



RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN

Number 34 · 20 September 2019

Assembly · The Importance of Learning

Dear Parents

Attendance is an issue we talk about continually, particularly in form time and assembly. I wrote in last week's bulletin about new year's resolutions, with September the perfect time to establish regular habits. We celebrate students who attend school regularly — these Teresa House students [pictured right], for example. If they continue to attend regularly, they will be eligible for a wide range of rewards — from certificates and attendance cups to prize draws and trips.



Year 7 are settling in very nicely. Next Friday, they will be walking the Wirral Way, a key Charter activity. The day is all about enabling them to interact with fellow house members and develop a sense of house identity. As well as walking, they will take part in fun team-building activities and inter-house competitions in the surrounding area.

Younger students are also involved in an initiative called Times Table Rockstars, which aims to develop numeracy skills in a fun way. The students take part online, gaining points for themselves and their form. Throughout this term, forms will compete against each other in a head-to-head knockout tournament, with the winner lifting a trophy at the end. Progress prizes will also be awarded during the tournament.

We are proud of the links that we have built up with local universities. Our students regularly visit campuses as part of our Aspiring to Higher Education programme. Today, we have welcomed student teachers from Liverpool John Moores University to Ridgeway. They have been delivering mathematics intervention sessions with Year 9 and Year 10 students, focusing on linear and quadratic sequences.

Last week, I mentioned Show My Homework, an online tool to support learning. We also use a learning program called Tassomai, which uses multiple-choice-style micro-quizzes to build knowledge and boost confidence. The content is broken down into bite-sized chunks and tailored to each student. It is an 'intelligent' learning program in the sense that an algorithm works out what the student knows and where they need to focus their efforts.

Since we launched it a few days ago with a handful of Year 11 classes, it has proved to be hugely popular. One class have answered an astonishing 2095 questions with an accuracy of 75.9%. We are rolling out Tassomai to all year groups in science and also in English and mathematics at key stage 3. The expectation will be that students complete a minimum of four 'daily goals' per week as homework in order to embed knowledge in each subject and develop recall skills.

So much of our lives are now spent online — encompassing everything from banking and shopping to gaming and social interaction — and it is important that we know how to stay safe. We teach students about online safety, of course, but these are issues that affect us all. We have now subscribed to a monthly online-safety newsletter, written specifically with families in mind. It contains plenty of useful information, tips and links. [You can read it on — and download it from — the online-safety page of our website, which also provides lots more information about staying safe online.](#)

Next week promises to be particularly busy. As well as our first Charter Day of the year on Friday, we have our final Open Evening on Monday and an Open Morning on Tuesday. Meanwhile, a round of Year 11 mock exams begins on Monday 30 September, and I would expect students to be revising hard for them now.

Tony Taylor
Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 23 September: Open Evening, 6pm
- Tuesday 24 September: Open Morning, 9.30am to 11.30am
- Friday 27 September: Charter Day 1