

24 January 2025



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a great week. As usual, I have provided a number of updates followed by a Curriculum Spotlight on our ICT and Business Faculty.

Sporting success

I'm delighted to share that our Y11 Boys' football team won the Doncaster Cup on Wednesday. They played a fantastic game, beating Rossington All Saints 1-0. Congratulations to all students and their coach, Mr Westerman. Our Y7 and 8 badminton team, Ridgewood Blaze, also played in the final of the badminton premier league this week. The games finished with us in 4th place across all Doncaster secondary schools. Well done to everyone who took part!

Y9 Guided Choices

Attendance was excellent last night at our Y9 Guided Choices evening. It was fantastic to see so many parents and students engaged in discussions with our staff about the choices available to them. A link will shortly be sent out to book one-to-one appointments to make their choices.

Y8 STEM and Artificial Intelligence (AI) workshop

On Wednesday, our Y8s participated in a fantastic workshop delivered by BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and The Royal Navy. The students learned about how they can use AI and the implications of AI on their future jobs and careers. It was a fascinating workshop and student behaviour was excellent throughout.

Curriculum Spotlight – ICT and Business Faculty

The ICT and Business Faculty offers a broad range of subjects to all pupils in KS3, as well as optional courses at GCSE and A Level. We aim to provide a strong foundation for a wide variety of careers by developing both transferable ICT skills and digital literacy. Our curriculum is continually updated to keep pace with the latest developments in ICT and Business, ensuring it remains engaging and relevant. Wherever possible, we relate our learning to real-world contexts, making the subjects both practical and inspiring. Our passionate team is committed to delivering a dynamic and evolving curriculum that prepares students for the future.

KS3

At KS3, pupils cover a wide range of topics across ICT, Business, Computer Science and Media Studies. These include block based and text-based coding, E-Safety, Computational Ethics, creating promotional posters using Canva, spreadsheet skills and creating digital media products. We use OneNote for all our lesson resources and software online for activities. This enables pupils to access these and use from home. Pupils also have access to idea.org. Here they can achieve badges related to the activities they complete.

KS4

At KS4 our Computer Scientists develop a range of programming skills and learn theory around computer systems including data representation, networks and network security.



'Prepare for the road ahead'

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

Our Business Studies students follow a theory-based curriculum. This includes a focus on small businesses, topics such as ownership structures, how new business ideas are created and the roles of an entrepreneur. Pupils also develop financial skills looking at revenue, profit and break even.

IMedia students work through two practical coursework components where they will learn how to develop visual identities for clients and create interactive digital media products for chosen platforms. Pupils will then prepare for a written examination focused on sectors, products and job roles from the media industry, legal and ethical issues, media codes, target audiences and appropriate format and properties of products.

Sixth Form

At KS5 we offer A Level Computer Science, A level Economics, Cambridge Technicals vocational qualifications in both Business Studies and Digital Media. In Economics students cover Markets and Government Intervention, the UK Economy, Business Economics and Global issues. In Digital Media we cover media companies and production, script writing, personal media profiles, planning and pre-production and advertising campaigns. In Computer Science alongside theory work, students carry out a programming project contributing 20% of their final grade. This year some project examples include a driving game, virtual snooker and a role-playing dungeon crawl game. These enable pupils to independently develop their programming skills. The Cambridge Technicals in Business is a vocational qualification aimed at providing students with a comprehensive understanding of business principles, practices, and the skills needed to succeed in the modern business environment. The qualification covers a range of key topics including business operations, marketing, human resources, finance, and business law, giving students the knowledge and practical experience to work in various sectors of the business world.

Enrichment

Pupils can take part in numerous activities and competitions related to the subjects in our faculty. These include the BEBRAS programming challenge, Perse Coding Challenge, Cyber Centurion and Cyber Explorers. Trips this year have included Bletchley Park and the Harry Potter Studios Tour. At Post 16 we deliver assemblies to increase awareness of online digital footprint and cyber security topics.

If you have any queries about the ICT and Business faculty, please do not hesitate to use the 'contact us' facility on the school website, for the attention of Mrs Brasier, Curriculum Leader – ICT and Business.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Best wishes



Andy Bridge
Associate Headteacher