

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY



CURRICULUM POLICY

Compiled by: Deputy Headteacher	Revision Number: 12
Approved by: LGB	Date policy agreed: Summer term 2026
	Date of next policy review: Summer term 2027
Signed by: (print name)	Signature:

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

CURRICULUM POLICY

At Ridgeway Academy:

- We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which aims to provide our students with a rich experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, social, physical and aesthetic education and instil a love of lifelong learning.
- We aim to provide an enjoyable and stimulating education which fosters curiosity, independent thinking and creativity.
- We ensure that the planned curriculum is accessible to all students and delivers subject matter appropriate to the ages and aptitudes of our students.
- We offer a range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities which aim to broaden students' learning experiences beyond the classroom and confines of the taught curriculum.
- We provide students with access to high quality impartial advice and guidance to support them in making choices about their current and future education and careers
- We provide Personal Development which includes a wealth of topics including health, relationships, social, careers, religious education

Curriculum Organisation

The curriculum is organised into the three secondary school key stages:

- KS3 (Years 7 to 9)
- KS4 (Years 10 and 11)
- KS5 (Years 12 and 13)

Programmes of study are planned carefully to allow smooth transition between the key stages. The curriculum is delivered through a two-week cycle of 50 x 1-hour timetabled lessons.

The KS3 Curriculum

At KS3 the curriculum complies with the requirements of the National Curriculum.

SUBJECT	YEAR 7 - hours teaching per fortnight 5 forms	YEAR 8 – hours teaching per fortnight 5 forms	YEAR 9 - hours teaching per fortnight 7 forms
English	8	8	8
Maths	8	8	8
Science	8	8	8
Art	2	2	2
Computing	2	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
Dance	1	1	1
Geography	2	2	2
History	2	2	2
Spanish	3	3	3
PE	4	4	4
P Dev	2	2	2
Phil & Ethics	2	2	2
Technology (3 skill rotation)	2	2	2
	50	50	50

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

- When students arrive in Year 7, they are placed in mixed ability tutor groups. They are taught in these groups for all subjects, except for English and Mathematics (where they are taught in broad ability groups from October. Students are in mixed boy/girl groups in KS3 and boy/girl KS4 core PE. There is some streaming by ability to allow for adaptations to curriculum).
- Students with EHCP or SEND need, or who are below expectations at KS2 are offered support both within the classroom and through additional interventions. These often focus around phonics, Literacy, Reading Fluency & Comprehension and/or Numeracy. Some EAL support is also offered.
- Students are identified for Literacy and numeracy teaching using the transition information provided by our feeder primary schools. Students who achieved below the secondary ready score of 100 will be considered for these interventions. We also consider reading ages and CATS testing.
- As part of the school's alternative provision (RISE) an alternative curriculum is offered. This includes coverage of all core subjects and Personal Development, environmental projects and humanities projects. This is taught by specialist Teachers at Ridgeway and the RISE manager.
- Core subjects ensure full coverage of the Key Stage 3 curriculum in the summer term of Year 9 to ensure students are fully prepared for GCSE examinations.
- In KS3, Personal development (personal development, health and relationships education and citizenship) is delivered through weekly curriculum lessons, enrichment opportunities, the assembly and tutor time programme.
- In addition to specific Computer Science lessons where a broad curriculum is taught, ICT capability is developed across the subject areas. All classrooms are equipped with an interactive Promise board. We also have computer suites which are fully networked with the latest software, plus a fully equipped Library.
- From September 2026 all students in Years 7,8, 9, 10 and 11 will purchase a Chromebook device to allow for a blended learning offer in curriculum all areas.
- At Key stage 5 all students are encouraged to purchase a Chromebook or bring in a suitable device such as a laptop for use in school.

The KS4 Curriculum

The KS4 core curriculum is comprised of: English, Maths, Science, Physical Education, Personal Development and Core Philosophy. In addition, students have three subject option choices. All students are offered the opportunity to study academic pathway subjects, alongside their other options (Computer Science, Triple Science, Geography, History and Spanish). Some students may be offered a Kings Trust qualification as one of their options. For some students an alternative curriculum is offered alongside their main curriculum, this could include additional support or interventions.

Targeted students will receive additional English and mathematics to support them to reach their GCSE target grade.

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

KS4 Curriculum allocations from September 2026

Year 9 pathways: Blue (Triple Science plus 3 options, academic pathway), Green (Double Science plus 1 academic pathway subject & 2 options), Yellow (BTEC Science plus 3 options including vocational). Some students on the Yellow Pathway are offered Kings Trust as part of their curriculum instead of an option choice.

Core (6 forms)	Y10 & Y11 - hours teaching per fortnight
English Language and Literature (GCSE)	10 (5 per qualification)
Maths (GCSE)	8
Science – Trilogy (combined) Science or Biology, Chemistry, Physics (GCSE)	10 (12 Triple)
Three option subjects from: Art Business Enterprise (vocational) Computer Science Dance Drama Geography Spanish Sociology Food Technology Design Technology (3D Design) History Media Studies Music Philosophy & Ethics PE Health and Social Care Textiles Kings Trust	3 x 5 fortnightly (15)
Non-Examination Courses: Personal Development RS (Core Ethics) Core PE	2 1 4
	50

- Options courses are reviewed every year to ensure that the courses offered continue to meet the needs of each particular year group and take into consideration staff specialism. A full curriculum review took place in Spring 2025 and has made some key changes including adding KS3 Dance to the performing arts curriculum, reintroducing food technology, adding core philosophy hour to KS4 and moving to one language (Spanish)
- Subject options will only run if there is sufficient student interest to make the groups financially viable.
- Selection by ability forms no part of the options placement process at KS4. Guidance around which courses are most suitable for students (including, for example, the decision about whether to study Double or Triple Science) is made in consultation with staff based on student's achievement in that subject area.
- In KS4, RSHE is delivered through the Personal Development lessons and health and relationships education/citizenship programme, this is supplemented by whole / half day workshops facilitated by school staff or visiting speakers, including a one-week work shadowing experience for Year 10.

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

The KS5 Curriculum (Years 12 and 13)

- At KS5 the curriculum is organised together with our Consortium schools to provide access to the largest possible range of courses
- Similar to KS4, the availability of courses is dependent on sufficient student interest to make the course viable
- The curriculum across the consortium is reviewed annually to ensure that courses remain appropriate and meet the needs and aspirations of students
- Entry to the Sixth Form is dependent on students meeting the entry criteria outlined in the Consortium prospectus. Predicted average points score per subject at GCSE is used as a guideline. A minimum APS of 3.7 is required to gain entry to level 3 vocational courses and an APS of 5.5 is required to study 4 A level courses.
- The core curriculum of 3 or 4 AS/A2 levels or BTECs is complemented with a compulsory programme of PSHE and range of optional enrichment courses
- All students in Year 12 who take 3 subjects will be timetabled in the 6th form supervised study room for a number of periods. All students in Year 13 have at least two hours per week in the 6th form supervised study room
- Students can work towards an EPQ as part of their programme of study

The choice of subjects is as follows (as per 2026):

Subjects delivered at Ridgeway Academy	Delivered through Welwyn Hatfield Consortium
Medical Science Media Business Studies Criminology English Literature EPQ Politics Health and Social Care History Art craft and design Sports and Physical activity (CTEC) Drama Biology Core Maths	Art and Design (BTEC) Biology Chemistry Childcare (BTEC L3) Computing (BTEC) Computer science Drama and Theatre Studies Digital Media (CTEC) Economics English Language Financial Studies (LIBF) Fine Art German Geography Government and Politics Law Maths Further Maths Music Photography Product Design Psychology Religious Studies Sociology Spanish

- To assist students in making choices, a Post 16 Information evening is held in December of Year 11. Students have full access to information, both from school and careers staff and from representatives of local FE colleges.
- All applicants to the sixth form are interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team to assess the suitability of the courses chosen to the ability, aptitudes and aspirations of the student.

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

- Students benefit from a pastoral support programme, delivered through tutorials. External speakers contribute to topics such as self-protection, bereavement, stress management, cancer awareness and drugs awareness.
- An enrichment programme in Year 12 develops breadth of experience. Students have the opportunity to take part in sporting and community activities, within the school or wider community. Timetabled lessons covering a wide variety of topics support the enrichment programme.