

7 March 2025



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another fantastic week in school, celebrating World Book Day and National Careers Week. As well as celebrations, it has also been an important fortnight of exam preparation, with Y13 sitting their final mock exams last week, and Y11 completing their mock exams this week. Thank you for your ongoing support in what can be a challenging time for students. As usual, I have provided several updates below followed by a Curriculum Spotlight on our Health and Social Care/Criminology Faculty.

World Book Day

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day (although we had a huge range of events happening all week). In one of my earliest letters this academic year, I outlined the importance of literacy and reading at Ridgewood, and it was fantastic to celebrate this work this week. We had over 50 staff members dressed up as book characters, with the students having a quiz sheet to try to identify as many as possible. There was a 'guess who?' quiz in form time, with childhood photos of staff members holding their favourite book and all curriculum areas contributed to reading-themed lessons throughout the week. The library was a hub of activity all week, with a book fair, bake sale and competitions. Thank you to all staff who contributed to the success of this week, and to the students who fully participated in the range of opportunities available to them. There are some excellent photos on our Facebook page!

National Careers Week

This week, we celebrated National Careers Week with an exciting lineup of events! We welcomed back former students from Tetra Tech who inspired our Year 7 and Year 8 students by exploring various career opportunities. They discussed fascinating roles such as analysts and engineers, along with essential skills like mapping, that are vital in the water industry.

On Wednesday, we had a special visit from One Call Insurance, where they engaged with our students about career paths in the insurance industry, including important topics like liability. Our Year 9 students were thrilled to learn about the apprenticeship programs they offer, opening doors for their future careers!

Additionally, we want to give a huge shoutout to our Year 10 students for their outstanding efforts during their preparation for work experience. They also prepared for their one-on-one career meetings with Progress Careers. Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!

Bus Diversion

We have been notified that Main Street in Sprotbrough will be closed next week, from Monday 10 March to Wednesday 12 March, which will affect the route taken by the 540 bus. Please see the changes below:

- *Bus stop on New Lane - Students will have to use the bus stop on Melton Road (near the end of Castle Grove).*
- *Bus stop at Shires Shops - Students will have to use the bus stop opposite the Ivanhoe Pub (on the crossroad of Spring Lane/Melton Road/Thorpe Lane).*



'Prepare for the road ahead'

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

School Dinners

I would like to remind parents to check their child's ParentPay account to ensure that all students have sufficient money to be able to purchase a school meal. Please be aware that top ups to ParentPay are not always immediate and payments can, at times, take a few hours to show on a students' account. If a student has accrued a debt on their account, they will only be able to purchase the £1.95 meal deal until this is cleared.

Please note that the daily free school meals allowance can only be used at lunchtime. All students have access to water at school from the water fountains so please ensure a reusable bottle is brought to school each day. A cup can be borrowed from the canteen if needed.

Curriculum Spotlight

Our Health and Social Care/Criminology Faculty run two subjects within school. Health and Social Care is taught at both KS4 and Sixth Form, and Criminology is just taught in the Sixth Form.

Health and Social Care

The Health and Social Care Team's vision is to empower all our students to become compassionate, thoughtful, and skilled individuals who are capable of developing the skills needed for working and making a positive impact in the healthcare and social care sectors. The team is dedicated to fostering a deep understanding of human well-being, promoting empathy, and encouraging a holistic approach to daily situations. Our lessons are designed to develop students' practical skills, critical thinking abilities, and awareness of the social, ethical, and emotional aspects of health and care. The curriculum aims to inspire students to engage with a variety of issues that affect individuals and communities, providing them with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions and contribute meaningfully to the well-being of others. Through the study of this curriculum, students are able to develop as tolerant and educated citizens who are prepared for their chosen career path or next steps.

In KS4 students begin to explore their knowledge of the human development across the lifespan, the roles and responsibilities of health and social care workers, and how individuals with additional needs can be supported. Students can focus on the importance and significance of life events and how it influences overall health. This allows them to gain an insight into a range of health and social care conditions, learn how these can be managed by individuals, and explore the different services available to support them. The course also covers the barriers and challenges individuals may face and how these obstacles can be overcome.

The curriculum aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the needs of individuals in health and social care settings, while developing essential qualities such as empathy, communication, and the ability to challenge stereotypes and promote anti-discriminatory practices.

The course is structured with a combination of coursework and exam units, designed to complement one another as students' understanding deepens. By the end of the course, students will be well-prepared to progress into further education, training, or careers, particularly within the health and social care sector.

At KS5, students can choose between the single award (Extended Certificate) and the triple award (Extended Diploma) in Health and Social Care. The triple award includes all the units from the single award, along with additional units to deepen their understanding of the health sector.

Throughout the course, students will explore individuals' development, including developmental theories and the impact of life events on personal growth. They will also gain an understanding of core values in health care, research into health factors, and the roles and responsibilities within various health and social care settings. The importance of policies and procedures, as well as investigating physiological disorders like dementia, will also be covered. Students will learn to identify the needs and barriers faced by service users and explore strategies for providing effective support.

The course includes a combination of coursework and exams, structured to build upon each other and support students' growing understanding. This approach ensures students can apply their knowledge in practical settings, with a manageable workload. Triple award students will also have the opportunity to gain extended work experience, developing essential skills and qualities for working in the sector.

By completing the course, students will be well-prepared for further study or a career in Health and Social Care, becoming informed and compassionate individuals ready for their next steps in this field.

Criminology

The Criminology Team is dedicated to nurturing the intellectual curiosity and analytical skills of our students, preparing them to become informed and critical thinkers in the field of crime and justice. The team is committed to developing a deep understanding of criminal behaviour, societal responses to crime, and the complexities of the justice system. Our lessons are designed to encourage students to explore a range of criminological theories, case studies, and real-world issues, fostering critical discussions and a deeper awareness of social, political, and ethical factors. The curriculum empowers students to examine the causes and consequences of crime while promoting a thoughtful approach to reform, prevention, and justice. By engaging with contemporary issues, students will be equipped to analyse, question, and contribute to solutions that shape the future of criminology and criminal justice practices.

Over the 2-year course, students within KS5 will have opportunities to explore how crime and the Criminal Justice System impacts not only themselves but also others, society, and the environment, shaping their behaviour and conduct within UK society and legislation. Students will develop a critical and focused criminological mindset, equipping them to examine the justice of verdicts in criminal cases and understand how personal choices and life events influence individual pathways. Students will explore a range of theories into why people commit crime and deviance, along with the policies that were developed over the years to prevent further criminal behaviour. Students will investigate a range of procedures in campaigning for legislations to change, or be implemented, and the success that these have on society.

The curriculum includes a mix of internally assessed controlled assessments and externally assessed exams over the two years. It allows students to develop as empathetic individuals who are motivated to make a difference in society and its sub-groups. The study of Criminology also encourages students to critically analyse policies aimed at reducing offending and to express balanced arguments through academic research on contemporary crime and criminal justice issues.

Throughout the course, students will develop critical skills and an analytical mindset, enabling them to ask deep, probing questions about crime, its societal perceptions, and why some crimes go unreported. Ultimately, students will gain a deeper understanding of why people commit crime and how they can contribute to addressing these issues.

If you have any questions or would like further information on either of these subjects, please complete a 'contact us' form on the school website for the attention of Miss N Jackson, Curriculum Leader for Health and Social Care/Criminology.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Bridge
Associate Headteacher