



# Ridgeway High School: Weekly Bulletin

29 January 2016

Dear Parents

This week has reminded me of the crucial role that schools play in preparing our young people to be responsible, safe and healthy citizens, taking their place in a fast-changing, stimulating but sometimes bewildering world.

Mr Worthington, our Head of Humanities, delivered a powerful assembly to tie in with Holocaust Memorial Day. Officially commemorated on 27 January—the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945—the organisers of Holocaust Memorial Day adopt a different theme each year. The message this year—seventy years since the end of the Second World War—was ‘Don’t Stand By’.

Taking his inspiration from a talk given by a Holocaust survivor that he attended with a group of Year 10 students who are visiting Auschwitz later this year, Mr Worthington cleverly drew thought-provoking parallels with modern-day world issues. He ended with a simple but important message for all of us—students, staff, parents and the wider community: *don't stand by if you see wrongdoing*.

Next week, we will use assembly to address ‘Safer Internet Week’ - another area of importance to us all. As a school, we take very seriously our obligation to educate students about the potential dangers of the Internet and the need to take steps to stay safe online—safe from harmful content, safe from fraudsters and, of course, safe from predators. Parents also have an important role to play as well as school. In our Parents’ Handbook, you will find advice on steps you can take to ensure that your child is using the Internet safely. Please remember that your child can access the Internet on a variety of devices as well as via a conventional PC—everything from a mobile phone to a PlayStation console.

Meanwhile, I have been talking to the students about ‘Preventing The Gap’ - in other words, how the school continually monitors the progress of all year groups to ensure that everyone is on track and, if an individual student begins to fall behind, what action is taken to quickly close the gap. For example, I have instructed staff to check that, if a student is absent from school, missed work is copied up without delay. In lessons, students will be doing more ‘DIRT’ work. ‘DIRT’ stands for ‘Developed Independent Reflection Time’; it is an expectation that students respond to the comments for improvement that staff write in students’ books as part of their marking.

On Thursday, students in Years 10 and 11 had the opportunity to concentrate on a single subject area for the day in preparation for GCSE examinations. For our younger students, on the other hand, Intensive Study Day enabled them to think about their place in the modern world.

Year 7s had huge fun making soap. It’s actually a great activity for learning about the world of business, enterprise and marketing. Year 8s were out in the real world, exploring the Wirral Way. There was a collective sigh of relief that the weather stayed relatively fair—though there were plenty of muddy shoes on their return. Year 9s were looking at mathematics in the real world, specifically the links between the Fibonacci Sequence, the Golden Ratio and the human body. Wherever possible, we always try to relate students’ learning back to the ‘real’ world to demonstrate the importance of what they are studying.

**Mr T Taylor**  
**Headteacher**