



# RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Assembly · Achievements and Rewards

## Dear Parents

I should like to begin by apologising for the enforced closure of the school on Monday due to circumstances beyond our control.

I am aware that many of you had an uncomfortable weekend without an adequate water supply at home. When we opened the school early on Monday morning, the heating and toilet systems were not functioning, and United Utilities were unable to guarantee a time when they would be up and running again. I therefore had no choice but to close the school for the day.

I fully understand the difficulties that an enforced closure of the school causes for families, especially at short notice; it is a decision that I only take in extreme circumstances. We were able to let parents know via Facebook, Twitter and our texting service.

Unfortunately, we were also experiencing an unrelated technical problem with the school website, which meant that we were unable to update the site with key information. This problem has hopefully also now been resolved. [We have just added a new extra-curricular opportunities page, setting out the incredible variety of clubs and activities that we run at lunchtime and after school.](#) My aim is for every student to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity.

I was delighted to see so many of you at our Parents' Review Day, an opportunity to talk with the form tutor about how your child has settled in so far this year and to think about the year ahead. Parents' Review Day complements the traditional parents' evenings, when parents meet with individual teachers for a discussion about progress in each subject. Our first parents' evening of the year is for Year 10 next week.

On Wednesday, younger students took part in Pens Down Day — the one day when it is acceptable not to bring a pen to school! Writing is, of course, exceptionally important, but the idea behind Pens Down Day is to spend time focusing on other key learning and life skills such as reading, speaking, listening and teamwork. Staff across all departments planned lessons for the day with this aim in mind. In maths, for example, students were given a list of mathematical statements and in pairs they had to decide if the statements were always true, sometimes true or never true. In textiles, students doing a practical hand-sewing lesson talked through the processes involved in small groups. In science, they held a class debate on the use of plastics and its environmental impact.

Yesterday, our librarian Ms Potts took a group of Year 7 students to Chester Storyhouse for an event aimed at developing literacy through storytelling. This is the second year we have taken part in this event, which is organised by Chester University and based around Nordic myths and legends. It also involves the participation of Swedish students from Linköping University, who are visiting Chester as part of the Swedish Youth Literature Programme. Like last year, the university students have also been our guests in school for a few days, sitting in lessons and learning about how we teach language and literature. The feedback from the university students and from Ridgeway students has been amazing.

Many of you commented on Parents' Review Day that you have found our monthly online-safety newsletter informative and useful. [The November issue is now available to view and/or download to keep.](#)

**Tony Taylor**  
Headteacher



*Pens Down Day allows us to focus on developing key learning and life skills such as reading, speaking, listening and working with others.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 11 November: Charter Day, including Year 7 Remembrance Service
- Thursday 14 November: Year 10 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 21 November: Ex-Year 11 Awards Evening