



RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN

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House Assembly · Aiming High

Dear Parents

On Monday the school was awarded [the Quality in Careers Standard, a national award for careers education](#). The standard shows that Ridgeway is meeting [the eight Gatsby Benchmarks which schools must work towards to deliver high-quality careers education](#). I was delighted to welcome Kath Wyke, Assessment Lead at Career Connect, who came to Ridgeway to present the award.



CEIAG stands for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance. Kath was full of praise for the work we are doing in this area. The award is in recognition of our ambitious and aspirational Futures programme, which begins as soon as students start with us in Year 7. We focus on each student as an individual, inspiring and empowering them to make informed choices and motivating them to fulfil their potential. Aspiration is one of the five elements of our 'LEARN for Success' vision.

After the appalling scenes at the England football match in Bulgaria on Monday, racism has been much in the news this week. Home Office figures — coincidentally published the next day — show that there has been an overall 10% increase in reported hate crimes in the last year in England and Wales. As a school, we have always been clear about the importance of equality and respect for diversity. The 'R' of 'LEARN for Success' stands for Respect. In March, we were named Anti-Bullying Ambassador School of the Month by the Diana Award.

We have launched a 'No Outsiders' programme this week, teaching students about the characteristics protected by the Equality Act. Our aim is to promote tolerance and respect, and focuses on one central message: *no one is the same, but everyone is equal*. No Outsiders will be a key theme throughout character education this year, including during Charter Days. Students will also be able to get involved with No Outsiders Student Voice, which will help shape the way we as a school promote equality.

Another high-profile issue in the media is mental health awareness. I am delighted that we now have a number of mental health first aiders in school with the skills and confidence to step in, offer mental health first aid and guide students towards the support they need. Students can access any of our mental health first aiders before school, during break or lunchtime, or after school.

Next Thursday, we have our Halloween disco to celebrate the end of Year 7's first half-term at Ridgeway High School. Friday is our Parents' Review Day. [A copy of the letter we sent home is on our website](#). As I mentioned last week, 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. We will also be offering support for parents with how to use the online programs Tassomai and Show My Homework.

This is my final bulletin of the half-term. Next week, we will be publishing the latest issue of Ridgeway New Times. We will also be publishing our programme of revision sessions over the half-term break for Year 11 students. School re-opens for all students on Monday 4 November. In the meantime, don't forget to keep up to date with our [Achievements Board, which is now displayed on the school website](#).

Tony Taylor
Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday 24 October: Year 7 Halloween Disco
- Friday 25 October: Parents' Review Day and end of the first half-term
- Monday 4 November: Students return to school