



Issue 105  
Fortnightly  
December 2023  
Week 1

# Ridgeway Academy

## Senior Prize Giving

It was lovely to see so many students (past and present) and their families at Monday night's Senior Prize Giving event. During this event we were able to celebrate the success of so many students that have done themselves, and the school proud. It really was a pleasure to be able to recognise all of the hard work and effort that students put in to achieve their goals.

It was also lovely to hear about what some of our former students have been getting up to this academic year, one of whom has been enjoying life as a student at Oxford University.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Mr R Nelson**  
Assistant Headteacher

## SEND Team

The SEND team continue to work hard to support our students in class and we are seeing two further TAs joining us in January as well as a full time Admin Assistant. Teaching staff enjoyed specialist training from Chris from SPACE guiding staff with practical tips to support students with ASD in the classroom. Abigail Hawkins, SENSibleSENCO has worked with the Teaching and Learning team at Ridgeway to develop further learning strategies and will train all staff in refining their practice when adapting their approaches in the classroom to ensure maximum progress for all.

Mrs C Oakes  
**AAT Director of School Improvement,  
Secondary**

## Year 11 Intervention

There are only four weeks until the next round of Year 11 PPE's. To support with this, Year 11 subject specific intervention starts on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

This intervention schedule will continue until the exams in the summer. Intervention focus has now switched to the terminal exams, students who have coursework elements still to complete should speak to their teacher and complete the work either at lunchtime, Tuesday afterschool or Friday afterschool.

### Maths

Monday After School

### Chemistry

Monday Before School

### Science

Wednesday After School

### English

Thursday Before and After School

### Philosophy & Ethics

Friday After School

### French / Spanish

Every Lunchtime

### Geography

Every Lunchtime

### Core Exam Practice

Friday 3-5pm with Mr Pring

Mrs E Welsh

**Examinations Officer**

## AAT News

*Keeping in Touch with the AAT*

[www.academiestrust.org.uk](http://www.academiestrust.org.uk)  
[info@albanacademiestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@albanacademiestrust.org.uk)



Alban Academies Trust

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[https://  
newsletter.albanacademiestrust.org.uk/  
index.php?edition=2023-12-18](https://newsletter.albanacademiestrust.org.uk/index.php?edition=2023-12-18)

# 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 - 8<sup>th</sup> November to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

<b>7 Anderson</b> Marley Archer Martin Bhala Tyler Burr Ethan Butler Jaeden Charles Aanya Ganatra Autumn Griffiths Rayyan Ibrahim Lexie-Mai Ingham Mason Millard Emma Righini Carrington	Louis Trichardt Riley Woodhead	Angus Moore-Shields Maisie Norris Roxy Taylor Zachary Taylor Alfie Welch Nathan Wynn Ashton Hungwe Abdul Mumuni	Owen Thorogood Charlie Tuvey	Cameron Burt Emmie Devine Jack Ferris Alina Ibrahim Caitlyn Monk Phoenix Reeve Frank Rozanek Samuel Smith Maika Taylor Niamh Taylor Chloe Thompson
<b>7 Hawking</b> Harley Ashton Valentina Carrasco Maisie Cawley Daisy Cousins Grace Douglas Jessie Greaves Olivia Matthews Kaydence Mbangu Harvey Meager Mia Roberts Finlay Robinson Max Shuckard Lucas Viezzer Leo Willson	<b>7 Mandela</b> Gracie Agombar-Cope Alissia Anastasi Braidon Birney-Goff Harrison Dealey Frankie Frayling Maia Ghumania Ariel Idumu-Amaechi Kieron Keaveney Lily-Marie King Reilly-Kai Lennox Tinashe Max Alfie Norris Bo Robson Evie Williams	<b>7 Turing</b> Joshua Armer Beloved Egwaoje Troy Harris Tommy Haworth-Maggs Gino Tocchini Corey-James Walters	<b>8 Lytton</b> Bobby Bliss Bella Flaherty Ranulya Kotalawela Lilly Rogers Kieran Smith Miley Thomas Jaeden Umali Layla Worcester	<b>9 Anderson</b> Aimee Andrews Ella Dickens Clara Haworth-Maggs Harley King Bright Kwadwo Joziah-Ray Mbangu Cameron Nicolson Archie Pickles Olga Potocka Roisin Roberts-Mcneilly Poppy Wheeler
<b>7 Lytton</b> Ayden Akinkugbe Annie Bailey Theodore Bovington Jackson Buttress Hayden Cattigan Tegan Cook Darcey Davey Lucas Dookhun Nancy Fagan Owen Hobbs Samuel Kapay Swazie Monaghan Daisy Tebbutt	<b>7 Parks</b> Michael Chapman Harvey Cowley Brooke Felters Dantes Joseph Summer Michelin Liliana Nieckarz Alfie Pickles James Slatter Jaiden Solo Imogen Turner Zachary Twiggs Nathan Waite Leo Webb	<b>8 Anderson</b> Toby Bishop Kiara Chisenwa Didi Elue Eva Harrison Amilie Hopkins Johann Laxa Katie Luckins Halle Miles Ellie O'Connor James Seeley Libby Tanner Hayden White Mati Wierzbinski	<b>8 Mandela</b> India Arm Harvey Carroll Lacey-Mae Cushing Lexi Gorman Lois Grostate Jesse Kirsop Cassie Messer Olivia Miller Sienna Stevens Ruby Walker Lewis Webb Austin Woods	<b>9 Hawking</b> Molly Day Dalila Fernando Jessica Fouracre Poppy Handley Tilly Johnson Rhys Kirby George Mann Dominic Mccarthy Ebony Slater Ryley-James Sullivan Kalen Tarbox Jasper Then-Bergh Amber Whorlow
	<b>7 Franklin</b> Melody Buxton Michael Carolan Chase Curtis Julia Druzbanaska Lexi Hannibal Layland Hill Lily Lawrence Chloe Lincoln Raphael Mcmurdock	<b>8 Hawking</b> Lois Friend Gabrielle Howell Sinead Kimber Timur Kurbanov Lola Mchugh Brandon Paterson Laurie Pugh George Sadler Grace Stickland James Thake	<b>8 Parks</b> Jasmine Bamgboye Keelie-Ann Beaumont Jayden Clarke Jack Cronin Lewis Farenden Savannah Kerby Joshua Masson George Rhodes Tom Rhodes Finn Stratton Henry Wilson	<b>9 Lytton</b> Hsian Aguirre Felicity Atkins
		<b>8 Turing</b> Nyla Allen Gino Anastasi Brian Brahimetaj		

Lucy Bailey  
Princess Buckland  
Louie Corbit  
Lacey Ealy  
Luke Emms  
Amelia Hembury  
William Housego  
George Isherwood  
Tegan O'Leary  
Libby Richmond

**9 Mandela**

Eve Daley  
Ellen Aitken  
Isabella Bowman  
Daniel Brassett  
Louise Brogan-Williams  
Mason Clare  
Eloise Flowers  
Theo Kent  
Millie Moat  
Michael Olabanji

**9 Parks**

Seth Berry  
Shylah-Malia Buena  
Verity Burnham  
Diya Dhondee  
Tyrese Finch  
Priya Flack  
Harley Ingham  
Taylor James  
Isabella Newvell-  
Pentney

Dexter Rodway  
Ria Seetaram  
Solara Turner  
Megan Upton  
Lucas Willcox

**9 Turing**

Ehis George  
Alan Kedzierski  
Ebonie Peters  
Vladimir Rotar  
Scarlett Rowe  
Jamie Tomlinson  
Olivia Turner  
Daisy Wakefield  
Sophia Wheeler

**10 Anderson**

Kian Baldwin  
Jessica Giagkoulli  
Kobie Nevill  
Evie Read  
Victor Rotar  
Sophie Savage  
Daniel Smith  
Amalia Taylor  
Joseph Taylor

**10 Hawking**

Sonny Anderson  
Sophie Brown  
Aydan Burrows  
Isabella Clark  
Ella Dillon  
Harry Edwards

Kya Finch  
Ademola Gbakinro  
Daniel Hornsey  
Maia Keaveney  
Oscar Rowe  
Alex Skorek  
Jaden Taylor

**10 Lytton**

Katie Cecil-Little  
Ella Goudge  
Harley Hayes  
Lilly Michelin  
Jayden Ngahuro  
Dora Sarkozi  
Ava Surry  
Carson Wiese

**10 Mandela**

Ethan Candler  
Maddie Hamm  
Freya Harris  
Lexie Hill  
Oliver Housego  
Kyle Packard  
Kristian Stenson  
Luca Teixeira  
Harmonie Young

**10 Parks**

Reece Cooper  
Francis Culibao  
Dejoie Joseph  
Connor Kennedy  
Ethan Newvell-

Pentney  
Maksymilian Nieckarz  
Anna-Mae Van  
Niekerk

**10 Turing**

Ellie Anastasi  
Charles Cranfield  
Callum Gabi-Byrne  
Evie Hamm  
Emily Horsley  
Callum Howse  
Harley Schobs  
Oscar Smith  
Corby Wood

**11 Anderson**

Max Ambler  
Archie Bell  
James Chapman  
Cameron Charlton  
Maisie Hames  
Eloise Howse  
David James  
Ethan Luckins  
Samuel Moore  
Caleb Olusegun  
Daniel Stackman

**11 Hawking**

George Amaricai  
Theo Dawson  
Jack McHugh  
Rebecca Wood

**11 Lytton**

Ryan De-Lacy  
Conor Divers  
Shay Flaherty  
Olivia Mann  
Amy Miller  
Alfie Noakes

**11 Mandela**

Aylin Bonser  
Xander Burt  
Robyn Cross  
Callum Cubis  
Ethan Hutcheson  
Jonnell Mbangus  
Isla Poulter  
Chloe Treglohan

**11 Parks**

Callum Channa  
Liam Du Plessis  
Jay Field  
Brooke Pyett  
Freddie Roads

**11 Turing**

Leona Caulfield  
Cameron Jones  
Archie Metcalfe

**House Points**

**Anderson**



22758

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**



22911

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**



23344

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**



26791

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**



24880

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**



26756

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 26791 points. Last updated 12.12.2023

## Head of Year News

### Year 7 - Mrs C Hunt

Year 7 has truly excelled, with an impressive 93% of all behaviour events reflecting positive engagement and exemplary conduct. The collective efforts of the students have propelled them to first place, amassing an outstanding 35,000 positive points. A special congratulations to Parks, the current Year 7 house winners, who have earned themselves a well-deserved form prize. As the festive season approaches, the anticipation for the upcoming panto adds an extra layer of excitement. Wishing all of Year 7 a well-earned and enjoyable Christmas break when it comes. Keep up the fantastic work!

### Year 8 - Mr K Amstutz

As we approach the end of term it is great to see how much Year 8 have developed. They have had over 32,000 positive points awarded to them since September alone. I am immensely proud of Year 8 who have had a challenging term and throughout it all have worked incredibly hard across all subjects.

Have a restful break and I look forward to seeing all of Year 8 in the New Year.

### Year 9 - Miss G Picone

As we approach the end of another term and bid farewell to 2023, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to the families of our students for your unwavering support throughout the year. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the incredible teams of educators and staff who have worked tirelessly to support our students.

Observing the year group in the lessons, witnessing their kind interactions around each other, and seeing their resiliency in various competitions against other schools have been highlights of the academic term. Your children continue to impress us with their talents, determination and spirit. Well done for receiving 13,450 house points so far this year. A special congratulations to our House Winners: 9 Mandela.

Looking ahead, the next term will be a pivotal one for the year group as they embark on the journey of making decisions about their future academic paths and options. It is an exciting and crucial time, and we are here to guide and support them every step of the way.

Before we delve into the upcoming challenges and opportunities, I want to wish each and every one of you a restful and well-deserved holiday break. May it be filled with joy, relaxation and quality time with loved ones.

### Year 10 - Mrs M Tinker

As we draw near to the end of the first term I would like to congratulate Year 10 on the resilience they have shown. You have gone above and beyond, on what has been a challenging term. There have been a total of 24,373 positive points issued this term. I am

very proud of you. Thank you. Have a restful Christmas break, enjoy the time with your families and return refreshed and ready for Term 2.

### Year 11 - Mr M Pring

Congratulations to all Year 11 students on your Mock Exam results which were handed out last week. Fantastic to see the amount of progress which has been made across the year group. It is important to remember that this is NOT the finish line and there is plenty of time to go before the summer to improve even further.

The intervention timetable for January has now been finalised and will be sent to parents in a Year 11 newsletter before Christmas. This timetable will also be displayed around school.

Friday intervention continues to be incredibly popular, this Friday we will be ordering pizzas for students who are working hard. In the New Year, Friday intervention will continue with a focus on the Core Mock Exams in February.

Well Done to the Year 11 Football team who played magnificently against St. Clement Danes this week and represented the school superbly, a real credit to Ridgeway!

### Sixth Form - Mrs N Picariello

This week Year 12 students took part in the Welwyn and Hatfield Youth Challenge, presenting assemblies to Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 on the subject of domestic violence. They did a fantastic job - well done!

One of our Year 13s had an amazing opportunity to attend a pre-screening of the new Wonka movie at the Soho Hotel in London, followed by a Q&A session with some of the production team and an amazing Wonka Themed buffet.

Finally we want to wish our students a restful festive break, and wish Year 13 well with their revision ready for Pre Public Exams in the first week back!

## Theme of the Week

### Charity at Christmas and Celebration Assemblies

Giving to charity is one way of extending that warm feeling of doing something good for other people. Supporting those who are struggling, like those living alone, on the streets, or unable to pay bills, is one way of spreading the hope and joy that's traditionally at the heart of Christmas.



## Staffing Update

As you are aware there is a national shortage of teachers with training numbers reducing significantly therefore schools across the country are finding it challenging to recruit subject specialists.

We work as part of the AAT to recruit the highest quality teachers and support staff. We will still have some vacancies in English, Maths and Drama for January but are currently advertising and interviewing and hope to be able to update you soon. In the meantime we work with our teaching agencies to employ long term qualified teachers to ensure students' learning is not disrupted. After a very busy period of recruitment we are pleased to update families on the new staff who are joining our Ridgeway Academy team in January.

In English we have Taslima Hannan a very experienced English teacher and exam marker, she will join the team as Assistant Subject Leader.

Luke Gallagher will join as Pastoral Head of Year and teacher of PE and Science, he is looking forward to getting to know the students and has already spent a day at Ridgeway familiarising himself with the pastoral systems and meeting the team.

We are also welcoming Justine Webb, a Lead Practitioner in Maths, Justine has a wide range of experience including being a Head of Maths, she will work to further develop the Maths curriculum and quality of teaching alongside Mr Ahmad, Head of Maths.

In addition to this Emma Russell has joined the Performing Arts teaching team permanently as Teacher of Drama, we have been very impressed with the quality of work the students in her classes have been producing so far and we look forward to seeing the Performing Arts team continue to flourish.

We also have Stuart Turkentine joining Ridgeway Academy in February as ITT and ECT co-ordinator and teacher of PE. He is currently Head of PE and we look forward to welcoming him into the team after February half term.

In our support staff team we are also welcoming four new Teaching Assistants, an additional SEND administrator to support the excellent work of the SENDCO team, an additional attendance administrator and an IT Technician apprentice.

We look forward to our new staff joining us, please look out for further updates regarding recruitment in the future editions of Ridgeway News.

Mrs L Hyde  
Deputy Headteacher

[Download the full Fire & Rescue Service Newsletter here.](#)

Hertsmere Welwyn and Hatfield

Quarterly Schools Newsletter



# Welcome! Winter 2023

To our bumper Winter edition of the Schools Stay Safe Newsletter.  
Read on for advice on ways to stay safe for you and your family.

## The 12 potential hazards of Christmas!

### 1 Buying a Christmas gift that need a lithium battery.

You may be thinking about buying an E-Scooter for your child this Christmas, but did you know that private e-scooters are currently illegal for use on public roads and cycleways, even though they are widely available for sale?

Did you know lithium batteries can catch fire!  
They must be looked after.

1. Only buy batteries from a reputable manufacturer.
2. Unplug devices when they are fully charged to avoid overheating.
3. Store batteries in a cool dry place.
4. Avoid charging devices overnight, and try to charge outside where possible.



Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

## Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
- Anxiety
- School

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people

Are you a Parent, Carer or Professional?



We Can't:

- Give updates/ fast track places on waiting lists
- Recommend specific private assessors

01272 833963

[supporthub@add-vance.org](mailto:supporthub@add-vance.org)

Open Monday-Friday  
9 AM - 1PM



Here to support, reach out for a listening ear



## 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.

Issue 2 of 2023 www.carersinherts.org.uk

# Carewaves

A Newsletter for Family Carers and Caring Friends

Carers are resilient and determined, which some young carers demonstrated when they tackled a climbing wall at one of our summer events. You can find out more about our upcoming activities for unpaid carers inside!

**Carers in Hertfordshire**  
Charity registration number: 1056431

The latest edition of Carers in Hertfordshire Newsletter Carewaves is available on their [website](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk).

## Attendance News

Description	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning hours lost
<b>Excellent</b>	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
<b>Good</b>	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
<b>Cause for Concern</b>	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
<b>Serious cause for concern</b>	86%	163 days	27	135
<b>Critical</b>	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

Mrs M Tinker  
Assistant  
Headteacher

## History - Berlin Trip

We set off at about half-four in the morning and made our way to Stansted Airport. After some brief confusion at the check-in gates we were through security and onto the duty free, whereby some of the boys went to take advantage of the free samples of 'fragrance' on offer. We landed in Berlin on time and, with only one wheel falling off a student's suitcase, made it to the hotel in one piece. We walked through the centre of Berlin to get to our first stop, walking past some very grand buildings and architecture, which impressed a number of the students.

Our first stop was the 'Palace of Tears', the security checkpoint which saw hundreds of thousands of refugees leave from the Communist East Berlin to the Democratic West. We then had a short 20-minute walk up to see the Soviet response to the exodus of its people, the Berlin Wall. The museum has a section of the Berlin wall still complete that you can walk up to and touch, as well as a museum with artefacts and contemporary video clips close by. Following this and after a very early start we got the tram back to the hotel.



Day two saw us going to Sachsenhausen, one of the earliest concentration camps built by the Nazis. The walls, gate house, watch towers and a good portion of the other buildings are still intact and in their original form, giving the place an authentic and eerie feel. The students split off and went to explore in groups. Following Sachsenhausen we got the train down the Berlin Olympic stadium, a huge arena built by Hitler for the 1936 Berlin games. We had a guided tour around the stadium with a very interesting tour guide who mixed the history of the stadium and the more



recent sporting events. The students took pictures on the press conference table and were impressed to

have 'been where Messi was'. Finally, we set off for the house of the Wannsee conference. This conference was where it was decided that the Nazis were going to commit the Holocaust. It has now been turned into a museum. We had a talk from one of the curators and then went back to the hotel for games of pool and Shuffleboard.

On day three our first stop was the Stasi Museum. The Stasi were East Germany's secret police and their headquarters has been turned into a museum to document and tell the story of the Stasi. We had a very interesting guided tour around the museum with our guide explaining the inner workings of a total police state and showing off the James Bond-esque gadgets that they used. We then left for lunch at check-point Charlie and went to the 'Topography of Terror'. The site of the former SS headquarters to look at how the SS and Gestapo used terror to control the German population. Finally, our day ended with a guided tour around the resistance museum, which looks at all the people who tried to resist Hitler and the Nazis, as well as those who plotted to assassinate him. The students then had some free time in the Mall of Berlin until it was time to go back.



Our final day took us to the iconic Brandenburg Gate in the centre of Berlin and the nearby Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. The students then had some free time to get some lunch and explore this central area of the German capital. Next was the visit to the Reichstag with access to the Reichstag Dome and roof terrace. This very impressive building allows a 360-degree view of Berlin from what feels like one of its tallest buildings. This was our final event of the trip so we made our way to the airport and travelled back without any issues. From speaking with the students it seems like they really enjoyed the trip and learned a lot.



**Vista**  
St Albans Plus Schools' Partnership

**DSPL7** Delivering Special Provision Locally

# 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 01727 519128  
Email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com)

**Dates:**  
Wednesday 29th November  
Wednesday 31st January 2024  
Wednesday 13th March 2024  
Wednesday 8th May 2024  
Wednesday 26th June 2024

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



## Bakeoff

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, the Technology Department were thrilled to host the Technical Challenge of The Great Ridgeway Bake Off 2023. The students had been chosen to take part based on their first entry during half term, their brief being "an autumnal bake". We were blown away with the quality of the entries and it was a tough job picking only 10!!

The technical saw them producing a short crust pastry and making sausage rolls in just an hour. The results were simply mouth-watering. While they all produced excellent dishes, Star Bakers of the challenge were awarded to Chloe Thompson, Finn Stratton and Daisy Cousins – well done.



All 10 of the competitors have now been given 2 weeks to complete their showstoppers, a festive gingerbread house. We can't wait to see (and taste!) them. The final Bake Off winner will be announced at the end of term.

Miss C Malshinger  
**Food Technician**



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

## K2

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Lunchtime Hub Club</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Diversity</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Lunchtime Hub Club</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Young Carers</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Lunchtime Hub Club</b>

**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:

### Attendance Officer

Apply by 9:00am, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### ECT Teacher

Apply by 9:00am, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Teaching Assistant

Apply by 9:00am Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

For more information visit:

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

Mrs K Biss  
**Human Resources Officer**



## Christmas Card Competition

This month we launched a competition in the Art Department for KS3 students to enter. They were tasked with creating a Christmas card design. Over 15 entered the competition. The winner was Kaysie Davies 8H. Well done Kaysie for your excellent Christmas card design!

We would like to take this opportunity to send all of Ridgeway community Season's Greetings.

Miss R Smith  
Tech / Art Teacher



## Parents' Evening Update

Following feedback, where a member of staff is unable to attend Parents' Evening a school comms will be sent home the morning of any Parents' Evening. Please can you check emails and MCAS for communications before attending.

Mr R Nelson  
Assistant Headteacher

## Students of the Week

Students with the most reward points from each house over the last 5 school days.

Name	Tutor Group
Sophie Brown	10 Hawking
Ethan Hutcheson	11 Mandela
Xander Burt	11 Mandela
Gracie Agombar-Cope	7 Mandela
Mila Agapovaite	11 Turing
Stanley Stevens	10 Lytton
Maximo Harris	10 Parks
Max Bentley	11 Lytton
Sean Lennox	10 Parks
Cody Mainer	11 Turing

## Top 20 House Points

Top 20 House Point Achievers 8<sup>th</sup> November to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Name	Tutor Group	Points
Hsian Aguirre	9 Lytton	180
Sienna Stevens	8 Mandela	179
Cassie Messer	8 Mandela	178
India Arm	8 Mandela	173
Max Bentley	11 Lytton	172
Olivia Miller	8 Mandela	169
Conor Divers	11 Lytton	162
Cameron Burt	8 Turing	156
Alfie Norris	7 Mandela	155
Archie Pickles	9 Anderson	155
Michael Olanbaji	9 Mandela	153
Cody Mainer	11 Turing	152
Theo Kent	9 Mandela	151
Louie Corbit	9 Lytton	150
Xander Burt	11 Mandela	150
Felicity Atkins	9 Lytton	149
Lexi Gorman	8 Mandela	148
Libby Richmond	9 Lytton	147
Jamie Tomlinson	9 Turing	147
Ebonie Peters	9 Turing	146

St. Albans Community Pantry

# FESTIVE COMMUNITY FEASTS

Join us for a heartwarming community celebration at our Festive Community Lunches, where holiday cheer awaits everyone!

**12:30pm - 2:30pm**  
 18th December - Cottonmill Community Centre  
 19th December - Fleetville Community Centre  
 20th December - Jubilee Centre  
 21st December - Jersey Farm Community Centre

**Book your FREE place here**

**Come along for:**

- Delicious celebratory dishes from around the globe
- Halal and vegetarian food options
- Live holiday music
- Children's storytelling
- Craft activities
- Winter coats

**Sign up to volunteer here**

**Accessibility**  
 Our intention is to ensure that these events are inclusive for everyone. If you have any specific accessibility requirements, please reach out to our Event Co-ordinator here: stalbanscommunitypantry@gmail.com

**Kindly supported by:**

0808 1753917  
 www.stalbanscommunitypantry.org  
 Charity Reg No. 120440

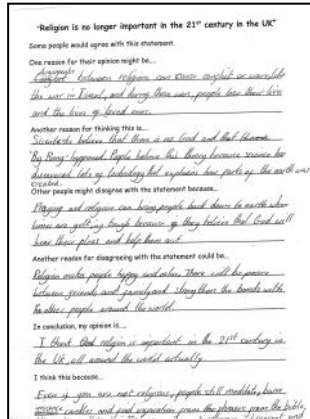
Follow us here

# Subject Focus - Philosophy & Ethics

Welcome to our Philosophy and Ethics News Article! We're excited to share about what our students have been learning this term. Students are exploring the diverse and thought-provoking world of religious studies and ethical inquiries. In this edition, we'll explore various facets, from the rich history of Christianity to the deep-rooted questions about existence, relationships, sports, family life, and the complex topic of crime and punishment.

## Year 7: Ultimate Questions: Pondering Existence and Purpose

In our classrooms, we're engaging in discussions about the ultimate questions that have intrigued humanity for centuries. What is the purpose of life? Why do we exist? These inquiries spark critical thinking and exploration, inviting students to contemplate the deeper meaning behind their existence.

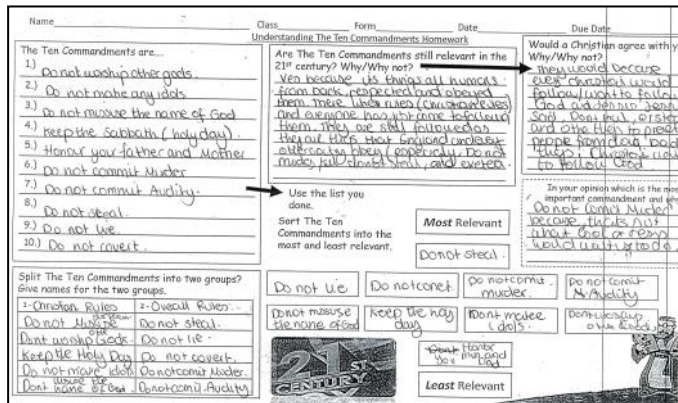


Students enjoyed expressing their ideas on ultimate questions, the place of religion in society and we had a wonderful class debate on whether religion is still relevant in the 21st century.

## Year 8: Exploring Christianity: A Brief Historical Overview

Christianity, spanning over two millennia, carries a rich tapestry of history. From its origins in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to its global presence today, understanding the evolution of this faith provides insights into significant societal shifts, philosophies, and moral frameworks.

Students looked at the Christian moral code and considered whether the 10 commandments are still relevant today.



Religion and Sport: Finding Harmony Sports and religion might seem worlds apart, but their intersection raises intriguing discussions. How does one's faith influence their approach to sportsmanship,

competition, and teamwork? Exploring the values shared between religious teachings and athletic endeavours provides fascinating insights into ethical conduct and personal growth.

## Year 9: Relationships and Family Life: Ethical Perspectives

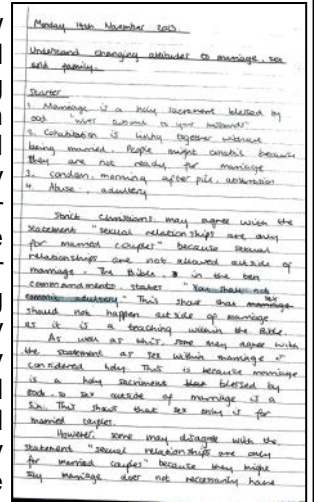
Navigating relationships and family life through an ethical lens is crucial for our students. From exploring diverse family structures to discussing ethical dilemmas in interpersonal relationships, our curriculum aims to foster understanding, empathy, and respect for different perspectives.

TYPES OF FAMILY						
Working with your partner, complete the worksheet						
Name	Nuclear family	Extended Family	Single-parents family	Reconstituted (step-family)	Foster family	Adoptive family
Photo						
Description	Mother, father and biological children	Made of parents, children, uncle, aunt, cousins, grandparents	Only 1 parent bringing up children	Biological parents, non-biological parents, biological children, non-biological children	Parents, fostered children	Parents, adopted children
2 advantages of this type of family	- feeling more connected - more income	- seeing your family more - more help	- more quality time - less stressful	- more family - seeing your parent happily remarried	- more opportunities - meeting new people	- having a family love you (daddy) - can be LGBT parents
2 disadvantages of this type of family	- Parents might argue - both parents may work	- crowded at home - no personal space	- feeling upset without a mother/father figure - less income	- visiting biological parents - having to pick a parent	- in and out of homes - separated from your siblings (sometimes)	- not knowing your real parent - feeling judged

## Year 10: The Golden Rule and Sacraments: Guiding Principles for Spiritual Harmony

The Christian Golden Rule advocates for empathy, compassion, and respect as the foundation of human interactions, fostering understanding and unity in a world of differences.

Year 10 have explored how the Golden Rule and sacraments stand as guiding lights, illuminating the path toward spiritual fulfilment and communal harmony. They remind us of our interconnectedness and the profound impact of our actions on others. Embracing these principles not only enriches our spiritual journey but also nurtures a world where empathy and understanding pave the way for a more compassionate life existence.



## Year 11: Crime and Punishment: Ethics in Society

The complex interplay between crime and punishment is a topic demanding ethical scrutiny. We're delving into discussions about justice, rehabilitation, and the moral implications of various legal systems. Encouraging critical thinking, we aim to equip students with the tools to analyse societal constructs and ethical dilemmas in this context.

Mr J Beka  
Philosophy & Ethics Subject Leader

## Sports Centre News

### Presents Donated to Lister

We were delighted to take 85 presents to Lister Hospital on Thursday 14th December which have been kindly donated by the Ridgeway community. These gifts are greatly appreciated by the hospital and will be given out accordingly across the year to children in their care.



### Christmas Opening Hours

As we approach the Christmas period, we are pleased to share our opening times for the festive season.



December - Jan Holiday

## Opening Hours



WEDNESDAY 20TH	OPEN AS NORMAL
THURSDAY 21ST	OPEN AS NORMAL
FRIDAY 22ND	OPEN AS NORMAL
SATURDAY 23RD	OPEN 8AM-11AM
SUNDAY 24TH - WEDNESDAY 27TH	CLOSED
THURSDAY 28TH - FRIDAY 29TH	OPEN 9AM-12PM
SATURDAY 30TH	OPEN 8AM-11AM
SUNDAY 31ST - MONDAY 1ST JAN	CLOSED
TUESDAY 2ND JAN	OPEN AS NORMAL

### Rambino's Coffee to Go!

We are delighted to announce that Rambino's Coffee have now started to serve hot drinks at Ridgeway Academy during our community time in the evenings and weekends.

We felt this was something we were missing from what we offer the community so we were delighted to work with Rambino's to get this off the ground.



You may recognise the founder of Rambino's, Jason from his work in the local primary schools over the last 20 years so it will be a familiar face making the delicious coffees!

Opening hours will vary to meet demand, so be sure to keep an eye out in the next few weeks. The pod will be situated just outside the Sports Centre, go and say hello to Jason and see what Rambino's have to offer!

Currently, we are expecting the pod to be open on a Tuesday and Friday evening and during the morning on Saturday/Sunday. Over time this will hopefully increase to more evenings.

You can find them on social media: @rambinoscoffee

### 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 visit <https://strivefootballacademy.com/> for further information.

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

## WELWYN GARDEN CITY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB



# 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**

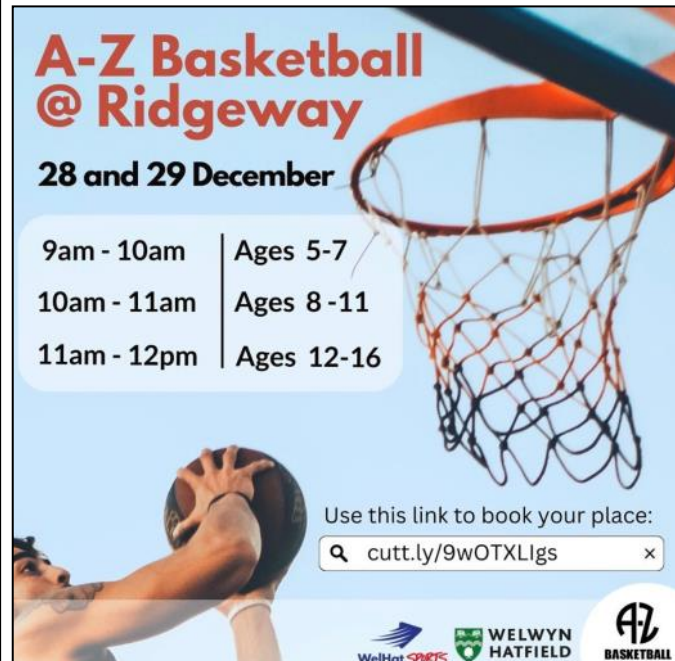


£6

## Sports Centre News continued...

3G every Saturday morning from 9-10am. Full details can be found on the poster.

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. These sessions start on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January until Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



**A-Z Basketball @ Ridgeway**

**28 and 29 December**

9am - 10am	Ages 5-7
10am - 11am	Ages 8-11
11am - 12pm	Ages 12-16

Use this link to book your place:

Logos: Welwyn Hatfield Council, Welwyn Hatfield, A-Z Basketball

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.



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!

Premier League Kicks logo

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

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and see you in 2024!



Mr R Goodship  
Sports Centre Manager



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

# School Term and Holiday Dates 2023-24

## AUTUMN TERM 2023

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December Last Day of Term (school finishes 12:10pm)

## SPRING TERM 2024

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January Inset / Training Day  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January **Start of Term**  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January Year 9 Options Evening (KS4 Pathways)  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January **Extended Learning Day**  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February Year 9 Options Interview Evening  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February Inset / Training Days  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February **Half Term**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March Year 9 Options Deadline  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March **Extended Learning Day**  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March **Last Day of Term**

## SUMMER TERM 2024

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

