



Respect | Responsibility | Relationships



Ridgeway Academy

'Everybody can achieve'



*“... because the school believes in us,
we believe in ourselves.”*

Student year 12

A very warm welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Ridgeway Academy. We are committed to providing an excellent education equipping your child to achieve their best academically, grow personally, and prepare for a successful future. We work hard at Ridgeway Academy and our expectation is that everyone endeavours to do their best in all that they do.



The very highest standards of conduct, respect, effort and personal attainment are our goal for all members of our school.

We are a caring and well-disciplined school and our key aim is to ensure that all students realise their potential. We are a happy school, with an energetic and talented staff committed to the achievement of our young people. Everyone has a part to play at Ridgeway Academy and everyone is listened to. Team work is precious, but so too are initiative and originality. We encourage positive attitudes and a 'can-do' culture. We provide a secure, safe environment in which all our young people feel valued, where they can develop the skills, attributes and confidence which will serve them well throughout their life.

This prospectus provides important information and reflects our ethos and expectations. However, it cannot replicate the vibrancy of day to day life at Ridgeway and we strongly recommend that you take time to come and see lessons in action. Visitors are always welcome so please do visit us. I hope to meet you soon and look forward to getting to know your child.

Sarah Mitcherson

Headteacher



A dedication to learning

Ridgeway Academy is a place where young people and staff share in the search for knowledge, truth and the pursuit of excellence.



Our vision is that *'Everybody can achieve'* because we:

Have Respect for ...

- learning and achievement;
- each other, valuing different views, beliefs and cultures;
- our community, supporting activities and presenting a positive image of the school;
- the environment, keeping it clean and tidy and fit for learning;
- the school rules and regulations

Take Responsibility for ...

- making significant progress and being a successful learner;
- setting high standards of behaviour, conduct, appearance and attitude;
- being effective independent learners and leaders, taking initiative and supporting others;
- meeting the challenges of the future and being confident in all that we do;
- making a positive contribution to society

Develop Relationships which ...

- are strong between each other, in and out of school;
- allow us to lead safe and healthy lives and look after the well-being of each other;
- help us think creatively and rationally and be enthusiastic about learning;
- help us know and value other people

We will develop every student's capacity to learn so that they become increasingly independent as they progress through the school.

The strength of positive relationships between students and staff allows everyone to achieve in their learning.



*“we are a small school
but with a big heart.”*

Student year 8

The curriculum

Ridgeway Academy's curriculum provides a wide range of learning experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom, allowing every student to achieve their potential.



We take great pride in being able to personalise our offer to ensure we cater for all of our students' interests and talents. Our primary focus is developing well rounded individuals who will be able to cope with the ever changing world of work.

At Ridgeway Academy our Key Stage 3 curriculum lasts for three years and builds upon the knowledge, skills and understanding from primary schools and prepares students for their examination courses.

In Key Stage 4 all students will continue with the essential core curriculum of English, mathematics, science, and PE. Many students will continue to learn a modern foreign language and a humanities subject.



In the Sixth Form we offer a wide and stimulating range of A level and BTEC opportunities. By working as part of the Welwyn and Hatfield 16-19 Consortium we are able to extend that offer so that students have access to a broad choice of subjects.

We believe that education is about much more than what goes on in the classroom. Students have the opportunity to take part in a very wide variety of trips and visits during their time at Ridgeway Academy. These range from regular trips to theatres, field trips with the humanities and science faculties and trips to support language learning. Recent trips have included visits to Cambodia, France, Iceland, Spain and destinations in the United Kingdom.



Lunchtime and after-school clubs provide extra learning opportunities to support work in the curriculum and also enable students to learn new skills whilst having fun and making new friends.



The Sixth Form

We have a fantastic Sixth Form at Ridgeway Academy, which is the natural progression for students beyond Year 11. It is a time of opportunities and experiences and we aim to help students successfully complete their formal education before moving on to University, apprenticeships or employment.

Our Sixth Form students play a unique and valuable role in the school, contributing actively to the wider life of the school community. They arrange and run a variety of events which involve younger students, demonstrating tremendous leadership and motivational skills.

Ridgeway Academy Sixth Form is open to all students who meet the entrance criteria. We offer an impressive range of A level and Level 3 vocational courses. We are able to do this through our membership of the Welwyn Hatfield 16-19 Consortium.

This allows us to ensure there is something to suit anyone who wishes to join our Sixth Form.

As students move through the Sixth Form and witness the challenges of entry to higher education, apprenticeships, employment training or gap years, they are assured of expert guidance from experienced subject staff and tutors.

“the support for our children here is excellent.” Parent



Care, guidance and support

Successful learning thrives when students feel safe, confident, respected and valued. We take the welfare of each student seriously because we recognise that social and emotional well-being are crucial to promote outstanding learning and achievement.



From the moment a student obtains a place at Ridgeway Academy, we start the process of supporting them to become successful learners within a nurturing environment. On entering the school, all students become members of a tutor group and we provide support through a year group structure. This marks the beginning of the strong bond with their Form Tutor who will maintain an overview of each student's academic and personal development.

The role of the Form Tutor is supported by a number of other people in the school. This includes the Director of Learning, Student Liaison



Officer, Mental Health Lead, Inclusion Co-ordinator, Reflective Learning Centre staff and Senior Leadership Team. The Attendance Officer, Careers Advisors, School Counsellors and other advisory teams, are available and can be accessed if the student needs this kind of specialist support.

For students to maximise their potential and become successful learners they must feel happy, safe and supported. From these foundations they are able to become creative, confident, resourceful, resilient and motivated students, willing to ask questions and to take risks. These attributes will allow our students to achieve more than they thought possible.



Ridgeway Academy runs a House system which delivers cross-year group support and opportunities, as well as increasing the strong bond and sense of community which is felt across the school. It is also a source of healthy competition, enabling students to consider the communities of which they are part as well as providing opportunities for student leadership.

A photograph of a classroom scene. A female teacher with short blonde hair, wearing a red sleeveless top and a lanyard that says 'FILMCLUB', is leaning over a desk. She is pointing at a worksheet with her right hand while holding a pen in her left. A young male student in a school uniform (black blazer with red piping, white shirt, and red tie) is sitting at the desk, smiling and looking down at the worksheet. To his left, another student in a similar uniform is standing and looking on. To his right, a young female student is also sitting at the desk, looking towards the camera. In the background, another student is visible, slightly out of focus. The classroom has colorful posters on the wall.

*“we always find your students well
mannered and well behaved whenever
we see them in the community.”* Local resident



Sport & healthy lifestyle

We aim to ensure students are fit, healthy and take pride in their appearance, and consequently strengthen their self-confidence and leadership skills.



We want our students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and to prosper from good habits in the future. All students follow a programme of physical education and sport throughout their time at school. Our PE Faculty is at the very heart of our school community and plays a major role in promoting healthy lifestyles. The PE team encourage all students to participate fully, regardless of ability.



Our inclusive and positive approach and the wide variety of sports on offer help to ensure that all students are able to discover and take part in something that they enjoy. There are also many students who choose to engage in sporting activities that take them beyond the boundaries of the school and on to county and national level.

Many students also follow our well respected Sports Leadership programme and carry out significant work leading sport with younger students from our local primary schools.



"Our curriculum here at Ridgeway Academy provides an excellent education, equipping your child to achieve their best academically, grow personally, and prepare for a successful future." Sarah Mitcherson, Headteacher



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Headteacher - **Sarah Mitcherson**

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