



## Dear Parents

The Ridgeway Charter consists of two aspects. The first is the 'core' - elements such as attendance and achievement points, which are relevant to all students in school, regardless of age. The second aspect is year-group-specific. For older students, it involves participation in activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and post-16 transition events.



Meanwhile, our new Year 7s took part in their first Charter activity last Friday - walking the Wirral Way. I was delighted that they all appear to have had such a fantastic day: their faces were lit up when they got back to school. As well as experiencing the beauty of the local area, this occasion was also about team-building with fellow house members and bonding with the rest of the year group.

In terms of achievement point totals, you can see from the table that King and Teresa are still neck-and-neck. As I mentioned last week, the maths team have been hosting this year's first inter-house competition - a 'Countdown'-themed challenge. You may have seen from their Twitter feed that King House won both the Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 3 competitions, the latter on the very final question. Well done to them! Meanwhile, Miss Grundy is currently running a competition to design a logo (plus catchy slogan) for our currently rather plain-looking 'scran van' in the playground area. Entries - to be judged by the Student Voice team - are due in by next Monday.

KING HOUSE	KOLBE HOUSE	TERESA HOUSE
23,018	18,304	22,628

This week, Year 11 have been sitting mock GCSE examinations. We run a number of 'mock weeks' during the year. It is an opportunity for students to get a taste of the full examination experience - everything from revision and sitting in an examination room for long periods to recalling information and answering questions within a set amount of time. The aim is to ensure that students are familiar, and hopefully comfortable, with the whole process by the time they come to sit the real GCSEs in May and June - no shocks, no surprises. Mocks assist us as teachers in tracking how students are progressing and in identifying intervention needs. They help students to recognise gaps in their own knowledge and understanding, as well as enabling them to try out different ways of learning everything they need to know.

Nobody is pretending that the hard work of revision is fun. However, as I regularly remind students: failure to prepare means preparing to fail. Our weekday boosters, revision classes and Friday and Saturday intervention sessions all play a crucial role in supporting students, helping them to master the essential knowledge, skills and understanding. That is also why we have invested in an online resource called GCSEPod for all Year 11 students. We will be introducing it to them in assembly next week. GCSEPod is an incredible tool to support independent learning and revision. It covers all subjects and examination boards, giving students access to user-friendly, easy-to-digest revision 'pods' at any time of the day or evening. Parents can also log in to the site. [You can go to our website to learn more about what GCSEPod is all about.](#)

Finally, I should like to remind you that Friday 19 October is our Parent Review Day. This is an invaluable opportunity to discuss with your child's form tutor how things are going so far, to look ahead and to think about how we can best support your child. A letter has been sent home with your child today, [or you can read and download it by clicking here](#). As it says in the letter, if you are working during normal school hours and would like an early-morning or after-school slot, members of the senior leadership team are able to offer those times.

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

## Upcoming Events

- Thursday 11 October: Year 7 places of worship humanities trip - please return reply slips ASAP
- Thursday 18 October: Year 7 end-of-half-term disco
- Friday 19 October: Parent Review Day