

April 2025



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

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Dear parent/carer

I am writing to provide you with three important updates.

In 2022, we reviewed our uniform expectations and made a considered decision to relax the rules around jewellery and nails in response to student feedback. As a result, students were permitted to wear coloured nail polish; however, false nails and extensions remained prohibited.

Unfortunately, we have recently seen an increase in the number of students wearing builder gel or similar forms of nail extensions. These types of nails are not in line with the intention behind the policy change. They are often worn excessively long and pose a health and safety risk, especially during practical lessons.

To ensure consistency and maintain a safe learning environment, we are clarifying our expectations:

- Students must not wear any form of false nails or nail extensions, including builder gel, acrylics, or similar.
- Nail charms or nail art with 3D or dangling elements are not permitted.
- Natural nails must be of a reasonable length and appropriate for all school activities including PE and practical lessons.
- Nail polish must be breathable and easily removable using standard acetone or non-acetone nail polish remover.

From **Monday 2 June**, any student who does not meet these expectations will be subject to sanctions in line with our Behaviour Policy.

The second update is a reminder that there will be a change to the uniform policy. As of September 2025, skirts will no longer form part of the school uniform. I outlined the reasons for this change in a letter dated July 2024. We have taken extensive feedback from parents and the overwhelming majority have been in support of this change. Images are attached to give you an idea of what will and will not be acceptable.

Finally, we are proposing a change to the school day from September. The start time will remain the same, but the day will be extended by 10 minutes and will end at 3.10pm. We believe that the new school building gives us an opportunity to streamline the day and simplify our lunchtime arrangements. Although we will not occupy the building until November, it seemed more sensible that the changes start at the beginning of the academic year. If you have any feedback on this proposal, please use the 'contact us' facility on the school website. Once we have finalised the arrangements, we will communicate these changes with our school transport companies to ensure a smooth transition to the new timings, and give further updates on the timings of after school detentions and enrichment activities.

Yours faithfully,

A Peirson
Headteacher



'Prepare for the road ahead'

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

The new school day is shown below:

Time	Activity
8.40	Arrive on site
8.45-9.45	Period 1
9.45-11.05	Period 2 (including a 20min break for all year groups)*
11.05-12.05	Period 3
12.05-12.40	Reading Y7, 8, 9 Lunch Y10, 11, 13 Form Y12
12.40-1.15	Intervention Y10 Intervention Y11 Lunch Y7, 8, 9, 12 Form Y13
1.15-2.10	Period 4
2.10-3.10	Period 5

***Break timings**

Y10, Y12	9.45-10.05
Y7	10.00-10.20
Y9	10.15-10.35
Y8	10.30-10.50
Y11, Y13	10.45-11.05

Changes to uniform policy from September 2025:

Approved: Tailored, Wide Leg, Boot Leg, Hipster Flares, Ankle Grazers.



Not Approved: Leggings, Jeans, Jersey, Ribbed, Joggers, Chinos, Cropped.