



RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Assembly · Mutual Respect

Dear Parents

This week has certainly been non-stop. On Monday and Tuesday, we had an external team in school looking at our quality-assurance processes. I am delighted that they were impressed with what they saw, and they have left us with useful feedback.

Wednesday was another big day for us, with our Christmas lunch for senior citizens, hosted by GCSE hospitality students. We also held our annual Futures Fair—without doubt the biggest and best yet — supported by more than fifty further and higher education, training and apprenticeship providers, as well as local employers and business ambassadors. Many thanks to them and to the parents of year 11 students who came along to learn more about post-16 pathways. The feedback from everyone involved in both events was incredibly positive. [You can see some great photographs of Futures Fair here.](#)



The run-up to Christmas is always exceptionally busy in school, with a packed December schedule. In addition to all the events I mentioned in last week's bulletin — including our mock election to coincide with Thursday's general election — we also have a week of inter-house PE events to look forward to next week as well as a year 7 trip to Chester Zoo and our annual Winter Games in the final week of term.

Some of our most able mathematicians will be travelling to London at the end of next week to attend this year's famous Royal Institution Christmas Lecture and also visit the Natural History Museum. Called *Secrets and Lies: The Hidden Power of Mathematics*, guest lecturer Dr Hannah Fry promises to show how to decode life's hidden numbers to help us make better choices, sort facts from fiction and lead happier lives. The lecture will be filmed and broadcast on BBC Four over the Christmas period.

Due to our links with the Royal Institution, engineering expert Aasiya Hassan from the RI's education team visited school to deliver a workshop based around Möbius Bands to year 9 students. Like a similar initiative we ran with the Royal Institution last year, the students will be teaching the same topic to primary school pupils in the next few weeks.

Next Friday, the school will again be joining in with the nationwide Christmas Jumper Day event on behalf of Claire House. Students are invited to wear a festive jumper in place of their normal school jumper and blazer. All other uniform must be worn as normal.

This week, Mrs Stanaway has been sending out letters inviting students to sign up for this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme at either bronze or silver level. The 'expedition' element of the award happens in the spring and summer, but the other elements – volunteering, skills and physical — go on throughout the year. This award offers an outstanding opportunity for young people to master a wide variety of life skills and LEARN attributes and qualities, particularly leadership, endurance and aspiration. I encourage year 9 and year 10 students to get involved.

Finally from me, a reminder that the end of term for students is Thursday 19 December. We have a training day for staff on the Friday.

Tony Taylor
Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday 12 December: Ridgeway Mock Election
- Friday 13 December: Christmas Jumper Day in aid of good causes
- Monday 16 December: PE Winter Games