



RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Assembly · Homelessness

Dear Parents

I didn't have space in last week's bulletin to publicly thank Jan Molby, who was Guest of Honour at our leavers' awards evening. Jan's inspiring words were pitched just right and helped make it a really special event. Our current year 11 students have been sitting mock exams this week. Teachers will be marking the papers over the next few weeks, and year 11 parents' evening will follow in due course. Winter Exam Week will be taking place for years 7-10 when we return in January. We will write to you with more details at the end of term.



This week has seen the launch in school of Café Sci, our own version of the Café Scientifique phenomenon: basically, it is a place where anyone can come and explore the latest ideas in science and technology over a cup of tea and a biscuit. The aim is to engage students in debating topical issues and to demonstrate that science affects us all. This first session focused on global geology-related issues including global warming and volcanoes in the so-called 'ring of fire'. We were fortunate enough to have Penelope Lancaster in school to lead the discussion: she is a STEM ambassador with a background in geology and engineering.

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago about our planned reward trip at the end of term for students with 100% attendance. [We have recently updated the attendance section of our website](#) with information about the clear link between attendance and GCSE success, how we will reward the many students with excellent attendance, and the steps we will take — if required — to improve a student's attendance.

After last week's cold spell, it is perhaps worth reiterating the importance of ensuring that your child attends school every day unless they are seriously ill. At this time of year, there are plenty of colds about and the weather is sometimes unpleasant, but school is warm and welcoming. Your child cannot afford to miss a single day of learning.

Wednesday is a particularly important day with lots of visitors in school. As I wrote last week, we are holding our annual Christmas lunch for senior citizens from the local community, with GCSE hospitality students preparing, cooking and serving a full Christmas lunch for our guests. We are also hosting more than 50 representatives from the further education, training and business sectors as part of our Futures Fair for years 9-11. If you are a parent of a year 11 student, [you should already have received a letter inviting you to join us on Wednesday between 1.10pm and 2.10pm](#).

Looking further ahead, we will be using the occasion of the general election on Thursday 12 December to promote citizenship education by running our own mock election. Meanwhile, some of our most able mathematicians will be heading down to London to attend the famous Royal Institution Christmas Lecture, presented in the past by renowned experts such as Sir David Attenborough and Richard Dawkins.

We also have a religious studies trip to two Buddhist temples in the local area, a year 7 science trip to Chester Zoo and a House Day to look forward to, as well as events with a more obviously festive theme such as our annual Christmas service at Oxtou St Saviour's and Christmas Jumper Day.

And finally from me this week, [the latest issue of our monthly online-safety newsletter is now available on the website to read and/or download and keep](#). Please bear in mind — especially at this time of year — that more and more products and devices are now internet-enabled and therefore present a potential risk.

Tony Taylor
Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday 4 December: Futures Fair and Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 12 December: Ridgeway Mock Election
- Friday 13 December: Christmas Jumper Day