



Ridgeway Academy

OPEN EVENING BOOKLET

10TH SEPTEMBER 2026



Everybody can Achieve

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY RELATIONSHIPS





Ridgeway Academy

'Everybody can achieve'

Headteacher: **Mrs S Mitcherson**
Deputy Headteacher: **Mr R Found**
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Open Evening 10th September 2026 Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to Ridgeway Academy, I hope you enjoy your visit to our school. We are an ambitious school where all students are encouraged to strive to achieve their full potential with the support of talented and dedicated staff. We hope the following information gives you a clear insight into our school community and helps you make the important decision about the choice of secondary school for your child. Students are available to take you on tours of the school and answer any questions you may have.

Our School is a place driven by values (The three R's) Respect, Responsibility and Relationships aiming to provide excellent teaching and learning, placing students at the heart of all we do. We have set high standards and expectations which are the foundation for the **Ridgeway**, these values are explicitly taught during Personal development curriculum, form time and assemblies. We also offer a relevant, creative and challenging curriculum where students can access the widest range of subjects. All our students are expected to work hard, both in and out of lessons and we recognise that the very best learning takes place when it is cultivated by interesting and enjoyable lessons.

We offer a positive learning environment where staff and students enjoy working and learning together. We are very proud of the excellent relationships that exist between staff, students and parents and firmly believe that this provides a safe and secure learning environment. These relationships are based on respect and consideration for others.

We are immensely proud of the achievement of all our students and celebrate their successes at every opportunity. These successes are built on a genuine partnership between students, the school, parents and the community.

We encourage you to see the school in action and welcome visits from parents/carers at 9.00am between Monday 14th September to Friday 25th September 2026. You will need to book in advance to join one of the Open Morning tours. You will be able to book an Open Morning tour during Open Evening in Attimore Hall. You can also book on our website, via email admin@ridgeway.aetrust.uk or phone the school (01707 351350).

We look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher

Osborn Hall

Headteacher Presentation: 5:15pm and 6:15pm

Presenters:

Mrs S Mitcherson	Headteacher Ridgeway Academy
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Maddison M	Head student
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Thomas C	Head student
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Bella G	Year 8
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Reggie B	Year 8
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Refreshments will be available in **Attimore Hall**

Year 8 Student reflections

Good evening everyone, my name is Bella and I am in Year 8 here at Ridgeway Academy. This time last year I was feeling nervous about starting Year 7, but I have really enjoyed my first year. I chose Ridgeway Academy as my secondary school because of the amazing facilities, and amazing teachers who help you to achieve your best.

I love school due to how many different experiences we have and the variety of lessons we are given. Our education is a priority to the school and they do everything they can to help you to be successful.

Most of all my favourite thing about the school is the facilities, the sports astro which some of you might be excited for, the dance studios, the netball and basketball courts and the field. These spaces allow for a wide range of sports and physical activities to be played and the outdoor space at break and lunch time is great. However we also have amazing learning facilities such as our new Science Labs, Art & Technology equipment, Music practice rooms and computer suits.

It is also great that we all have a Chromebook which we can use in many lessons and for homework.

The subjects that I love are Drama, PE and History. These subjects make me happy and also I have amazing teachers.

I am very proud of my achievements in Year 7. I received lots of reward points and I didn't get any consequences, which is what all Year 7 students should aim for. I have been playing lots of sports and even scored for the school football team! At the end of every half term we have a celebration assembly during which I was awarded the respect badge which shows I have demonstrated the school's values and is part of the school's 5 star student, something everything students should aim to achieve. I was also awarded the form tutor award and the attendance award. There are lots of opportunities at Ridgeway to do well and be rewarded for your efforts and achievements.

The staff at Ridgeway Academy are really friendly, there is always a member of staff to show you where you need to be if you can't find your way to lesson.

Our Head of Year Miss Jenner is one of my favourite staff members, she helps everyone and is always there for support. I'm very excited that our Heads of Year take us through to our next year and through to Year 11.

Mrs Mitcherson our Head teacher welcomed all of us into this school in September with a big smile and we all felt very welcomed and supported as we started our school journey.

My form tutor Miss Molloy also made me feel welcome on my first day and from then she has been my favourite teacher. She is kind, very sporty, loves football and so much more.

But most of all I hope you will choose this school because of the opportunities to continue the things you love doing. I hope you have an amazing rest of your night. Thank you.

Bella G

Year 8 Student reflections

Good evening, everyone! My name is Reggie, and I'm in Year 8.

When I was in Year 6, I was sitting exactly where you are now. I felt nervous, worried, and overwhelmed about starting secondary school. It is completely normal to feel that way.

But I promise you there is absolutely nothing to worry about.

During my first week at Ridgeway Academy, I joined several clubs and met a lot of new people. The older students immediately helped me find my classrooms, and the staff reminded me to take things one day at a time. Everyone made me feel incredibly welcome, and you do get used to your new surroundings much faster than you think.

We have many celebration assemblies where students are celebrated for improving and trying their best during lessons. I got the Headteachers award in term 1 which I was very proud of.

Why did I choose Ridgeway? When I came here on my first open evening I was told about all of the clubs and opportunities that I would have, this made me very excited. Some of the clubs we have are football, Drama clubs, basketball, even gaelic football. We also have athletics, music clubs, reading and poetry competitions and loads of leadership opportunities. You will definitely find the thing you enjoy here at Ridgeway Academy.

Finally the teachers, my form tutor Miss Wilson, Head of Year Miss Jenner and our Headteacher Mrs Mitcherson all try their hardest to make sure that I work to the best of my abilities . They also organise events like school trips and non uniform days so we can have a good time at school and raise money for charity.

So the piece of advice I would give to you as you enter secondary school is don't be afraid of going to a new club, speaking to a new person or even answering questions in class, because if you don't try you won't meet your goals. If I could go back to Year 7 I would try even harder and make sure to have more fun rather than worrying, because time goes by quickly, use it to enjoy your first year of secondary school.

Thank you and good night

Reggie B

L Block

Science

In KS3 students follow the National Curriculum through the Activate programme of study. This is a very engaging, contemporary and practical course that enables students to develop the scientific knowledge, skills, techniques and understanding to succeed as scientists. Content is studied in discrete topics from all three strands, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and regular assessments inform both students and teachers of the progress being made. The course also enables students to build up the range of qualities needed for progression onto GCSE Science.

In Year 9, students will start the year with an important 'Maths in Science' scheme. This will prepare them for the demands of mathematical skills as well as provide them with the necessary stepping stone to studying Science in KS4. They will then start their KS4 content with topics which have been chosen to build on prior KS3 knowledge and apply KS4 thinking and analysis skills.

KS4 is an important 3 year period; students will study all three sciences through one of two pathways:

- GCSE Combined Science Trilogy - AQA (2 combined GCSE grades)
- GCSE Single Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics - AQA (3 separate GCSE grades)

Students are expected to work hard and achieve a deep understanding of key scientific principles as well as an appreciation of how science works. Courses are assessed on exam performance. At the end of Year 7, students will be set based on prior achievement, teacher assessment and according to their demonstrated attitude to learning.

The subjects are taught by topic so that students have the opportunity to develop their understanding in all three science disciplines.

For students who want to take their understanding even further, studying Science at A level provides fantastic opportunities to push students' skills and knowledge to higher levels. Opportunities to study A level sciences are available at Ridgeway and through the Welwyn and Hatfield Consortium. At Ridgeway, we also currently offer a Medical Science course.

M Block

Mathematics

In Mathematics, all students currently follow the White Rose Maths scheme of learning. White Rose works on the basis of small steps learning to create a deeper understanding, confidence and competence in Mathematics. Topics are interleaved and revisited each year within different contexts. This enables students to see mathematics learning holistically rather than a hierarchy of difficulty.

In Year 10 and 11 students continue to follow the White Rose scheme of learning, working towards taking the Pearson Edexcel Mathematics GCSE. The examinations consist of three examination papers which are equally weighted towards the final awarded grade. It is our aim to enter the vast majority of students for the higher tier entry.

Tier			Duration	Marks	Total	Grades
Foundation	Paper 1	Non-calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	80	240	1-5
Foundation	Paper 2	Calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	80		
Foundation	Paper 3	Calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	80		
Higher	Paper 1	Non-calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	80	240	4-9
Higher	Paper 2	Calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	80		
Higher	Paper 3	Calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	80		

Students are assessed and tracked on a regular basis, ensuring all students are progressing well and are taught in the correct ability set. In Years 7, 8 and 9, students are taught in two bands which have sets within each. At KS4 students are vertically set as a whole cohort.

Homework is set once a week via Mathswatch. Students are expected to watch the online learning clip, make notes and complete the task that has been assigned. This allows teachers and students to track progress and understanding, and students are able to receive instant feedback. The main purpose of our homework is to support active recall amongst students and support learners with embedding the key mathematical principles over time.

Within the consortium, students have the option to students Core Mathematics and A-level Mathematics. Those who choose to study A-level Mathematics also have an option to take an additional A-level in Further Mathematics.

Students are entered for the UKMT mathematics challenges which allows students to experience mathematics beyond the curriculum. In some instances, students are picked to represent the school at the Maths team challenge.

F Block

Music

Throughout KS3, students are given the chance to hone key music skills; Performing, Composing and Listening & Appraising. Students are given the opportunity to work in groups across a wide range of

topics, incorporating the many and varied pieces of music equipment at their disposal in the department. Confidence in performing music will be developed through frequent opportunities. Lessons are designed to allow access at all entry levels.

Topics include: Rock and Pop, Jazz and Blues, Music for media (film, video game and advert), Ukulele and Keyboard skills to name a few. Students, who are already learning a specific instrument, are encouraged to use their instruments as much as possible during these lessons, as well as develop skills on new instruments.

The Eduqas Music GCSE course is followed in KS4 where students will develop further musicianship and other key skills. Students will have to complete four units, consisting of two compositions, two performances (one individual and one group performance) and a listening paper. All GCSE students are encouraged to take part in department ensembles and school concerts throughout the year.

B Block

Modern Foreign Languages

All students will study Spanish throughout KS3. This allows the students to develop a sufficient depth of understanding and breadth of vocabulary on which to base their KS4 studies, should they decide to study a language at GCSE.

Learning a language is made up of small incremental steps, each step building on what has been learnt previously. This enables students to develop their use of grammar and build their confidence in their ability to write in Spanish independently, under timed conditions and from memory.

A wide range of activities are used in lessons to keep students motivated and maintain interest. Students are regularly assessed (some closed book and some open book) and given focused targets to support their learning and development.

Rote learning is particularly important in languages and students will be asked to learn things by heart which is essential for developing their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the foreign language.

A foreign language trip is usually offered to the students at KS3. This year students are going to Barcelona where they will follow a programme of cultural activities, giving them the opportunity to practice their language

Philosophy & Ethics

All KS3 students study Philosophy & Ethics for two 1 hour lessons per fortnight. Those students who select Philosophy & Ethics as a GCSE option, follow the new Edexcel specification and explore wider philosophical, moral questions, religious and secular views on the issues in our world today. As well as this, students in KS4 and 5 will study Core Ethics to fulfill the statutory requirements stipulated; KS4 1 hour lessons fortnightly and KS5 10 hours per academic year.

The department promotes a curious, empathetic and critical awareness towards the study of religion. Students will be challenged with ultimate questions about beliefs, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own ideas about spiritual and moral issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All of these skills will help them prepare for further study and the cultivation of wider life aptitudes.

History

In Years 7, 8 and 9, students develop both their historical skills and knowledge of History. Some of the key skills taught include; the ability to analyse and form inferences of sources, assessing the causes and consequences of significant events, and the development of critical thinking and questioning of interpretations. Students are encouraged to support their ideas with relevant evidence and to use their knowledge effectively. Content areas range from Medieval Life to the Tudors in Year 7, Revolutions and Civil War in Year 8 and the Rise of Dictators and the World Wars in Year 9.

At GCSE, History is one of the most popular choices for our students. We follow the Edexcel GCSE (9-1) programme of study. This is broken down into three exams. Paper 1 is the British thematic study with historic environments which focuses on medicine in Britain c1250-present and the British sector of the Western Front. Paper 2 is the period study and British depth study, focusing on Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91 and early Elizabethan England, 1558-88. Paper 3 is the modern depth study unit on Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39. We run an annual trip to Berlin to support the study of paper 2 and 3 where students have the opportunity to come face to face with some key elements of German history.

History and Government and Politics are popular choices for A level as they are both excellent facilitating subjects for university and a wide range of careers.

History is crucially important if we are to understand the world in which we live. As important are the valuable skills that the historian acquires – to construct an argument, to weigh up evidence and to explain ideas. History encourages our young people to think for themselves and to reach their own conclusions.

Business

Business is a subject chosen as an option to start studying in Year 10, which can continue into key stage 5. At Ridgeway, students have two Business courses to choose from to study at both key stage 4 and 5. At key stage 4, students can study GCSE Business or a CNAT in Enterprise and Marketing. GCSE Business looks at the four main functions of a business, which is: Marketing, Finance, Operations and Human Resource as well as other aspects, such as the external environment and the features of an entrepreneur. The course gives students a varied overview of how a business operates and incorporates up to date and relevant information about the current business environment. The GCSE course is assessed by two exams, which are sat at the end of Year 11. For students who are more suited to practical learning, they are encouraged to study the CNAT in Enterprise and Marketing at key stage 4. This course is assessed by a mixture of coursework and an external examination. At key stage 5, students can study A Level Business or CTEC Business.

Geography

KS3 students will explore a variety of Physical and Human Geography as well as developing the necessary functional skills to cope with GCSE Geography. Most importantly, Geography equips students with the foundation understanding of the world which enables them to be active and informed global citizens.

In Year 7, students focus on developing their spatial awareness on a local, regional, national and global scale. We approach challenging enquiries, such as 'why are rivers important?', 'How is India being transformed?' and 'why is Antarctica important?' In Year 8, students begin by asking 'What's happening at the coast?' and continue to learn about the fascinating culture in Japan, and then conduct an investigation into weather and climate. They also learn about how Africa is changing and investigate tropical rainforests. Year 9 students begin by learning about natural hazards including earthquakes and volcanoes, they then question what is meant by 'development', before shifting focus toward Russia. We

also study tourism in Year 9. Ultimately, our KS3 Geography curriculum develops young peoples' understanding of human and physical processes, concepts such as sustainability and conflict, as well as a strong grasp of the decision-making process.

GCSE Geography students currently study the AQA GCSE course. We study Natural Hazards, The Living World, Urban Issues and Challenges, The Changing Economic World, Resource Management as well as Physical Landscapes of the UK. GCSE Geography is not complete without practical fieldwork investigations and enquiries. We currently conduct our human and physical fieldwork within Dorset during a residential field trip.

At A-Level, the department follows the AQA specification and studies a range of topics including the carbon and water cycle, coasts, hazards, global systems and governance, urban environments and changing places. A-Level students develop their independent investigative skills in an advanced study into local geographies.

Geography is a highly popular subject across national comparisons. The subject develops an understanding of the world we live in and provides students with the key concepts to use to be successful in an ever-changing world.

English

English is both a core foundational skill and a source of creativity, curiosity, and cultural enrichment—equipping students not only for academic success but for life beyond the classroom.

Our English curriculum is designed to broaden and enhance students' knowledge and understanding of the world. Through the study of a range of forms, genres, authors, and historical periods, we ensure that students leave Ridgeway with the confidence to read critically, write with clarity and purpose, and express informed, thoughtful opinions in both written and spoken forms.

At Key Stage 3, students engage with a rich and diverse canon of high-quality literature. This includes the study of Shakespeare, 19th-century texts such as the works of Dickens, as well as a broad range of fiction and non-fiction. Students explore poetry across time and from around the world, alongside opportunities to develop spoken language through discussion, performance, and presentation.

This provides a strong and purposeful foundation for success at Key Stage 4, where students go on to study the AQA GCSE English Language and English Literature courses.

At both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, students are also given opportunities to engage with subjects beyond the core curriculum, including pathways into GCSE Media Studies, A Level English Literature, and A Level Media Studies, supporting aspiration and informed choice for future study.

Media Studies

Media Studies is a chosen subject at KS4 which can be continued into KS5. It is a contemporary subject which is relevant to everyone as the media saturates everything we do in the developed world in the 21st Century. It helps students understand the workings of our immediate world and our place in it and it gives them the tools to analyse and critique the way in which media runs through our lives. It is intellectually challenging, covering a number of differing subjects; with an historical, theoretical and practical approach.

During Year 10, students learn the key elements/subject terminology of the whole course alongside two modules: Television and Promoting Media. Then in Year 11, students study two further modules: Music and News. They will also complete a non-exam assessment (NEA) which will start in Year 10 where

students apply their knowledge and understanding of media language and representations to create a media product of their own.

Computer Science

Computer Science is a modern and rapidly evolving subject, both in terms of its technical depth and its real-world implications. The study of Computing nurtures students' curiosity about how individual computers operate, how they interact with one another, and how they form interconnected systems that underpin our digital world.

The Computer Science curriculum is designed to achieve two main aims. Firstly, it seeks to develop students' technical understanding of both hardware and software across all key stages. Secondly, it aims to build students' digital literacy and equip them with the skills and competencies necessary to enhance their future employability in an increasingly digital society.

As a subject that blends theoretical knowledge with practical application, Computing encourages students to develop not only technical skills, but also problem-solving techniques, research abilities, and analytical thinking. These transferable skills support learning in other subjects and prepare students for real-world challenges.

At Key Stage 4, students can choose GCSE Computer Science as an option in Year 10, continuing through to Year 11. They may then progress to A Level Computer Science or the BTEC in Information Technology at Key Stage 5.

We follow the OCR GCSE Computer Science specification at KS4. Assessment takes place at the end of Year 11 and consists of two written examinations. Students are tested on their theoretical understanding of computing principles as well as their practical programming skills, using the Python programming language.

In addition to the core curriculum, students also take part in a range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities designed to deepen their understanding of how Computer Science applies in the real world. These include visits to the Computer Science Museum and well-known companies within the industry. Such experiences provide students with valuable insights into the practical uses of Computing and its growing role in various sectors.

Home-based learning is set fortnightly for Key Stage 3 students and should take no more than 30 minutes to complete. For Key Stage 4 students, homework is set weekly and may take up to 90 minutes. All home-based learning tasks are assigned via Google Classroom, and students are expected to complete and submit their work online by the given deadlines.

G Block

Sociology

Sociology is a subject chosen as an option to start studying in Year 10, which can be continued into your further education choices. Sociology studies how society works. It will help you to understand how individuals fit into a wider social network and encourage you to question beliefs about society which you may have previously taken for granted.

At Ridgeway students study the AQA qualification at both GCSE and A-Level where you will study topics such as the family, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. These will be put into context to understand how they impact us as individuals as well as the part of us involved in society and our community.

Health & Social Care

Health and Social Care is a subject chosen as an option to start studying in Year 10, which can be continued into your further education choices. At Ridgeway students study the Cambridge National Level 1/Level 2 in Health & Social Care which is an exciting and challenging introduction to the health and social care sector. Students will gain an understanding of the important knowledge, understanding and skills that are essential for working in this area. This includes many of the skills that are used by professionals, the services they may work in and the important values that must be upheld by all professionals in health and social care. At GCSE level students start to learn how individuals develop through six key life stages, the health and social care services that individuals may need to access throughout their lives and how health and wellbeing can be maintained.

C Block

Art

In Art much of a student's learning is enabled through actual art practice, therefore we ensure that, throughout each key stage, students are given chances to paint, sculpt and print.

In Years 7, 8, and 9 students enjoy a wide range of Art activities. These are designed to ensure each student is given the same creative opportunities, enabling them to discover their individual artistic potential. Throughout KS3 students follow a broad and rich curriculum, through which they are able to experiment with new and exciting Art activities as well as revisiting, building upon and improving the skills they have already developed. The spiral curriculum allows students to develop confidence in their skills, whilst the individual creative freedom we encourage, gives students a feeling of ownership with regards to their artwork.

The KS3 Art programme creates a foundation for the aspiring artist that is reflected in the popularity of Art as an option choice at KS4.

At KS4 students complete a GCSE in Art & Design. These courses are wide and varied, with students encouraged to become independent learners and creative thinkers. In each unit of work students have the chance to produce sophisticated drawing, painting, sculpture and textile pieces as well as opportunities to work digitally.

A-Level and art students follow a mixed-media, multi-disciplinary course that gives them the space both physically, and metaphorically, to truly develop as an artist.

Design & Technology

At KS3 there are two Technology lessons per fortnight for Year 7, 8 and 9. Students are taught in mixed ability groups on a carousel.

On the carousel, students study Food, Textiles and Product Design throughout the year. In each subject area, students have the opportunity to become effective and independent learners through the development of a number of specific skills which will be built on throughout Years 7, 8 and 9 to help prepare them for moving onto KS4 studies. For example, in Food, Year 7 will produce a range of good-quality food products, safely and hygienically. There is a strong focus on healthy eating and making students aware of the importance of planning healthy meals.

Extended Learning tasks are set in each subject area.

Textiles KS4

Textile Art inspires creativity through designing and making. Pupils work with but are not limited to: batik, weaving, felting, hand and machine embroidery. They are encouraged to become masters of textile disciplines and develop their own creative journeys whilst exploring garment illustration, sample making, and garment assemblage.

3D Design KS4

3D Design encourages students to design and make products with creativity and originality in a variety of practical activities, using a range of materials and techniques. Closely linked to the practical work, students also use a range of computer software, including CAD design, Onshape, and 2D Design linked to the technology we have at school. This enables them to see the process of creating, starting from initial design stages, all the way through to the finished outcome.

The course shows students the importance of STEM subjects in the world we currently live in and how they are pivotal to the future of so many aspects of our lives. The course prepares students well for a future career in product design, engineering, architecture and graphic design.

Food Preparation and Nutrition KS4

Food Preparation and Nutrition KS4 encourages pupils to develop a thorough understanding of food and nutrition through practical, hands-on learning. The course is designed to get students cooking and thinking critically about what they eat. Students will develop a strong understanding of nutrition, learn advanced cooking techniques, and explore the functional properties of ingredients. This qualification can lead to further study at college or university in subjects like Food Science, Nutrition, or Dietetics, and opens doors to a wide range of careers including chef, food product developer, nutritionist, catering manager, and food journalist.

E Block

Drama

Students are introduced to Drama conventions that are used to create effective performances. They will work in groups using their creative talents to organise and develop a number of different performance pieces. Students are given the opportunity to develop a number of specific Drama skills, for example improvisation, freeze frames and character work. Students work individually and as part of a group and begin to learn how to evaluate their own work and the work of others. Students are assessed every half term.

In Year 7, students have two hours of Drama a fortnight. They will experience a range of topics with the emphasis based on skill acquisition. They will learn the basics of stagecraft, developing and performing their own work and work in groups on scripted pieces of theatre.

In Year 8, students have two hours of Drama a fortnight, studying a range of topics, such as Physical theatre, Jack the Ripper and Shakespeare. We focus on creating empathy when performing.

In Year 9, students continue to grow their knowledge and understanding of drama through a range of interesting topics such as Comedy, Devising and script work.

In all Key Stage 3 Drama lessons, students will have the opportunity to look at Live Theatre throughout their curriculum and links to KS4 are present throughout their learning journey to engage and build skills in preparation for Drama GCSE

Year 10 and 11 students follow the AQA GCSE which consists of 30% practical work and 70% written element. The set text students study is Blood Brothers. Students will see live theatre productions and will perform throughout the course to an audience.

A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies is also available at KS5; we follow the AQA specification. We study various plays such as Metamorphosis and Antigone. We also delve into practitioners and the role they play in the development of exciting theatre. Workshops and theatre visits are offered throughout the course to develop students' enthusiasm and interest in the world of theatre.

Sports Centre

We are immensely proud, as a school and as a community venue, to be able to offer state of the art, multi-use facilities for both students of the school and members of the public. The students are fortunate enough to use these facilities every day for PE lessons, extra-curricular activities and fixtures.

We are extremely fortunate to have an All-Weather Pitch which has recently been upgraded to a 3G surface, Dance Studio and Sports Hall. The Ridgeway Academy Sports Centre Team utilises the facilities during the evening, weekends and school holidays to hire the facilities to local clubs. We also manage the community facility usage within the school, with over 70 clubs/groups using the school throughout the week.

We are proud to host many local clubs including;

Welwyn Garden City Youth FC, Welwyn & Hatfield Volleyball Club, Garden City Runners and The Pauline Quirke Academy, to name but a few. A full list of our hirers can be found on our website.

For further information, please email our Sports Centre Manager, Louis Wylie: Lettings@ridgeway.aetrust.uk or visit the Sports Centre section on our website. We look forward to meeting you on Open Evening.

Physical Education

Sport is a vital and exciting part of life at Ridgeway Academy. We believe it is essential in nurturing skills, confidence and a life-long love of sporting activities.

KS3: Students follow courses in various activities such as: athletics, football, dance, gymnastics, trampolining, basketball, rugby, hockey, netball, tennis, cricket, rounders, badminton, volleyball and health related fitness.

KS4: Students extend their learning in the above activities and follow a programme, which allows them to gain more specialised knowledge and experience of these sports with the emphasis on lifelong participation.

The exam based Physical Education & Dance curriculum is an exciting opportunity for students to follow. The Cambridge Technical and GCSE PE courses can lead to careers in sports management, teaching, sports massage, sports physiotherapy, sports psychology, sports coaching, personal trainer and many more.

The department has many extra-curricular clubs. During the week there is a regular programme of well supported clubs and activities, which include: basketball, football, badminton, gymnastics, netball,

trampolining and dance. The school also takes part in many trips out of school, examples being Wimbledon, basketball finals and football trips abroad, the most recent going to Barcelona.

Regular competitive fixtures take place during the week against both state and independent schools.

A Block

Sixth Form

Ridgeway Academy Sixth Form, as an integral partner in the Welwyn & Hatfield Sixth Form Consortium, prides itself in providing a well supported and academically challenging environment for our students, one in which they are given every opportunity to achieve their full potential, both academically and personally. Ridgeway Academy Sixth Form offers post-16 students broad curriculum choices and a successful tradition of excellent advice and guidance for the next step beyond school.

We are very proud of our post-16 students: it is their dedication and mature approach, together with the excellent quality of teaching, that has allowed our students to pursue their chosen post-Sixth Form paths, be it to University or an apprenticeship. This year, for example, 100% of students wanting to go to University, successfully met their offer criteria, with many attending Universities within the Russell Group as well as exciting Apprenticeship opportunities including creative industries and finance.

The students have vibrancy, a willingness to give and a capacity for imagination that makes our Sixth Form a unique place to learn and grow from a young person into adulthood. The school's culture of high expectation leads to a clear sense of purpose and self-esteem, creating an environment where ambition and achievement are supported, encouraged and celebrated.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Ridgeway Academy aims to embrace the needs of all students and has a whole-school approach to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our aim is to provide opportunities for all students by responding to students' diverse and often complex learning needs by overcoming barriers to learning within lessons.

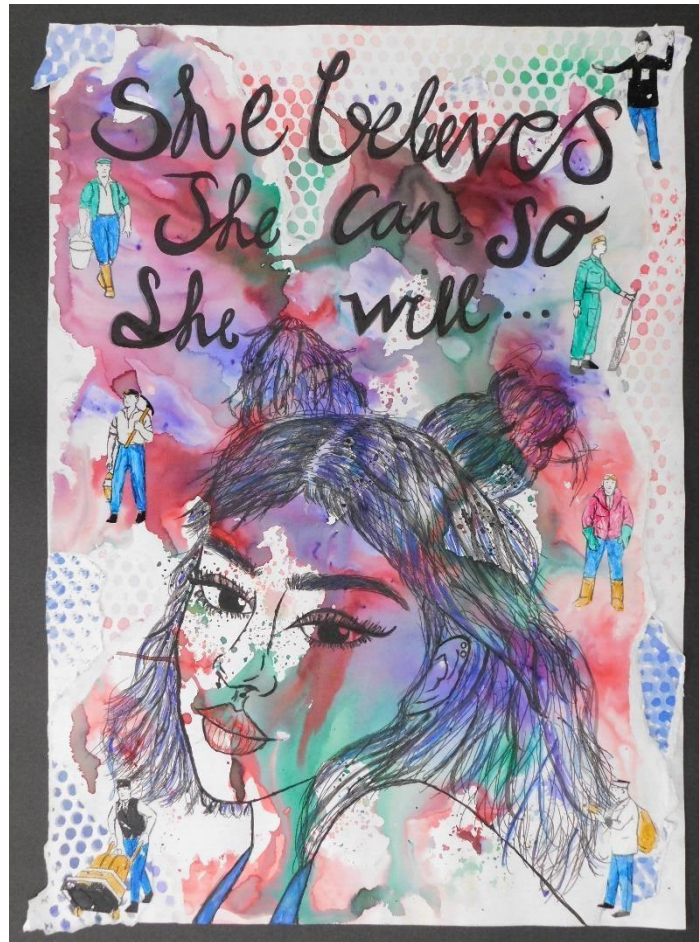
Ridgeway School recognises the definition of SEND as described in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25, 2014. More details of which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Admissions for all students to Ridgeway Academy are handled by the Local Education Authority, including for students with Education, Health and Care plans, disabilities and Looked after Children. A copy of our Admission's Policy can be found on our school website. Another useful link is to the Local Authority's Local Offer that outlines support and services for SEND available within Hertfordshire: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

Our SEND provision is co-ordinated by the Learning Support Faculty, under the SENDCO, Mrs. Faye Mills.

If you require additional information, or wish to discuss SEND provision at Ridgeway Academy, please contact our SENDCO Faye Mills: millsf@ridgeway.aetrust.uk



A-Level work produced by Ashlee Mckone