



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL



YEAR 9

GUIDED

DEAR PARENT/CARER,

It is the time in your son/daughter's education when they need to make some important choices regarding their Key Stage 4 courses. This enclosed booklet provides information about all KS4 courses. You will also be invited, along with your son/daughter, to a virtual guided choices meeting with a senior leader within the school.

The National Curriculum requires pupils to take a broad range of subjects that are compulsory. These include Mathematics, English, Science, Physical Education, PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, and Citizenship Education), and elements of Religious Education. Pupils are then able to choose three options.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is not a standalone qualification but is made up of five GCSE subjects. Pupils who want to gain the English Baccalaureate will study the National Curriculum subjects, a language (Spanish), and a humanities subject (History or Geography). They will then have a choice of one other option subject, including BTECs.

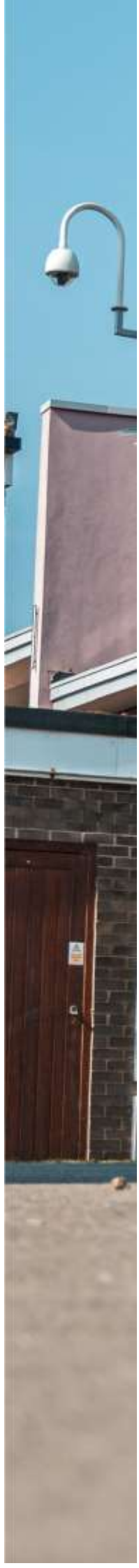
Virtual 1:1 Guided Choices Meetings

We appreciate that making the correct choices can be difficult. Therefore, after the Year 9 Guided Choices Evening, parents and carers will schedule a 1:1 virtual appointment with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their options. The team will help and support you and your son/daughter in making their decision. These virtual meetings will take place over the school's parents' evening software.

We will always try to give your son/daughter his/her first preference choices. Occasionally, this is not possible; therefore, we will ask all students to provide a reserve option.

We do appreciate that making decisions and arranging these meetings can be a difficult and time-consuming task. If you need any help or have any concerns about subjects offered to your child, members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available for you to consult at any time.

Yours faithfully



Mr E Ball

Deputy Headteacher



CONTENTS

IMPORTANT DATES

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY	<p>The Guided Choices evening for students and parents/carers to speak to the subject leaders about the different qualifications.</p> <p>Guided Choices booklet available at the Guided Choices Evening to inform students and parents/carers of the different options subjects they can choose from.</p>
27 JANUARY – 7 FEBRUARY	<p>Narrated PowerPoints from each subject sent out to pupils throughout PDP time.</p>
10 FEBRUARY – 14 FEBRUARY	<p>Virtual Guided Choices meetings with Senior Leaders.</p> <p>Please be mindful that this deadline may change. In this instance we will communicate this with parents/carers.</p>
MONDAY 3 MARCH	<p>Second interviews take place for any students not placed in chosen subjects.</p>

GUIDED CHOICES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS GUIDED CHOICES?

The Guided Choices process at Ridgewood is about supporting all students in the next, exciting phase of their education. It aims to guide their choices for Key Stage 4, preparing them for future education, training, and employment opportunities.

What subjects will students study?

Core Subjects

All students will study core subjects. These are:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Science

All students will then choose **one** EBacc subject. These are:

- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE Spanish

- All students will participate in Core PE, Personal, Social, Health, and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), and will learn elements of Religious Education.
- As in KS3, British Values will be explored during PSHCE, Core RE and assemblies, allowing students to develop cultural awareness, challenge extremism and radicalization, ensuring they remain healthy and safe.

Guided Choices Subjects

After the allocation of core subjects and one EBacc subject, students have **2 further subjects** to choose from.

- We would expect students in the top two sets for Spanish to opt for GCSE Spanish.
- Students intending to study Spanish at A level should choose GCSE Spanish.

WHAT IS EBACC?

All students should have a well-balanced range of core academic subjects.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification in its own right. It is a combination of subjects, which schools are encouraged to offer students the opportunity, where appropriate, to study a broad range of subjects including the following:

- English
- Maths
- At least two Sciences
- A language
- Either History or Geography

HOW WILL I BE GUIDED AND

Students achieving a strong pass (grade 5+) in this range are considered to have achieved the EBacc. Ridgewood encourages students suited to study GCSE Spanish to pursue the EBacc combination, ensuring a broad academic curriculum for future opportunities.

GCSE Subjects and Vocational Technical Qualifications

Ridgewood offers various vocational qualifications, including BTECs, Cambridge National, and NCFE Level Technical Awards. These courses complement the academic core, enabling progression into post-16 education, college, apprenticeships, or training. Carefully chosen, they are equivalent to GCSEs and could lead to employment or Level 3 courses at post-16.

SUPPORTED IN MAKING MY CHOICES?

Individual meetings with a Senior Leader and parents/carers will guide students towards suitable options for KS4. Each student in Year 9 will be assigned a Senior Leader, with parents/carers having the opportunity to book virtual meetings. The staff member will consider current and historical assessments, feedback from teachers, and student preferences so that the options will be suitable for the student.

Other sources of support include:

- **Narrated presentations by subject leads in PDP time from 27 January 2024.**
- **Independent Careers Service** – Progress Careers. Students can contact their form tutor for an interview.
- **Form tutors** – The first point of contact for worries or questions about the Guided Choices process.

HOW WILL QUALIFICATIONS BE GRADED?

While we will endeavour to meet the choices of all students, where these are deemed suitable in their meeting, it is never possible to do this for the hundreds of different combinations which may be chosen. Some students will, unfortunately, be disappointed by having to make alterations to their original subject combinations. This includes where we are unable to run a course due to limited demand. If we are unable to offer a student their choice of courses, a Senior Leader will meet with them to guide them through alternatives. Once course choices have been made, we will build the timetable for next year. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to change a course at a later date, so we would appreciate you emphasising to your son/daughter the importance of thinking things through carefully and discussing choices thoroughly in order to get it right first time. We will write to you to let you know their final allocated choices before the end of the school year.

HOW WILL QUALIFICATIONS BE GRADED?

All GCSEs that current Year 9s will sit in 2026 will be measured on the 9-1 scale. The diagram below shows the grading system and how it compares with Vocational Qualifications. Vocational qualifications are not graded 9-1 but with Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass. Please see the individual subject pages for more information.

GCSE Grading Structure	Vocational Grading Structure (GCSE equivalent in brackets)	
9	Level 2	Distinction* (8.5)
8		Distinction (7)
7		Merit (5.5)
6		Pass (4)
5		
4		
3	Level 1	
2		1
1		
U	NYA (not yet achieved)	



WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT QUALIFICATIONS?



SUBJECT INFORMATION

Compulsory Subjects

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHY STUDY ENGLISH?

English Language and English Literature are two separate GCSEs for which you will receive two separate grades. English Language will encourage you to be inspired and challenged by following a diverse curriculum. Studying English Language will enable you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices, and to use language to participate effectively in society and employment. English Literature will extend your interest in and enthusiasm for poetry, novels and plays as you develop an understanding of the ways in which literature is enriching and influential.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Your lessons will involve a variety of ways of exploring texts and language. You will take part in:

- Speaking and listening in a range of contexts
- Reading and responding to a variety of texts, including literary, non-literary, fiction, non-fiction and media texts
- Reading texts which will include a range of poems, a Shakespeare play, a modern play and a pre-twentieth century novel: Macbeth, An Inspector Calls and A Christmas Carol
- Writing for a range of audiences and purposes.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Close reading
- Detailed written analysis
- Comparison of texts
- Creative writing skills
- Writing to present a viewpoint
- Approaching unseen texts
- Selecting relevant evidence from texts
- Evaluation of perspectives and intentions

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: English Language / English Literature

Exam Board: Eduqas / AQA **Final**

examinations: 100%

There are no tiers, which means that everyone will sit the same exam. You will also receive a grade for Speaking and Listening, as assessed by your teacher, although this is not a contributing factor towards your GCSE and is separate from your grades for Language and/or Literature. **Grading:** 9 to 1

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- English Language
 - English Literature
 - History
 - Psychology
 - Sociology
 - Teaching
- A range of careers including:
- Journalism
 - Advertising
 - Film and photography
 - Writing

CAREER ROUTES

MATHEMATICS

Studying mathematics will enable you to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics, and to recognise the importance of it in your own life and to society. GCSE mathematics will also provide a strong mathematical foundation for you if you go on to study mathematics at a higher level post-16.

Your Mathematics GCSE will enable you to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, to acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems, and to reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions. At the end of this two year course, you will be able to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will continue to study mathematics following on from your Year 9 work at an appropriate level for you. Your knowledge and understanding of the subject will develop as you experience and participate in a range of activities such as:

- Practising and consolidating skills in class and at home
- Working in pairs and groups to share ideas and compare strategies when solving problems
- Using ICT efficiently to explore patterns, shapes and graphs
- Investigating problems and creating opportunities to discover new areas of mathematics.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Using knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts
- Applying functional elements of mathematics to real life situations
- Acquire and use problem solving strategies
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- Interpret mathematical information in a variety of forms • Use of a calculator

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Final examinations: 100%

Course Title: Mathematics

Exam Board: OCR

This course is assessed at two tiers: Higher and Foundation

Grading: 9 to 1

Exam papers include calculator and non-calculator questions so you must have a scientific calculator.

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

GCSE Mathematics provides a vital foundation for many post-16 courses and training opportunities.

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Physics

CAREER ROUTES

Achievement in mathematics at all levels is advantageous and often essential for a wide variety of scientific, business and technological vocations. Universities and Higher Education Colleges specify that a good pass grade

in GCSE Mathematics is needed as an entrance requirement for most courses.

WHY STUDY SCIENCE?

The study of science will enable you to develop curiosity about the natural world, insight into how science works, and appreciation of its relevance to our everyday lives. This subject will provide the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and you will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn to:

- Develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
- Develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help you to answer scientific questions about the world around you
- Develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments
- Develop your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Development of scientific thinking
- Experimental skills and strategies
- Analysis and evaluation
- Scientific vocabulary, quantities, units, and symbols
- Strong foundations in scientific investigation through practical work

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Trilogy: combined science

Exam Board: AQA

Final exams: 100%

Grading: 9 to 1

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

The specification lays an appropriate foundation for further study of science subjects.

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Medical Science

CAREER ROUTES

Science qualifications are useful for a wide range of careers including:

Aeronautics, archaeologist, dentist, engineer, forensic scientist, geologist, forestry manager, marine biologist, medicine, meteorologist, microbiologist, nutritionist, pilot, robotics engineer, physical trainer, psychologist, software engineer, veterinarian, wildlife refuge manager, zoo biologist plus many more.

WHY STUDY CORE PE?

Core PE is compulsory for all KS4 students. At KS4, you complete activities similar to those at KS3, but there is more emphasis on competition, game play and lifelong participation. You are also given the opportunity to complete the Level 2 Sports Leadership Award in PE lessons.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

- You will be taught through practical PE.
- You will have both indoor and outdoor lessons over the year.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Communication
- Problem-solving skills
- Interpreting information
- Research skills
- Teamwork
- Planning
- Health and safety

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- In Key Stage 4, the main focus is towards engagement and lifelong participation.
- You are assessed primarily on your attitude in lessons.

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Sport

CAREER ROUTES

- An excellent basis for careers in:
- The leisure and fitness industries
 - Physical Training Instructor in services/forces
 - Physical Education teacher
 - Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology
 - Youth work, outdoor education, coaching

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION (PSHCE) AND CORE RE

WHY STUDY PSHCE AND RE?

PSHCE is a statutory subject that all students must study throughout their time at school. PSHCE curriculum covers all the essential content, meeting requirements of the Relationships and Sex Education (SRE) and Health Education policies.

PSHCE challenges you and enables you to develop the knowledge and the confidence to apply content to real life situations. PSHCE helps to empower all learners, building your resilience and the knowledge that what you aspire to achieve is within your reach. It enables everyone to become successful and happy adults that make meaningful contributions to society. The PSHCE curriculum will be taught sensitively and inclusively. In Years 9, 10 and 11 you will be taught about issues arising in relation to intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health, during specific relationships and sex education topics.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

- You will learn both independently and in groups
- You will take part in discussions to develop knowledge and understanding of different real-life issues
- You complete group work, creating presentations to demonstrate knowledge
- You will learn from visitors and experts who will come into school to share their expertise

- Understanding of how to live safely both on and offline
- Skills to manage academic, personal and social lives in a positive way
- Understanding of how to assess if you need support, and knowledge of where to access this support
- Understanding how to identify and manage risks
- Ability to make informed decisions
- Skills to develop healthy nurturing relationships, of all kinds
- Confidently know what is healthy and unhealthy in all relationships you have • Build resilience and character

Grades are not given in PSHCE or Core RE. However, assessments will take place at the end of each module to ensure that key, important information has been understood fully. Assessments may take different forms in PSHCE and include drama productions, speeches, writing formal letters, presentations and others, ensuring a variety of skills are being developed.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

Guided Choices Subjects



WHY STUDY ART AND DESIGN?

Art and Design requires you to learn through practical experience and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sources that inform your creative intentions. You will also learn to develop and apply relevant subject-specific skills in order to use visual language to communicate personal ideas, meanings and responses. Over time, you will reflect critically upon your creative journey, and its effectiveness in relation to the realisation of personal intentions. On this course, you will learn to understand how sources inspire the development of ideas. For example, you will draw on the work and approaches of artists, craftspeople or designers from contemporary and/or historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures, and contemporary and/or historical environments, situations or issues. You will also study the ways in which meanings, ideas and intentions can be communicated through visual and tactile language, using formal elements, including colour, line, form, tone and texture.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

This is a practical based course.

- Starting with an exploration of the basic elements of art, you then develop your own projects and ideas.
- A wide range of techniques and styles will be taught in a variety of media.
- Lessons will involve exploring the work of a range of artists and designers from different times and places, and this will be incorporated within practical projects.
- You will have opportunities to develop your own ideas and be given personalised guidance in order to help you express and realise your creativity, as well as being able to show your own independence with your studies.

- Working from observation
- Media and technique experimentation
- Idea development
- Contextual referencing and juxtaposition

Course Title: GCSE Art and Design (Art, Craft and Design)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Final examination: 40%. There are no tiers.

Coursework project: A collective of work totalling 60% of the overall grade **Grading:** 9 to 1

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

CAREER ROUTES

• Art, Craft and Design

There are hundreds of Art-related courses that lead to employment including graphics, advertising, illustration, architecture, fashion design, fashion marketing, photography, film, stage design, textiles, ceramics, 3D design, fine arts and media and television. The Creative Sector, underpinned by the Visual Arts, in the UK economy is second only to the Financial Sector as a generator of income for the Exchequer.

BUSINESS STUDIES/ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING

WHY STUDY ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING?

This course will enable you to understand more about the business world through studying a range of real businesses. You will develop as a commercially minded and enterprising individual who can think critically, drawing on business information and evidence to develop arguments and make justified decisions. You will study businesses ranging from small enterprises to large multi-nationals and businesses operating at local, national and global levels. You will develop your understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour. The course covers a wide range of business concepts including Human Resources, Marketing, Finance and Production, developing your knowledge in how to interpret and analyse the performance of business and factors to consider when starting up and running an enterprise.

HOW WILL I LEARN? (Specific course to be decided on the cohort)

There are 2 units in GCSE Business:
Theme 1: Investigating small business
Theme 2: Building a business

In **Enterprise** there are 3 units of work:
R067 – Externally assessed - Enterprise and marketing concepts (40%)
R068 – Internally assessed - Designing a Business Proposal (30%)
R069 – Internally assessed - Market and pitch a business proposal (30%)

You will learn through a variety of learning styles. These will be through researching and investigating, working independently and in groups. You will look at case studies as well as conducting your own surveys and analysis. You will investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues so you can better understand business concepts, business terminology and business objectives.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Thinking skills
- Research skills
- Communication skills
- Numeracy skills
- Problem solving skills
- Creativity Skills

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: GCSE (9-1) Business 2017 Specification
Exam Board: Edexcel
Final Examination: 100%
Grading: 9 to 1
Exams: 2 x 1 hour 45 minutes external examination

Course Title: Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing J837
Exam Board: OCR
Final Examination: 40% 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes external examination, 60% coursework.
Grading: Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction*

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

- Business Students may continue Business Studies or a related subject at university. Others may move directly into industry, in areas such as Accountancy, Marketing and Human Resources.
- Economics

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

If you choose to study Computer Science, you will be able to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. You will also analyse problems in computational terms through the practical experience of solving problems and designing, writing and debugging programs. Computer Science also demands that you think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. By the end of the course, you will understand the components that make up digital systems, how they communicate with one another, as well as understanding the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

This course will be delivered through a mixture of practical and theory-based lessons

- You will use computers each lesson for both theory and practical work
- All lessons are shared on OneNote
- Activities include online worksheets, mind maps, research tasks, web authoring and programming.
- Sometimes this will be teacher-led and other times will be independent work.
- Programming will be taught alongside theory units. Python is used primarily; however, other methods will be demonstrated.
- Students are expected to be able to develop and experiment with code to achieve different outcomes. **Non Examined Component: Practical programming**
- Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake programming tasks during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B).

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Problem solving including the use of decomposition and abstraction, and making use of conventions including pseudo code and flowcharts.
- Designing, writing, testing and refining programs, using one or more high-level programming language with a textual program definition, either to a specification or to solve a problem.
- Evaluating the fitness for purpose of algorithms in meeting requirements efficiently using logical reasoning and test data.
- Applying computing-related mathematics.

Course Title: GCSE Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

Final examination: 100%: Two papers 50% each **Grading:** 9 to 1

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

Students with this qualification will be in a strong position to continue studies in a wide range of other computing related qualifications.

• Computer Science

Computer Science skills can be applied in a variety of different occupations and contexts. This course can

create a good foundation for any computer science related career including administration, programming and analysis, website design and app development.

CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

WHY STUDY CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT?

BTEC Construction is a fantastic choice for anyone considering a career in any area of the construction industry. The qualification enables learners to develop their sector-specific skills, such as using tools and materials safely with vocationally correct techniques, interpreting and understanding the infrastructure for safe and efficient work, and specialist design techniques to enhance communication of design by using realistic vocational contexts. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Lessons are classroom and practical workshop based. Activities include:

- Using industry standard Autodesk Revit software
- Knowledge and understanding of how buildings are designed and constructed and their different elements
- Analysing clients' needs
- Designing buildings for a client
- Understanding architecture
- Creating computer models of buildings
- Exploring construction projects
- Practical Activities in the workshop
- Developing construction drawings

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Computer drawing skills – CAD drawings of buildings
- Team working
- Problem-solving
- Practical Skills
- Technical drawing

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: BTEC L1/2 Tech Award in Construction and the Built Environment

Exam Board: Edexcel

Final examination: 25% 1 exam

Coursework: 75% (Practical, Written and drawing based) 2 Units

Grading: Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Engineering

CAREER ROUTES

- Construction industry apprenticeships
- Construction management
- Architecture
- Quantity Surveying

WHY STUDY DANCE?

This course is open to you if you have an interest in Dance and love to perform. There is a balance of practical performance, creative group work and work-related research. It provides opportunities for you to demonstrate your dance performance skills and show your understanding of existing repertoire.

HOW WILL I LEARN? (Specific course to be decided on the cohort)

You will learn the following:

- Develop and demonstrate skills in a range of dance performances
- Develop as an effective and independent learner and a reflective thinker with an enquiring mind
- Develop an understanding of working in the Performing Arts industry
- Develop an understanding of the creative intentions of performances and how these are created through a range of production elements
- Work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing, and communicating ideas for a final dance performance
- Reflect on and evaluate your own work and the work of others
- Understand the elements required to create dance performances for an audience

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Choreographing skills
- Performance skills
- Critical analysis skills of existing repertoire
- Research, communication and team work skills
- Confidence

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: BTEC Tech Award L2 in Performing Arts (Dance approach)

Exam Board: Pearson

Components: 1 (30%) & 2 (30%) – non-exam internal assessment

Component 3 – (40%) – External assessment – Final performance and three written responses at points throughout the rehearsal process

Grading: Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass.

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- BTEC L3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

CAREER ROUTES

Performer – TV, Film, Live Theatre,
Choreographer
Community Arts Worker
Dance Teacher
Dance Therapist

WHY STUDY ENGINEERING?

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging course where you will learn about using both 2D and 3D engineering design techniques to design new products that meets a design brief. You will learn about communicating engineering design ideas, this will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering design and development sector. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- Completing research to inform engineering design ideas
- Solving problems by exploring different engineering design options
- Finding imaginative solutions through creative thinking

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Engineering Design, including the design process, types of drawings, influences on design, and the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering design and development sector and more widely
- Analyse problems in design terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, and modelling designs to meet a design brief
- Understand the different stages of the iterative design process, recognising the cyclical nature of this approach
- Evaluate designs through product disassembly and the process of using product analysis.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Manual drawing skills and CAD skills
- Analysing problems to be able to solve them creatively
- Developing ideas to meet a design brief
- Be able to apply and follow the iterative design process including modelling of ideas
- Analysing different products through product disassembly

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: OCR Cambridge National in Engineering Design

Exam Board: OCR

Assessments: 40% exam unit 60% coursework split into two units

Grading: Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Engineering

CAREER ROUTES

- Apprenticeship e.g. Design and Development Technician (Level 3).
 - Cambridge Technical in Engineering
 - T Level Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing (Level 3)

WHY STUDY H&SC?

Studying BTEC Health and Social Care will provide the opportunity for you to understand more about how humans develop over their lifespan; to the roles and responsibilities of HSC services and their core values; to the importance of health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators. The course aims to provide students with an understanding of how to meet the needs of individuals in HSC settings, and to develop skills and qualities such as empathy that will enable them to challenge Lorem ipsum stereotypes and encourage anti-discriminatory practice. Health and Social Care enables students to develop the skills and qualities needed to develop as tolerant and educated citizens.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

In BTEC H&SC, you will:

- Develop a broad understanding of a range of health and social care topics and areas
- Explore and understand the specialist skills and qualities needed to promote excellence in standards of care for a range of people
- Apply subject specific knowledge, skills and concepts to Health and Social Care contexts
- Promote an ethical approach when dealing with conflict and dilemmas within Health and Social Care
- Make connections across their learning and between units, including cross-curricular links
- Learn how to evaluate and reflect on their own learning, and how to draw comparisons between their own learning and the HSC workplace
- Develop as leaders & team members by participating in collaborative learning structures; working together in pairs, groups and teams
- Develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on your knowledge and understanding • Produce extended writing where judgements and assessment is needed.

- Leadership
- Communication skills
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Literacy skills

Course Title: Tech Award Level 1/2 in Health and Social Care

Exam Board: Pearson, Edexcel

Final examination: Component 1 internal assessment, Component 2 Internal assessment Component 3 External exam

Grading: L1P- L2D*

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

- Health and Social Care Level 3
- Level 3 Sport

- Biology
- Level 3 Applied Science
- Social Science

Career opportunities/background for work in:

Hospitality and Catering is useful for anyone

- Nurse wanting to work in any area of the food or
- Physiotherapist hospitality industries, including:
- Occupational health
- Chef
- Social worker
- Dietician

The hospitality and catering sector is one of the largest and fastest-growing industries in the world. By studying this course, you will gain knowledge and skills that could lead to exciting careers in restaurants, hotels, event planning, food production, and more. This course is ideal for students who enjoy practical work. You will spend time developing real-world skills like cooking, food presentation, and kitchen management in a creative and supportive environment.

A variety of different techniques are used in lessons which help suit different learning styles. There is a balance of practical cooking and written work. You will learn to cook a range of dishes every week, from fresh pasta to lemon meringue pie. Be prepared to be hands on as there are opportunities to prepare and portion fish and chicken. You will get the chance to plan, prepare and cook using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment, developing knowledge and understanding of the nutritional content of food and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.

A good foundation of knowledge, understanding and skills that are required in the hospitality and catering industry, which is a major employer of people in the UK and other countries. You will have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills, including food preparation, cooking and presentation skills, organisation, time management planning, communication and problem solving.

Course Title: Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award) **Exam Board:** WJEC

Grading: Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*

Unit 1 – 40% - The Hospitality and Catering Industry (exam)

Unit 2 – 60% - Hospitality and Catering in Action (coursework)

- Food Technologist/new product development
- Science (biology, chemistry)
- Health and social care
- Sport science
- Nutritionist
- Hotel and Bar manager
- Environmental health officer
- Food manufacturing
- Wait staff

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Studying GCSE Geography will provide the opportunity for you to understand more about the world, the challenges it faces, and your place within it. The GCSE course will deepen your understanding of geographical processes, illuminate the impact of change and of interactions between people and their environment, highlight the dynamic links and inter-relationships between places and environments at different scales, and develop your ability to use a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches. Geography enables young people to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens. Lorem ipsum

HOW WILL I LEARN?

In GCSE Geography, you will:

- Develop and extend your knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, and of different scales including global, national and local with aspects of social, political and cultural contexts
- Gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the inter-relationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts (think like a geographer)
- Develop and extend your competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and in researching secondary evidence, including digital sources
- Develop your competence in applying sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses (study like a geographer)
- Apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues
- Develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on your geographical knowledge and understanding (applying geography)
- Produce extended writing questions where judgements and assessment is needed.

• Enquiry skills

- Geographical skills
- Statistical and Numerical skills
- Cartographic skills
- Literacy skills

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: GCSE Geography Exam

Board: AQA

Final examination: 100% - Paper 1 & 2 are 1 hour and 30 minutes. Paper 3 is 1 hour and 15 minutes There are no tiers

Fieldwork will be assessed within Paper 3

Grading: 9 to 1

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Geography
- Politics
- Business Studies
- Economics

Career opportunities/background for work in:

- Police/Emergency services/Forces
- Land surveying/Urban Planning
- Travel/Environmental Consultant

CAREER ROUTES

HISTORY

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

GCSE History will enable you to learn more about the history of Britain and that of the wider world. The study of History at GCSE will inspire you to deepen your understanding of the people, periods and events studied and enable you to think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, make informed decisions and develop perspective and judgement. This, in turn, will prepare you for a role as an informed, thoughtful and active citizen. The discipline of history and a knowledge and understanding of the past will also help you to understand your own identity and significant aspects of the world in which you live, and provide you with the basis for further wider learning and study. You will learn about engaging and interesting events such as: Vietnam War; Civil Rights in America; Crime and Punishment through time; Jack the Ripper; Elizabeth I and the Cold War.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Your lessons will include full class teaching with a lot of questioning and discussions. You will analyse different source material and produce answers to questions. You will examine differing points of view, look at why an event happened, the consequences and the way events link to each other. You will develop vital skills of analysis and interpretation, and learn to think critically about evidence; also, you will gain an understanding of up-to-date historical topics.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Extend your knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history, and of the wide diversity of human experience.
- Engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers.
- Develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context.
- Develop an awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them.
- Organise and communicate historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: GCSE History Exam

Board: Edexcel

Final examinations: 100% (Crime and Punishment and Whitechapel – 30%; Cold War and Early Elizabethan England – 40%; USA, 1954-75 – 30%). There are no tiers, which means that everyone will sit the same exam **Grading:** 9 to 1

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- History • Teaching
- Politics • Law
- English Literature • Politics
- English Language • Research
- Civil Service

CAREER ROUTES

CREATIVE IMEDIA

WHY STUDY IMEDIA?

This vocationally-related qualification takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. It will equip you with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning, reviewing, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. The hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media. If you are interested in film, television, web development, gaming and animation alongside IT, this is the course for you.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

This is a practical course with all lessons being in a computer room.

- You will work on a variety of practical tasks, keeping evidence and records of your work as you go. Sometimes this will be teacher-led and other times will be independent work.
- Throughout the course you will learn through a wide range of methods, but they will all involve developing your understanding of media and working on media production projects.
- The aim of the course is to develop your skills in understanding a range of media, so lessons are very creative and research based.
- Your project-based work will look at interactive products, sound, art, animation and video production.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Learning to use online media software such as Adobe spark and Canva and Photopea.
- How to develop media pre-production products
- How to use Rocketcake software to create and interactive media product
- How to combine media products
- Research skills
- Planning for preproduction including specific software
- Communicating ideas
- Developing creative concepts

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia

Exam Board: OCR

Practical examination: 40% (There are no tiers, which means that everyone will sit the same exam)

Coursework project: Two projects, one which is 25% and one which is 35%

Grading: Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction*

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

- IT
- Art, Craft and Design

A range of careers including:

- Media
- Project planning
- Art & Graphic Design
- Architecture
- Game Design

WHY STUDY MUSIC TECHNOLOGY?

Music Technology NCFE introduces you to the key areas of music technology, and develops expertise in its creative application within audio production, music composition, live performance and sound design. This qualification provides an introduction to the music technology industry and enables you to acquire, develop and apply the skills and knowledge required for further academic and/or vocational study. With an Apple Mac teaching suite that runs Logic Pro which is accessible to you at all times, you can access the facilities as and when you need.

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Involves using a DAW
- Involves live sound
- Involves production
- Involves composing or arranging music
- Gives you the opportunity to work in a recording studio environment
- Gives you the opportunity to learn more about and use music technology.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn the following:

- **Ability to use a Digital Audio Workstation**
- **Composition:** Compositional techniques, traditional and modern through Logic Pro
- **Recording:** learning about and undertaking a recording session
- **Production:** learning about the stages of production between the actual recording in a studio and the completion of a master recording

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Using a digital audio workstation
- Studio recording
- Listening
- Communication
- Information and communication technology
- Working with others
- Improving own learning and performance
- Problem solving
- Sound Creation

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology

Exam Board: NCFE

Grading: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

Assessment will be through means of portfolios of work and an external exam

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Performing Arts

CAREER ROUTES

- A range of careers including:
- Music production
 - Live sound engineering
 - Sound design for TV and games
 - Music composition

PERFORMING ARTS

WHY STUDY PERFORMING ARTS?

This course is open to you if you have an interest in Performing Arts and love to perform. There is a balance of practical performance, creative group work and work-related research. It provides opportunities for you to demonstrate performance or technical/design skills.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn the following:

- Develop and demonstrate skills in a range of practical performance work
- Develop as an effective and independent learner and a reflective thinker with an enquiring mind
- Develop an understanding of working in the Performing Arts industry
- Develop an understanding of the creative intentions of performances and how these are created through a range of production elements
- Work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing, and communicating ideas
- Reflect on and evaluate your own work and the work of others
- Understand the elements required to create performances for an audience
- Understand how technical skills such as costume, lighting and set can be used to convey meaning

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Vocal, movement and rehearsal skills
- Understanding of how creative intentions are developed by designers, directors and performers in the Performing Arts industry
- Devising skills
- Script work skills
- Research and evaluation skills
- Technical production and presentations skills
- Highly transferable skills in communication, presentation, and collaboration with others

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: BTEC TECH Award L2 in Performing Arts (Acting)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Final examination: 40% - Responding to A Brief (Performance/Written under exam conditions in lesson) **Coursework:** 60% - Performances, presentations, research, and portfolio work.

Grading: Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass.

You will collate coursework which will involve keeping evidence of your knowledge and understanding in various written forms including a journal, portfolio, and presentation. You will also perform your work to audiences at key dates throughout the course and these are recorded for assessment purposes.

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Performing Arts

CAREER ROUTES

- Performer/Director/Producer/Choreographer
- Broadcast presenter
- Community arts worker
 - Drama therapist
 - Arts Administrator

- Lighting/Sound Designer
- Teacher

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

A GCSE in Religious Studies will enable you to gain a qualification in a subject you will have been studying for most of your school life and build on the foundation that this study has provided. You will discover how the beliefs of religions (Christianity and Buddhism) affect the ways in which believers make decisions about moral issues and an understanding of how and why people act as they do in their lives. You will study common and divergent views within traditions in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn to:

- Develop your knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- Develop your knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, and sources of wisdom and authority and their relevance in 21st Century Britain
- Develop your ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments
- Engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and your influence on human life
- Reflect on and develop your own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what you have learnt and contribute to your preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community
- Engage with and reflect on a wide range of ethical issues such as war and peace, crime and punishment, medical ethics and families and relationships.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Discussion/Communication
- Empathy
- Investigation
- Interpretation
- Reflection
- Evaluation
- Analysis
- Expression
- Self-understanding
- Application
- Synthesis

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: GCSE Religious Studies

Exam Board: AQA

Final exam: 100%

Grading: 9 to 1

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Religious Studies
- History
- English Language

CAREER ROUTES

The course can prepare you for working with the 'caring' professions, the police, social work, teaching, and it is looking likely that in future, careers in law and medicine will require grounding in ethics and morals.

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

Through studying Spanish, you will develop your ability to communicate with native speakers in speech and writing. The study of Spanish at GCSE will also broaden your horizons, build confidence, and encourage you to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world. You will develop your communication skills and the course will also support better understanding of your own language and grammar. Alongside studying the Spanish language, you will look at aspects of Spanish society and develop an awareness and understanding of the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

- Teaching and learning styles will be varied and will include role-play, paired work, group work and the opportunity for independent study, as well as more formal teaching.
- You will have access to a very wide range of exciting resources including DVDs, songs, podcasts, blogs and websites.
- Listening skills will be developed through a variety of authentic materials on CD and DVD so that you become familiar with pronunciation and a range of accents.
- Reading will focus on a variety of different materials in many different styles, from newspaper articles to literary texts
- Writing will range from conveying short messages to longer texts of a maximum of 150 words.
- Translation skills will be developed and built on, both from Spanish to English and English to Spanish

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar
- Translation

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: GCSE Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

Listening 25% (Final exam) **Reading 25%** (Final exam) **Writing 25%** (Final exam) **Speaking 25%** (Final exam with class teacher)

Foundation and Higher tiers are available but all components must be sat at the same tier.

Grading: 9 to 1 (9-3 at Higher and 1-5 at Foundation)

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Spanish

CAREER ROUTES

- Interpreting and translation
- Civil and Diplomatic service
- Police Force
- Hotels and catering
- Teaching
- Television and radio
- Tourism

WHY STUDY SPORT SCIENCE?

The Cambridge National in Sport Science offer students the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles, and sports nutrition.

This qualification aims to:

- Teach learners how to prepare participants to take part in physical activity in a way which minimises the risk of injuries occurring
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the principles and methods of training and the application of these in the design of training programmes
- Reflect upon the role that diet plays in different sports and activities, and use the knowledge gained to produce an appropriate, effective diet plan for a performer.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The lessons consist of theory and practical work which will develop knowledge and understanding of the following four units:

- Reducing the risk of sports injuries
- Applying principles of training
- Sports nutrition

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Communication
- Problem-solving skills
- Interpreting information
- Research skills
- Teamwork
- Planning
- Health and safety

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Title: Cambridge National in Sports Science

Exam Board: OCR

Examination: 40% There are no tiers, which means that everyone will sit the same exam

Coursework project: 2 projects. 40% Applying principles of training. 20% Sports nutrition

Grading: Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction then Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

WHICH PATHWAYS COULD I FOLLOW AFTER YEAR 11?

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

- Sport

CAREER ROUTES

An excellent basis for careers in:

- The leisure and fitness industries
- Physical Training Instructor in services/forces
- Physical Education teacher
- Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology
- Youth work, outdoor education, coaching

WHY STUDY TRAVEL AND TOURISM?

This BTEC Tech (Level 1/Level 2) course includes three core units that build the fundamental knowledge and understanding of the Travel and Tourism sector in the UK. These components include; the global influences affecting Travel and Tourism alongside customer needs in the Travel and Tourism industry and organisation and destinations. Travel and Tourism is one of the fastest growing tertiary/service sectors for employment in the UK.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

In Travel and Tourism, you will:

- Develop and extend your knowledge of holiday destinations/locations and destinations.
- Explore different key terms and extend knowledge of processes linked to tourism industry
- Gain understanding of the interactions between services provided by those employed in the travel and tourism industry and customers.
- Students will learn about the aims of travel and tourism organisations, how they work with, different types of tourism, and the features that make destinations appealing, including travel routes.
- In lesson students will explore how organisations use market research to identify tourism trends, understand customer needs, and plan holidays tailored to the customers needs through product and service selection.
- Students will examine factors influencing global travel, how organisations and destinations respond to these influences, and the potential impacts of tourism on destinations.
- Develop how destinations manage tourism impacts and develop strategies to promote sustainable tourism while controlling development (economic and social) • Develop and extend your organisation and planning skills.

- Statistical and Numerical skills
- Cartographic skills • Literacy skills
- IT/Computer skills

Course Title: BTEC Tech (level1/2)

Exam Board: Pearson/Edexcel

Final examination: 60% Internal assessments x2 worth 30% (1 in Y10 and 1 in Y11) 40% exam which is sat at the end of Y11 and is 2 hours in length

There are no tiers

Grading- Final Grade will be either: Distinction *, Distinction, Merit and Pass.

RIDGEWOOD TRAINING PATHWAYS

CAREER ROUTES

- Geography • Career opportunities/background for work in:
- MFL • Travel agents/Tourism related retail worker
- Business • Tour Operator/ Tourism related retail worker
- Air cabin crew/Cruise company employee



To help students make career choices, we work with Progress Careers - a professional, accredited company – to provide independent and impartial guidance. Students follow a careers education and guidance programme as outlined below. This is designed to provide our students with independent careers information and advice, enabling them to make more informed choices at relevant stages of their education, as well as raising self-awareness and developing skills and independent research.

The programme is delivered in a number of ways:

YEAR 9

YEARS 10-11

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to

appointment or are referred to the service by a member of staff or their parent/carer.

POST-18

Apprenticeships and HE

After studying at Ridgewood Sixth Form or college, some students may wish to take up an apprenticeship.

Ridgewood will offer support through our contract

VISITS AND PRESENTATIONS:

There are opportunities for students to meet a range of employers and training establishments such as local colleges and universities at open events and in PDP time.

'WORK READY' / BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE:

students can develop their 'work ready' skills (such as teamwork and leadership) through various curriculum subjects and in PDP time.

CAREERS WEB SITE:

unifrog.org and progress-education.org.uk/ridgewood/ provide information on post-16 pathways including sixth form courses, external careers events, current apprenticeship vacancies, and links to useful web sites like the National Careers Service and the National Apprenticeship Service. All students have a Unifrog account, using their Ridgewood School email address as the user name.



CAREERS RESOURCES:

Students have access to a variety of information, resources and guidance. The careers website should be the first stop for information. We have two careers resource areas: one is situated in the main school library; the other is located in the careers office in our Post 16 building. Both have publications available on different careers along with college and university prospectuses, and are accessible for all year groups.

CAREERS DROP IN/CAREERS SPOTLIGHT:

All Students have access to a qualified careers guidance expert who can offer independent and impartial advice at 'drop in' sessions throughout their lunch time in the dining hall. The careers team also provide employer engagement through a range of career spotlights throughout the year.

CONTACT US

The Guided Choices information can be found on the school website www.ridgewoodschool.co.uk in the section 'Our Learning'.

Please use the 'Contact Us' facility on the school website should you have any queries about the Guided Choices process.





RIDGEWOOD SCHOOL

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