



Issue 104
Fortnightly
November 2023
Week 2

Ridgeway Academy

Headteacher's Message

Last Friday we held our annual Remembrance Service. Thank you to Marion Brown (Deputy Lieutenant), Pankit Shah (Mayor of Welwyn & Hatfield), FS Arwen Adriaans (Mayor's cadet), PC Anne Lopez and Piper Stephen Marshall for attending as our guest of honour.

Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

We remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

We pay tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services. We acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

Well done and thank you to the cadets who led our parade:

Thomas Timlin, Ford Osborne, Connor Kennedy, Rebecka Baughan and Nathan Baughan.

Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher



Governor Day

Yesterday we held Governor day, with opportunities for governors to visit form time, anti-bullying assembly, to speak to students and staff and visit lessons throughout the day.

A very productive day, which Governors really enjoyed. The commented on the excellent refurbishment of facilities and the calm atmosphere.

Thank you to Mrs Picariello and Mrs Williams who arranged the programme for the day. We had an external Safeguarding Review this week, thank you to Mrs Merrigan and the team.

The Lead commented on the strong safeguarding culture. We will share the report summary once received.



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!



Ridgeway Pupils with 100% Attendance - 9th October to 7th November 2023

<p>7 Anderson Martin Bhala Lewis Bonser Ethan Butler Jaeden Charles Amelia Hylands Namor Rayyan Ibrahim Lexie-Mai Ingham Tori Jeeves Charlie Markham Mason Millard Hamza Sajid Ella Taylor</p> <p>7 Hawking Isaac Boadu Valentina Carrasco Maisie Cawley Cody Collard Leo Davey Grace Douglas Adam Gancarz Jessie Greaves Callum Hughes Kaydence Mbangu Harvey Meager Mia Roberts Finlay Robinson Teagan Rogers Max Shuckard Larry Tate Lucas Viezzer Leo Willson</p> <p>7 Lytton Ishan Aggarwal Jackson Buttress Hayden Cattigan Lucas Dookhun Nancy Fagan Riley Farron Charlie Galvin Olivia Gearing Owen Hobbs Samuel Kapay Gabriela Kaukova Isabelle McCarthy Swazie Monaghan</p>	<p>Ayla Pinney Daisy Tebbutt Louis Trichardt</p> <p>7 Mandela Alicia Anastasi Bobby-Joe Andrews Braidon Birney-Goff Alli Bragg Harrison Dealey Maia Ghumania Tyler Groome Henry Hames Ruby Hunt Ariel Idumu-Amaechi Ossie Johnson Kieron Keaveney Lily-Marie King Andrei Kolotushkin Alfie Norris Harmonie Walker</p> <p>7 Parks Asia-Kai Buena Michael Chapman George Cooper Harvey Cowley Brooke Felters Lottie Hardy Oliver Hasip Olivia Hickey Linus Hockley Dantes Joseph Zachary Lines Summer Michelin Liliana Nieckarz Leah Pedley Alfie Pickles James Slatter Zachary Twiggs Leo Webb</p> <p>7 Turing Joshua Armer Imogen Darling Beloved Egwaoje Tommy Haworth-Maggs Maizie Mcduffus</p>	<p>Gino Tocchini</p> <p>7 Franklin Melody Buxton Hollie Clark Chase Curtis Julia Druzbankska Lexi Hannibal Layland Hill Darsi-Bleu King Lily Lawrence Chloe Lincoln Jamie Marney Raphael Mcurdock Angus Moore-Shields Theo Petrou Roxy Taylor Zachary Taylor Lissy Thompson-Brown Jadah Chipangura Ashton Hungwe Albert Mhosva Abdul Mumuni</p> <p>8 Anderson Toby Bishop Anna Cebula Kiara Chisenwa Betty Deal Didi Elue Amilie Hopkins Johann Laxa Katie Luckins Halle Miles Ellie O'Connor Libby Tanner Layla-Belle Taylor Hayden White</p> <p>8 Hawking Faith Chen Amie Davies Kaysie Davies Connor Freed Lois Friend Timur Kurbanov Kameron Lagunas-Kayima</p>	<p>Brandon Paterson Laurie Pugh Isaac Redmond George Sadler Grace Stickland Ella Taylor George Taylor James Thake Charlie Tuvey</p> <p>8 Lytton Jayden Benford Bobby Bliss Bella Flaherty Rai Fremichael Riley Hall Lashaun Kaisa Sanjana Kerai Ranulya Kotalawela Lilly Rogers Jack Smith Kieran Smith Miley Thomas Nicholas Zaborowski</p> <p>8 Mandela Harvey Carroll Leon Gallagher Mason Grant Grace Hines Jesse Kirsop Alfie Stride Ruby Walker Austin Woods</p> <p>8 Parks Zachary Arnett Keelie-Ann Beaumont Jayden Clarke Jack Cronin Lewis Farenden Rafael Hilario Savannah Kerby George Rhodes Tom Rhodes Chloe Tibbert Henry Wilson</p>	<p>8 Turing Nyla Allen Gino Anastasi Cameron Burt Lacey Cullum Benjamin David Emmie Devine Kaila-Kelly Grice Eleanor Mcdonald Caitlyn Monk Frank Rozanek Niamh Taylor Thomas Timlin Benjamin Weetman</p> <p>9 Anderson Chloe Banham Jack Cooper Ryan Currell Tia Dickens Angelo Garkov Clara Haworth-Maggs Clara-Louise Hickey Jasmine Hobbs Harley King Bright Kwadwo Joziah-Ray Mbangu Cameron Nicolson Alexander Noble Archie Pickles Olga Potocka Roisin Roberts-Mcneilly Abigail Slater Luke Windle</p> <p>9 Hawking Beau Brewster Molly Day Gracie Durrant Anhua Fernandez Dalila Fernando Finley Griffin Archie Hoad Dominic Mccarthy Ryley-James Sullivan Kalen Tarbox Jasper Then-Bergh Olivia Watt</p>
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9 Lytton

Hsian Aguirre
Felicity Atkins
Amelia Brownlee
Princess Buckland
Louie Corbit
Oliver Farr
Jessica Hart
William Housego
George Isherwood
Demi Kruger
Libby Richmond

9 Mandela

Eve Daley
Ellen Aitken
Dexter Allen
Daniel Brassett
Mason Clare
Keirnan De-Lacy
Lily Fagan
Lenny Fisher
Eloise Flowers
Eric Grostate
Eva Gunning
Theo Kent
Andy La
Kristina Lewinton
Michael Olabanji
Jayna Raiytt
Sam Slatter
Rafa Viezzer
Lois Welsh
Arron Ziobakas

9 Parks

Verity Burnham
Diya Dhondee

Tyrese Finch
Taylor James
Dexter Rodway
Lucas Willcox

9 Turing

Jared Allen
Ehis George
Kacei Griffith
Ebonie Peters
Harry Rice
Vladimir Rotar
Jamie Tomlinson
Sophia Wheeler

10 Anderson

Annabel Brown
Lauren Hill
Kobie Nevill
Joseph Taylor
Tamara Tindling

10 Hawking

Riley Birney-Goff
Keira De-Lacy
Ella Dillon
Kya Finch
Adonay Fremichael
Ademola Gbakinro
Daniel Hornsey
Maia Keaveney
Oscar Rowe
Alex Skorek
Isla Timms

10 Lytton

Marley Glenville
Harley Hayes

Macey Jacques
Lilly Michelin
Jayden Ngahuro
Dora Sarkozi
Elise Stride

10 Mandela

Nathan Baughan
Lukas Buchanan
Ethan Candler
Ashley Chapman
Sophie Healy
Oliver Housego
Kyle Packard

10 Parks

Francis Culibao
Sophie Gearing
Jasper Ghumania
Charlie Jarvis
Dejoie Joseph
Maksymilian Nieckarz
Archie Parkin
Finley Pennell

10 Turing

Ellie Anastasi
Katie Begbie
Evie Hamm
Oscar Smith
Oliver Winnan

11 Anderson

Sameeh Ahmeddeen
Lilith Albrecht
Max Ambler
Archie Bell
James Chapman

Cameron Charlton
Maisie Hames
Katie Hart
Eloise Howse
Ethan Luckins
Samuel Moore
Caleb Olusegun
Daniel Stackman
April Warwick

11 Hawking

Niamh-Lisa Barnes
Jake Culibao
Katie Dawson
Theo Dawson
Alfie Dickens
Freddie Holmes
Riley Kleiser
Kyle Ncube
Tommy Ngo
Codi Rowley-Connolly
Isobel Sterling
Rhys Stratton
Rebecca Wood

11 Lytton

Conor Divers
Shay Flaherty
Ella Graves
Harley-Ann Grice
Nathan Hill
Albie Johnson
Riley Josh
Olivia Mann
Alfie Noakes
Libby Owen
Jonathan Seeley

11 Mandela

Harrison Taylor
Aylin Bonser
Xander Burt
Callum Cubis
Daegan Den Heijer
Kai Frost
Alfie Jarvis
Jonnell Mbangus
Oliver Paramor
Phoebe Shadbolt
Chloe Treglohan

11 Parks

Lucia Allen
Rhys Baldwin
Callum Channa
Ashton Cowan
Lewis Currell
Liam Du Plessis
Freddie Roads
Charlie Sadler
Hollie Turner
Joe Venmore

11 Turing

Josh Baker
Leona Caulfield
Jack Johnson
Morgan Kane
Rose Knight
Archie Robertson

House Points**Anderson**

12737

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.

**Hawking**

12559

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.

**Lytton**

11047

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.

**Mandela**

13883

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.

**Parks**

13121

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.

**Turing**

14110

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 Turing with 14110 points. Last updated 7.11.2023

Head of Year News

Year 7 - Mrs C Hunt

We recently hosted the Crucial Crew event, where our students had the privilege of engaging in insightful discussions with representatives from the police, ambulance and fire services. Additionally, they benefited from an informative session with the organisation Mind and even had the opportunity to learn CPR.

I would like to extend a congratulations to those students who consistently exemplify our core values encapsulated in the Three R's: respect, responsibility, relationships.

Please remind students the importance of kindness and respect towards their peers, both in person and in their interactions on social media platforms.

Year 8 - Mr K Amstutz

We are thrilled to celebrate the U14 girls' football team's triumph in the county cup game. Their teamwork, dedication and hard work have made us proud. It's a victory that reflects the support of our school community, coaches and parents.

In addition, we're delighted to highlight the incredible dedication of our students, with nearly all Year forms exceeding 3000 merits each. This remarkable achievement showcases their commitment to academics and their positive conduct within our school community

Year 9 - Miss G Picone

As we welcome our students back, I want to express our gratitude for your continuous support. Your involvement in your child's education journey is invaluable, and we truly appreciate your commitment to their academic and personal development.

As we move through the academic year, I wanted to provide you with important information regarding the Year 9 options process and some key dates you should be aware of. We understand that this is a significant year for our Year 9 students as they prepare to choose their options for Key Stage 4 and we are dedicated to providing the necessary support and guidance to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Here are the essential dates for your calendar (please note that these dates are subject to change):

Thursday 11th January: Parent Teacher Consultation

Thursday 18th January: Year 9 Options Evening (KS4 Pathways)

Tuesday 5th March: Options Interview Evening

Friday 8th March: Options Deadline

Lastly, I would like to emphasise the importance of the School Reporting Platform (SHARPS). It is a

valuable tool for students to report and record any concerns or issues. We have a dedicated team working diligently around the clock to address and resolve these concerns promptly.

Access SHARPS here:

<https://ridgeway.thesharpsystem.com/>

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We are excited to continue working together to provide the best possible educational experience for your child. Wishing you and your child a successful and productive term ahead.

Year 10 - Mrs M Tinker

A big thank you to all the students who have settled into lessons and made positive choices this half term. You have shown respect to staff and students alike and taken responsibility for your own progress. Well done.

We are going to be doing a reading drive. Encouraging all Year 10s to bring in a reading book of their choice to read each afternoon.

You will soon be getting work experience information. Please make sure that all placement details are in by the deadlines set.

Year 11 - Mr M Pring

Year 11 have continued their excellent attendance at Friday Intervention. This will continue to run every Friday between 3-5pm in Attimore Hall.

A strong start to the Mock exam period has been pleasing to see. The students have been extremely studious and working very hard to maximise their outcomes.

We hope as many of you as possible will be attending the 6th form information evening that takes place Next Thursday (9th November) in the 6th form centre.

Sixth Form - Mrs N Picariello

Year 12 students are currently taking part in the Welwyn and Hatfield Community Challenge, having attended workshops on the topic of domestic violence. They are in two teams producing an assembly that they will run in school week commencing 27th November and will be visited by an independent judge to assess the effectiveness of their campaigns.

Year 13 are now working hard to decide on their steps once the exams are finished next summer, be that apprenticeships, University or starting work. There is lots of support available in school to help them with this; Mrs Picariello is starting to become overwhelmed with Personal Statements for checking!

Both Year 12 and 13 will be assisting at the Post 16 Information Evening on 9th November - looking forward to seeing lots of Year 11 families and seeing our Sixth Form continue to grow.

Pastoral Reminder

Uniform Expectations: We kindly request your assistance in ensuring that your child adheres to our uniform expectations and standards. If there are any issues regarding the uniform, please communicate with your child's form tutor. We believe that a uniform not only fosters a sense of belonging but also prepares our students for their future in a professional world.

Equipment Requirements: To support a productive learning environment, students have been provided with clear guidelines on what equipment is expected for school. Please ensure your child has the following essential items with them:

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

Finally please remember students are expected to be on site by 08:25am. The school gate will close at 08:25am.

Charity Day

To celebrate the 100th Year Anniversary of the discovery of insulin treatment for type 1 diabetes, Ridgeway held a "type onesie day" where students paid £1 to come to school in a onesie or mufty with an item of blue clothing. **A total of £592.10 was raised.**



Attendance News

Is my child too ill for school?

There are clear government guidelines for schools that say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. The below guidance taken from the NHS website and includes information on common childhood illnesses where school is missed when it needn't be. It is vital to follow this, as school will not authorise your child's absence if they feel they are well enough to be in school (this could lead to consequences for parents/carers, which we would like to avoid!):

- **Coughs and Colds** It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Sore Throat** You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a fever, they should stay at home until the fever goes away.
- **Menstrual Cramps** School should not be missed due to 'the time of the month'. It's important for your child to have pads or tampons with them at all times and ensure that they are comfortable making regular trips to the bathroom. Consider a suitable 'hiding place' for products, whether it be a spare 'pencil case' or a side pocket of their bag as some children can feel nervous about sanitary products being discovered. It's also a good idea to have a spare pair of underwear in case of emergency. Consider whether medication is needed if nausea and pain is recurring and talk to school about whether this can be stored for use at school, or whether your child will need to take this before school. We have emergency products available should a child not have access to them. Please make your child aware that teachers and staff at school will be more than prepared to help with this problem.
- **Conjunctivitis** You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Head Lice and Nits** There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You should treat your child and send them into school.
- **Vomiting or Diarrhoea** Your child should stay at home until 24 hours after the last time they were sick.

Mrs M Tinker
Assistant Headteacher

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: vistastalbens@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.vistastalbens.org.uk
www.facebook.com/Vistastalbens



Pastoral Review Day

On **Wednesday 22nd** and **Thursday 23rd November 2023**, Ridgeway Academy is hosting our Pastoral Review Day. The school will be closed for all students on Thursday 23rd November and work can be accessed via google classroom throughout the day. This is an important opportunity for you and your child to discuss with key staff their pastoral development.

The event will run on Wednesday evening from 4.00pm to 7.00pm and on Thursday morning from 8.15am to 1.15pm and will give parents and carers the opportunity to meet either virtually or face to face in school.

To make your booking, you will need to log into our booking system using this link <https://ridgewayacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk>

Author Visit

On Tuesday we had a visit from award winning children's author Chris Bradford.

Chris has written the Bodyguard book series, Young Samurai and The Soul Hunters Series.



Mrs J Norris
Librarian



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.



School Vacancies

The school is currently recruiting for the following roles:

- Science Technician**
- Teacher of Mathematics**
- Trainee IT Technician**
- (Cover) Learning Supervisor (Full or Part Time)**
- Behaviour Improvement Officer**
- Attendance Administrator**
- Attendance Improvement Officer**

For more information visit:
<https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

Mrs K Biss
Human Resources Officer

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



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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 8

Year 8 students with the most reward points from each house over the last 5 school days.

Name	Tutor Group
Eva Harrison	8 Anderson
Jack Ferris	8 Turing
Johann Laxa	8 Anderson
Finn Stratton	8 Parks
Jack Cronin	8 Parks
Katie Luckins	8 Anderson
James Seeley	8Anderson
Lewis Farenden	8Parks
Rafael Hilario	8Parks
Kiara Chisenwa	8Anderson

Top 20 House Points

Top 20 House Point Achievers 9th October to 7th November 2023.

Name	Tutor Group	Points
Theo Kent	9 Mandela	61
Jayna Raiytt	9 Mandela	60
Michael Olabanji	9 Mandela	58
Andy La	9 Mandela	56
Rihan Aajiz	9 Mandela	54
Lois Welsh	9 Mandela	48
Ethan Newvell-Pentney	10 Parks	39
Millie Moat	9 Mandela	37
Arron Ziobakas	9 Mandela	36
Ellen Aitken	9 Mandela	35
Eloise Flowers	9 Mandela	35
Kristina Lewinton	9 Mandela	35
Dexter Allen	9 Mandela	34
Daniel Brassett	9 Mandela	34
Mason Clare	9 Mandela	34
Keirnan De-Lacy	9 Mandela	34
Lenny Fisher	9 Mandela	34
Eric Grostate	9 Mandela	34
James Morfey	9 Mandela	34
Sam Slatter	9 Mandela	34

Theme of the Week

Armistice Day

An armistice is a formal agreement of warring parties to stop fighting.

The Armistice Day Service commemorates the signing of the Armistice which brought an end to the First World War and remembers all those who gave their lives in service to their country since 1914.



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





Christmas

ART COMPETITION

NOV | **30** | 2023

The art department are looking for the best Christmas card design that they can send home to the Ridgeway community this festive season.

To enter:

Create a Christmas card design no bigger than A5.
It must be creative and well presented.

Please bring your entries to Miss Smith before the deadline.

Best of luck!

**ALL ENTRIES WILL
RECEIVE AN R2**



Subject Focus - PE

It has been an incredibly busy time in the PE department with a multitude of fixtures taking place. We are proud to share some notable results from recent games:

Year 7 football played against Monks Walk, with a close game resulting in a loss of 4-3.

Our Year 7 football team bounced back with a fantastic victory against Mount Grace, winning 2-1.



Unfortunately, our Year 7 football team faced a tough challenge against Dame Alice Owens and lost 1-5.

Year 9 played against Yavneh in an intense match, with a final score of 4-6.

Our Year 11 team had a hard-fought game against Nicholas Breakspear, narrowly losing 2-1.

We are delighted to announce that our Year 11 team secured a well-deserved victory against Dame Alice Owens, winning 2-1.

Our U13 girls' team played an outstanding game against Loreto school, winning convincingly with a score of 6-1.

The U14 girls' team showcased their talent by defeating Katherine Warrington school with a score of 4-1.



In netball, we had some exciting matches as well:

Year 7 and 8 played against Mount Grace school, winning one match and losing another.

Year 7 and 9 faced Onslow, with the Year 7 team unfortunately losing 4-2, but the Year 9 team securing a remarkable victory with a score of 10-1.



Celebrations from the Week:

This week, our students focused on cross-country running. They were taught valuable skills such as pacing themselves and setting personal targets. Throughout the week, students have been striving to improve and surpass their individual goals. The culmination of this activity saw students choosing a course to run from five options and challenging themselves to beat their target. We are impressed by their determination and commitment to personal growth.



A reminder to parents to ensure that all PE kit is clearly named. This simple step makes it much easier for us to return any misplaced items promptly.



We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your continued partnership and support. Our success in the PE department would not be possible without the dedication and involvement of our wonderful families. We are grateful for the trust you place in us and look forward to further enriching your child's physical education experience.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Mr J Chappell
PE Subject Leader

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 concerningly, 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



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



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.

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

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION



RASC
CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

DEADLINE SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

ALL DONATED ITEMS MUST BE:

- BRAND NEW & SEALED
- UNWRAPPED
- SUITABLE FOR AGES 0-15

WITH THE HELP OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WE HAVE NOW COLLECTED OVER 750 TOYS, INCLUDING OVER 100 IN 2022!

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

ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT US ON:
01707 351 352 OR
GOODSHIP@RIDGEWAY.AAT.SCHOOL



You may remember from previous years that we take part in a Christmas Toy Collection on behalf of the Children's Charity at Lister Hospital.

Last year, we managed to collect over 100 presents with your help, bringing our overall total over 7 years to 750. We are keen to improve on that number this year.

So we are once again asking for your assistance, all items must be brand new and in original packaging due to hygiene reasons. They should be suitable for 0-15 year olds and do not need to be 'Christmas themed' as they are distributed throughout the year.

If you would like to donate, please drop them off to the Sports Centre or Main Reception by **Sunday 10th December**.

Full details can be found on the attached poster, thank you in advance for your support.

Community Sessions at Ridgeway Academy


There is so much going on at Ridgeway Academy, with over 1,000 people taking part in community based sessions during the evenings, weekends and holiday periods.

We were very pleased to welcome Strive Football Academy in October Half Term for the first time. Coaching is delivered by UEFA qualified, ex-

Tottenham player Jesse Waller Lassen. They will be running in the New Year so keep an eye out for dates. <https://strivefootballacademy.com/>



Welwyn Garden City Youth FC are pleased to announce their new TIKA-TAKA Mini sessions for children aged 4-7. They take place on our brand new 3G every Saturday morning from 9-10am. Full details can be found on the poster.



WELWYN GARDEN CITY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

TIKA-TAKA

Mini-Soccer Sessions

FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 4-7

Contact Luke Marshment
07958 486 568
admin@wgcyouthfc.co.uk

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY 3G
SATURDAY 9 - 10AM

£6

A-Z Basketball, in partnership with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council are again offering FREE Basketball sessions every Thursday evening from 7-8pm in our Sports Hall. Full details can be found on the poster.

Stevenage FC Foundation are still running their FREE Premier League KICKS programme every Friday night from 8-9pm on our brand new 3G pitch. Full details can be found on the poster.

For a full list of facilities available, list of our hirers and more, please visit <https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/sports-centre-bookings/>

A-Z BASKETBALL

 Ridgeway Academy Sports Hall

 7-8pm

 Every Thursday
2 November - 7 December

→ For 11-16 year olds

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





STEVENAGE FC FOUNDATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Premier League Kicks

PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY SPORTS CENTRE, HERNS LANE,
WELWYN GARDEN CITY, AL7 2AF

EVERY FRIDAY, 8-9:00PM

FREE FOOTBALL FOR 8-18 YEAR OLDS

 #SFCFKICKS

Sign up by scanning the QR code!




Mr R Goodship
Sports Centre Manager



Standards for Learning

Ridgeway Routines must be consistently conformed to:

- Full uniform, worn correctly at all times - top buttons, blazers, no black jumpers which aren't Ridgeway logo
- Students are equipped and ready for learning
- All students stand behind chairs in silence at the start of lessons
- Green pen REACT or Recall starters are completed in silence EVERY LESSON
- Students must be on time to all lessons. Sanctions issued for more than 5 minutes late - C3
- All students stand behind chairs in silence for a uniform check before leaving the classroom row by row

Equipment

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)



Consequences

C1 will be logged for a lack of equipment (daily).

3 x C1 within a week will result in a C3.

Tutors will be communicating with parents regarding missing equipment

Equipment can be purchased from reception where necessary

Parents will be communicated with to ensure they ensure all students are equipped and ready to learn

Support may be given to families who may be struggling with providing equipment through contacting their Head of Year

The Ridgeway

- Holding high standards of uniform and equipment is the easiest way to show your teachers you are ready and willing to learn.
- Having respect for yourself and ensuring you are ready to learn is one of the most important things you can do at school
- School is for learning and every lesson counts - this means **arriving on time, with correct uniform and equipment, with the correct mindset.**
- Missing equipment slows learning down and causes unnecessary conflict with teachers

It is the Ridgeway to be prepared for learning and take responsibility for this!

Mrs L Hyde
Deputy Headteacher

School Term and Holiday Dates 2023-24

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Thursday 23 rd November	Pastoral Review Day (school closed to pupils)
Friday 24 th November	Occasional Day
Wednesday 20 th December	Last Day of Term

SPRING TERM 2024

Thursday 4 th January	Inset / Training Day
Friday 5 th January	Start of Term
Thursday 11 th January	Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation
Thursday 18 th January	Year 9 Options Evening (KS4 Pathways)
Thursday 25 th January	Extended Learning Day
Thursday 15 th and Friday 16 th February	Inset / Training Days
Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd February	Half Term
Tuesday 5 th March	Year 9 Options Interview Evening
Friday 8 th March	Year 9 Options Deadline
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)

