



RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN

Number 44 · 13 December 2019

Assembly · House Achievement Assemblies

Dear Parents

I was thrilled to welcome Ollie Frith, Principal Trainer and Head of Training at Pivotal Education, to the school yesterday. We have been working with Pivotal for two years, building a new culture around behaviour management. Ollie was here to present us with the Pivotal Gold Award, recognition of the enormous strides we have made in this area. I am delighted to report that Pivotal have asked us to become a hub school for the north west.

Lessons continue as normal right until the end of term, but the spirit of Christmas is definitely in the air. Today is Christmas Jumper Day: students have been asked to pay £1 to wear a festive jumper for the day, with the money we raise donated to Claire House. Earlier this week, we had our delicious Christmas school dinner. Another festive Ridgeway tradition is carol singing in a local nursing home. Our eager carol singers were unable to visit the home this year due to illness, but they put the time to good use with some additional carol singing practice.



Teresa House students help raise money for Claire House on Christmas Jumper Day.

Yesterday, we held our Ridgeway Mock Election. Students prepared for election day by using character education sessions to recap their knowledge of the British political system — MPs, the House of Commons, constituencies, the First Past The Post system and so on. They also studied the five main policies of each of the parties standing in the Birkenhead constituency. The Ridgeway result mirrored the actual Birkenhead result, with a convincing win for the Labour candidate.

Next week is looking equally busy. On Monday, this year's Winter Games will be taking place in the Sports Hall. Tuesday is our 100% attendance trip to New Brighton. On Wednesday, year 7 students are on a science trip to Chester Zoo. Thursday is House Day. We also have our end-of-term house achievement assemblies next week, celebrating the many students whose attendance and achievement have been outstanding this term.

To round off another excellent sporting term, the key stage 3 badminton team have reached the Merseyside Finals, a first in the school's history. Meanwhile, our U13 boys have won Liverpool FA's huge futsal tournament and will be competing in the northern finals in Sunderland in March. Well done to everyone involved in both competitions — a magnificent achievement.

You will be receiving a letter from the maths department in the coming days about scientific calculators. Two-thirds of GCSE mathematics now involves the use of a calculator. Students need to be using a scientific calculator regularly in lessons to practise how to use it accurately and effectively. It is also of use in science lessons. We have decided, therefore, that a scientific calculator will become a compulsory part of students' equipment from next term.

An important part of being ready to learn is having the necessary equipment. Occasionally, of course, things run out or get mislaid. From January, we will be selling pencil cases containing basic equipment — two black pens, a purple pen, a pencil, a 15cm ruler, an eraser and a pencil sharpener — in school for £1.

This is my final weekly bulletin of the term. Next week, you will be receiving the latest issue of Ridgeway *New Times*, a jam-packed round-up of everything that has been happening in school over the last half-term.

School will close at 12.45pm on Thursday, and we have a staff training day on Friday. Students return on Monday 6 January. Year 11 parents' evening is on Thursday 9 January. Rather than cramming lots of examinations for years 7-10 into one Winter Exams Week in early January, students will be sitting their assessments when it is appropriate in subject learning programmes.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and restful Christmas and New Year.

Tony Taylor
Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday 19 December: House Day and End Of Term (*school closes at 12.45pm*)
- Monday 6 January: Spring term begins
- Thursday 9 January: Year 11 Parents' Evening