



# RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Assembly · Remembering the Holocaust

## Dear Parents

I am exceptionally proud of our Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme, which enables young people to master a wide variety of life skills and LEARN attributes and qualities. Mrs Stanaway, our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator, is in the process of sending out invites to this year's celebration evening, which is due to take place at the end of February. It is a fantastic occasion, an opportunity to recognise the achievements of bronze and silver award students in the presence of family and fellow award participants.



The expedition element of the award is the most well-known. It is, without doubt, a great way of learning resilience. But there is much more to building character and to the award itself than just the expedition. Its three other elements cover volunteering, skills and physical — the latter relating to sport, dance or fitness. [The DoFE organisation has recently published an extremely useful list of 25 activities that will help young people build confidence, independence and resilience.](#)

The good news is that there is still time for year 9 and year 10 students to sign up to be part of this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Award cohort. We have extended the deadline to 31 January. It really is an outstanding enrichment opportunity for your child.

On Tuesday, a group of students made the journey down to London for a two-day visit. Trips like this one are rewarding and exhilarating, creating memories not quickly forgotten. As well as visiting famous landmarks such as Buckingham Palace [see picture], humanities students focused on the Houses of Parliament. After a tour of the building and a workshop covering the history of parliament, they looked in on the House of Lords before crossing the lobby to watch Prime Minister's Questions. Art students, meanwhile, visited the world-famous Victoria and Albert Museum. All the students also went on the London Eye, which offers an awe-inspiring panorama of our capital city. A breathtaking experience, indeed.

[You may have heard over the weekend about a government scheme offering free period products to schools.](#) Ridgeway has signed up to the scheme. We already offer free products through the excellent Red Box Project, a community-based, not-for-profit initiative. Signing up to the government scheme will give us access to more products, and these will be available from Mrs Warbrick in the media room, which is located between rooms 104 and 105.

There was another great turnout for our second Saturday School, part of our programme of additional interventions to support students in the run-up to their GCSE examinations. As year 11 complete their study of new course content, teachers will increasingly focus in lessons on revision skills and strategies. [GCSEPod is an incredible tool — available to all year groups — to support independent learning and revision.](#) It covers all subjects and examination boards, giving students access to user-friendly, easy-to-digest revision 'pods' at any time of the day or evening.

[Another independent-learning tool we use is Tassomai.](#) The Tassomai app is available free on Android and Apple devices from the app store and can also be downloaded for PC use. Tassomai uses multiple-choice-style micro-quizzes to build knowledge and boost confidence. The content is broken down into bite-sized chunks and individually tailored, using an algorithm to work out what the student knows and where they need to focus their efforts.

The science department uses Tassomai with all year groups. Homework in English and mathematics in years 7 and 8 is also Tassomai-based. The expectation is that students complete a minimum of four 'daily goals' per week in order to embed knowledge in each subject and develop recall skills.

**Tony Taylor**  
**Headteacher**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday 29 January: Holocaust Memorial Day Event at New Brighton
- Thursday 6 February: MFL PiXL Conferences
- Thursday 13 February: Charter Day