

22 November 2024



RIDGEWOOD  
SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a great week. Thank you for your support this week, keeping attendance high when the weather has been challenging. As usual, I have provided several updates followed by a curriculum focus on the Mathematics Faculty.

### **Uniform**

We allowed students to wear alternative shoes on Tuesday with the snow, but some students have continued to wear these throughout this week. The normal school uniform rules will be enforced from Monday. This includes plain, black leather or leather-look polishable shoes. If students are cold, a plain grey v neck jumper can be worn under the blazer. Jumpers that are not grey or include other logos or designs are not permitted.

### **InTouch messages and Class Charts**

You will be aware that we have rolled out Class Charts to improve our communication with parents/carers. We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback about this change, and 88% of parents/carers are now using the app. In this transition period, we have also been sending out messages via InTouch. Please note that we will be retiring our InTouch system at the Christmas holidays. From 6 January 2025, all communication will be sent home only via Class Charts. If you have not downloaded the app by this point, you will not see crucial information such as parents' evening booking alerts, detention notifications, absence alerts etc.

If you need a reminder of your Class Charts access code, please complete a 'contact us' form.

### **Parent Support Evening**

We are delighted with the interest and sign-up numbers for our upcoming Parent Support Event on Thursday 28 November from 5:00pm until 6:30pm. We will present our PSHCE curriculum, safeguarding and wellbeing provision and there will be a very large number of representatives available from a range of family support services in Doncaster. If you haven't yet, please register your intended attendance using this link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8OU8XP/>

### **Sporting highlights**

Despite the freezing conditions, our student athletes have represented Ridgewood proudly this week.

Ridgewood Storm, our netball team have played twice this week, with the Y7 team winning both of their games. Our Y8's had two games securing a win against McAuley School and an unfortunate loss against Don Valley. Our Y9/10 students played an excellent game, but unfortunately did not secure a win this week.

Ridgewood Blaze, our KS4 Badminton Team, played and beat both Armthorpe Academy and Hall Cross Academy.

Our sports student leaders visited Campsmount Academy this week, delivering basketball training to year 5 and 6 students from local primary schools.



**'Prepare for the road ahead'**

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

## **Duke of Edinburgh**

We are delighted to report that our largest ever cohort of students have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award. We have had 62 students achieve their Bronze Award, 27 students achieve their Silver Award and 12 students achieve their Gold Award. Huge congratulations to all of these students. Anybody interested in taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme should speak to Miss De Carolis.

## **Maths spotlight**

The Maths Faculty have an inspiring vision which drives all they do: 'Teaching students Mathematics skills for life.' The Maths team support students to enjoy their mathematical education and leave them with the knowledge and skills to apply mathematics confidently in both their personal and academic lives. We believe that all students can achieve in mathematics and we want all students to experience the beauty and power of this universal language.

Students in Years 7-9 study a Key Stage 3 curriculum that supports students in preparing for Key Stage 4 GCSE studies. The building blocks of Key Stage 3 are imperative to the successful access to our Mathematics GCSE curriculum.

A summary of the topics studied in each year is given below, these which will be differentiated at a level suitable to support and challenge your child. Further details on specific learning objectives can be found on the learning maps.

Students in Year 7 have continued to develop their Mathematical skills from primary school. At the start of the year, they have looked at developing their Number and Algebra skills. In the new year students will continue to look at more Number and Algebra, while being introduced to Ratio and Proportion and Geometry.

Students in Year 8 have been introduced to more complex algebra concepts at the start of the year and are now learning about data and statistics. In the new year students will be introduced to probability and continue to develop their proportion and geometry skills from Year 7.

Students in Year 9 continue to embed all the skills from Year 7 and Year 8 to ensure they are prepared for KS4. The Maths Curriculum spirals from Year 7 to Year 9 to allow students to continually see topics and revisit previous skills. In Year 9 students learn the final skills around the topics of Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry, Probability and Statistics. This allows them to have the positive start to the KS4 curriculum.

Students in Year 7-Year 9 will complete two summative assessments throughout the year during half-term 2 and 5.

The Key Stage 4 maths curriculum builds on the skills learnt at Key Stage 3. Years 10 and 11 follow a scheme of learning which introduces new topics based on the tier of exam the students are sitting (Foundation or Higher) while practising and furthering the key skills taught at Key Stage 3.

In the Sixth Form, the Maths Faculty offers A level Maths that covers the following topics:

- Pure Mathematics - the use and application of algebra, trigonometry, calculus and other core mathematical skills.
- Mechanics – An applied unit that focuses on the real-world problems such as kinematics, forces and moments.
- Statistics - An applied unit that focuses on real life uses of mathematics to analyse data and trends focusing on topics such as sampling, hypothesis testing and probability.

Additionally, the Maths Faculty offer A Level Further Maths that covers the following topics

- Pure Mathematics - the use and application of further algebra, matrices, complex numbers, vectors and other core mathematical skills.
- Discrete - An applied unit that focuses on using maths to solve real-life problems by using algorithms, graphs, networks, linear programming and critical path analysis.
- Statistics – An applied unit that further develops the real-life applications of the Statistic

Outside of the curriculum, the Maths Faculty contribute to the wider development of the students by offering Further Maths GCSE for higher attaining students.

If you have any queries about the Maths curriculum, please do not hesitate to use the 'contact us' facility on the school website, for the attention of Mr Foster, Curriculum Leader – Maths.

I hope you have a fantastic weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Bridge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andy Bridge  
Headteacher