



RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Assembly · The Importance Of Learning

Dear Parents

The internet — and the technological revolution more generally — has revolutionised our lives in the last twenty years or so, bringing enormous benefits to society. At the same time, online safety — especially in relation to young people and social media — has become one of the major public health concerns of our time. Apart from anything else, it is to do with keeping people safe from harm. Disturbing stories arising from online dangers are often in the headlines. It is a theme which, as a school, we revisit again and again with students.

This week, for example, we have been discussing the video-sharing app TikTok. TikTok has perhaps as many as one billion users worldwide and is particularly popular with young people. But it has been in the media spotlight in recent weeks for the wrong reasons.

I know that a lot of parents read and download our monthly online-safety newsletter. [Our website has a page specifically devoted to online safety.](#) As well as hosting the newsletter, it includes links to other useful websites. It also includes a number of handy, short and easy-to-understand guides for parents produced by National Online Safety, each relating to a particular aspect of e-safety. We have added a downloadable guide about TikTok.



I often talk about the value of providing opportunities for learning beyond the school gates in terms of supporting, supplementing and providing useful context for the work that goes on in the classroom. We have lots of such opportunities coming up over the next few weeks — trips and visits to the Houses of Parliament, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Football Museum in Manchester as well as a Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in New Brighton. We also have language students attending exam-preparation conferences in Manchester and hospitality and catering students going behind the scenes at Pizza Hut.

Meanwhile, well done to the 58 students who attended the first mathematics Saturday School of the year. It was a great turnout. Saturday School will run until the exams in June. We also had 62 students attending an English literature session on Monday and 56 students staying behind on Wednesday for additional English language support. I have written many times before that nobody is pretending that sitting exams is easy or enjoyable. It is a feat of endurance lasting many months, requiring sustained hard work, focus and an ability to deal with difficulties and setbacks. That's why our character-education programme is so important, nurturing qualities and attributes like aspiration, endurance and resilience.

Well done, too, to all the students who have 100% attendance since the start of term. Coughs and colds are rife at this time of year, of course, but a good example of resilience is the ability to put up with minor ailments like a cold and get on with things. As we continually remind students, absence quickly impacts on learning and progress: even 95% attendance over a year means that nearly 50 lessons will be missed.

As well as rewarding good attendance, we also regularly celebrate and reward the very many students whose effort and behaviour is exemplary every single day. Callum Robinson [pictured above], for example, won this week's Teresa House draw for students who have not received a single behaviour point since September. Congratulations to Callum, and well done to all the other students who were eligible for this draw and similar ones. They are outstanding role models.

Tony Taylor
Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday 21 January: Trips to the Houses of Parliament and the V&A Museum
- Wednesday 29 January: Holocaust Memorial Day
- Thursday 6 February: MFL PiXL Conferences