7,Y8 & Y9 Art Club	Wednesday	3:15 - 4:15	C6	Mrs McNeill
Rock Band(s)	Monday	3.15 - 4.15	Music Dept	Miss Whitbread
GCSE Music Support/ Homework club	Wednesday	1.15 - 1.50	Music Dept	Miss Whitbread
Music Technology Club	Thursday	1.15 - 1.50	Music Dept	Miss Whitbread
Eco-schools - includes pond building/wildlife projects	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.30	Meet in B5	Mr Broad - B5
Musical Theatre	Friday	3.15 - 4.15	Music dept.	Miss Russell E2 (TBC)
Chess Club (All year groups)	Friday	1.15 - 1.50	Library	Mrs Norris
Diversity Club	Tuesday	Lunchtime	K2	Miss Wesson
Young Carers Club	Thursday	Lunchtime	K2	Miss Wesson
Student Hub Club	Mon, Wed, Thurs	Lunchtime	K2	Miss Wesson

Sports Centre News

We are immensely proud as a school and as a community venue to be able to offer high quality sports facilities to our students and to members of the public. Please find a full list of all of the community groups that use our facilities, if you would like more information, please search for them online or on social media. Alternatively, for any enquiries please feel free to contact Ross Goodship on goodshipr@ridgeway.aat.school

Active Hertfordshire Karate	Hatfield Netball Club
Barracudas	Hertfordshire Hellcats Basketball
BeeZee Bodies	Herts Balance and Ride
Bushin MMA	Herts Netball League
Comets Junior Badminton Club	Iconic Performing Arts School
England Netball	Ignite Dance Company
Feel Good Fitness	Just 4 Keepers
Forest Schools of Karate	KSTSK Karate
Garden City Runners	Lemsford FC
GKR Karate	London Pulse Netball
Griffith Kempo Ju Jitsu	Lucy Hunt School of Dance
Hartham United Ladies	Mini-Athletics St Albans/Hatfield
Hatfield Hyde Cricket Club	Mum-Dance
Hatfield Leisure Netball Club	North Central Herts School of Dance

Panshanger FC
Pauline Quirke Academy of Performing Arts
Q Kwon Do Martial Arts
Rugby Tots
Slimming World
Spins Table Tennis Academy
Stars Academy
Stevenage FC Foundation

Strive Football Academy
The Food Teacher
Verve Dance
Welwyn Garden City FC Youth
Welwyn Hatfield Volleyball Club
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Welwyn Hatfield Festival of Dance
WGC Fitness

Parent Discounts: Barracudas Activity Day Camps, the UK's favourite school holiday provider for children aged 4½ to 14 years, will be open at our school this October half term. With unrivalled activities including arts and crafts, sports, teambuilding and much more! They'll get a full day of fun with a choice of activities for each of the 6 sessions every day. What's more, you can make great savings with our exclusive school discounts!

Parents can get £20 off a full week or £4 off a day by applying this code in the promotions box: HSCP23

*can't be used in conjunction with other offers

Mr R Goodship
Sports Centre Manager

THE UK'S FAVOURITE
BARRACUDAS
Activity Day Camps

October Camp!

EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT
QUOTE CODE: HSCP23
FOR AN EXTRA £20 off a week or £4 off a day*

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Recommend a Friend
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The Hub

ASC/SEND Coffee Mornings

Vista St Albans are hosting 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 mornings, 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



Dates:

Wednesday 4th October

Wednesday 29th November

Wednesday 31st January 2024

Wednesday 13th March 2024

Wednesday 8th May 2024

Wednesday 26th June 2024



www.vistastalbans.org.uk
www.facebook.com/Vistastalbans

School Term and Holiday Dates 2023-24

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th October	Half Term
Wednesday 1 st to Thursday 2 nd November	Student Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 7 th November	Extended Learning Day
Friday 24 th November	Occasional Day
Wednesday 20 th December	Last Day of Term

SPRING TERM 2024

Friday 5 th January	Start of Term
Thursday 4 th January	Training Day
Thursday 25 th January	Extended Learning Day
Thursday 15 th and Friday 16 th February	Training Days
Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd February	Half Term
Wednesday 12 th March	Extended Learning Day
Thursday 28 th March	Last Day of Term

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15 th April	Start of Term
Monday 6 th May	Bank and Public Holiday
Monday 6 th - Friday 31 st May	Half Term
Monday 1 st to Friday 5 th July	Enrichment Week
Friday 19 th July	Last Day of Term
Monday 22 nd July	Shadow Inset Day (school closed)
Tuesday 23 rd July	Shadow Inset Day (school closed)

