

7 February 2025



RIDGEWOOD  
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support in what has been another busy and interesting week at school. Again, we have had sporting fixtures, a visit to Magna in Sheffield and a KS4/5 trip to Madrid. As usual, I have provided a range of updates below along with this week's curriculum spotlight on RE/PSHCE.

### **Arts International**

This week we are delighted to have had Y5 students from Barnburgh Primary Academy, Scawsby Junior Academy, Rosedale Primary School, Richmond Hill Primary Academy and Copley Junior School participating in our Arts International workshops. The cast of our musical Shrek, which was performed last summer, worked with a professional actor from Arts International to host singing, dancing and performance workshops with the primary school students. Our students were fantastic role models and really supported and encouraged the younger students well.

We are delighted that our partnership with Arts International continues to strengthen, and look forward to launching our summer musical The Wizard of Oz soon.

### **Say Yes to the Dress**

Y11 students are continuing to collect the Ridgewood Points required for them to be able to attend the Prom. The costs of such an event can be challenging for families, so we are delighted to again be hosting a 'Say Yes to the Dress' event, in which students can try on and receive a dress/suit free of charge. If you have any dresses or suits you would like to donate for the event, we would very gratefully receive these. Please drop any donations at the school reception. Thank you in advance.

### **New Build Update**

Our new building is fast taking shape, and the contractors are on track for us to take ownership of the building in October half term. This necessitates some additional inset days, when students will not be required to attend school. School will be closed to students on Friday 24 October 2025 before half term, and Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 November 2025 after half term. Staff will be in school on these days moving into the new building.

### **RE and PSHCE Curriculum Spotlight**

In RE and PSHCE, students are encouraged to take care of themselves, make informed decisions, and understand where to seek support when problems arise. The curriculum fosters the development of resilience and character, helping students become happy, successful members of society. They learn how to stay emotionally and physically safe in today's modern world, promoting their own well-being and supporting the well-being of others. RE and PSHCE also guide students in managing healthy lifestyles and cultivating positive relationships, enabling them to maintain a balanced life between the digital and physical worlds. As they prepare for an independent life and set aspirations for post-16 education and beyond, students are inspired to reflect on their own choices, express their beliefs coherently, and listen to the perspectives of others. They are empowered to challenge misleading stereotypes, prejudices, and falsehoods, and to ask deep, searching questions about their own faiths and beliefs, as well as those of others. By exploring how religion shapes people's beliefs, actions, and values, and making connections between various faiths and worldviews, students develop the skills and knowledge needed to answer complex moral questions and navigate the diverse world around them.



**'Prepare for the road ahead'**

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

In year 7 within PSHCE students study how to manage the transition to Ridgewood, and how to manage the changes in friendships and expectations of a new school. Students explore what is meant by a healthy diet and lifestyle, and why this is important. Students then look at the importance of platonic relationships and how they add value to our lives.

Within RE students start their journey looking at Christianity, followed by Sikhism. Looking at the beliefs and practices for believers in this religion and how this shapes their lives. Our students also have the opportunity to study ethical issues such as Animal Rights and Environmental issues applying key religious beliefs to these.

In year 8 PSHCE students will explore topics within citizenship looking at the importance of human rights and how they impact them. We look at the importance of healthy relationships and discuss and learn about important topics such as grooming and child sexual exploitation.

Within RE we further study the 6 major world religions and look at the beliefs and practices within Buddhism. We also study ethical issues looking at marriage and family life and social justice.

In Year 9 PSHCE students will develop their knowledge and understanding about adult life and life beyond Ridgewood to ensure they can live a happy, healthy, balanced lifestyle. Students will learn about the management of money. Students will also build on their knowledge about consent and healthy relationships.

Within RE students continue to build on their knowledge base of key religious beliefs and teachings from Years 7 and 8, and apply this to moral issues surrounding medical ethics and the issues of life and death, crime and punishment, peace and conflict.

Across Y7, 8 and 9 in PSHCE, the Spring term has a focus on keeping safe. In Y7, the focus is on personal safety, in Y8 we explore staying safe online and in Y9 the focus is on the law with a specific focus on knife crime. All students will have a refresher on the dangers of knife crime after February half term.

In Year 10 PSHCE students will build on their understanding of how to stay safe online and how to ensure they have happy healthy relationships both in person and virtually.

Within Core RE students continue to develop their understanding of the different arguments given as to why God does or does not exist, including New Religious Movements and festivals.

In Year 11 PSHCE students continue to build on their understanding of relationships and mental health and the importance of knowing symptoms of different ways people's mental health could be impacted.

Within Core RE students continue to develop their understanding of why religious people believe human life has value and how different ethical issues may impact the approach religious people take.

Within Option RE students will continue to develop skills of interpretation and analysis of specific passages from religious texts, allowing them to apply this knowledge to topics such as Buddhism and Christianity, Relationships and families, Religion and life, Crime and punishment, Peace and conflict.

In the Sixth Form students will learn about the views of a wide range of scholars and will critically analyse their approaches and associated issues, reaching valid and justified conclusions, within the subjects of Christianity, Ethics and Philosophy.

If you have any questions about the RE/PSHCE curriculum, please contact Mrs K Foster, Curriculum Leader RE/PSHCE via the 'contact us' form on the school website.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Bridge  
Associate Headteacher