



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

Year 6

TRANSITION

GUIDE

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

RESILIENCE

HEADTEACHER WELCOME

As Headteacher of Ridgewood School, I am delighted to welcome you, the class of 2030, to Ridgewood School. The school's values of respect, responsibility and resilience permeate all aspects of school life and are central to our work at Ridgewood. We are extremely proud of our school and the high-quality education we provide. We insist on high standards of conduct from all our students and we expect them to behave impeccably; treating each other, our staff and visitors with kindness and respect.

We strive for all our students to meet and exceed their academic potential. However, we also place a great deal of importance on them really enjoying school and developing skills that will enable them to be responsible members of society. Our aspirations for our students drive every action, shape every interaction and inform every decision each day. We work hard to instil a love of learning, develop resilience and build confidence so that our students continue to flourish now and in the future.

Our curriculum is ambitious for all students, regardless of their starting point. We offer a wide range of courses at GCSE and A Level to meet the needs of all. Our curriculum beyond the classroom is also vast and varied, providing our students with countless opportunities to broaden their horizons and share new experiences.

We want Ridgewood to continue to thrive and be at the heart of the local community. Parents/carers have a huge role to play in this, and we welcome feedback from them on what we are getting right and what we can do to improve. Keeping communication channels open is vital in our pursuit of excellence.

I hope that, as you look through this transition booklet, it gives you a flavour of the strengths of our school and the warm, welcoming nature of the staff and students.

We look forward to meeting you in September.



Andy Peirson,
Headteacher

SCHOOL VISION & VALUES

Our Vision:

'Prepare for the road ahead'

We educate the whole child. Ridgewood School seeks to provide all its students with the opportunities and support which enable them to achieve and exceed their potential, not only in terms of academic achievement, but as a valuable member of the school community, and of the wider society beyond.

Ethos and Aims

- To raise the aspirations of students, so they desire to achieve and exceed targets set for them, both within and beyond the classroom.
- To engender a sense of collaborative purpose, so students and staff work together to achieve their best.
- To care for students as individuals and to respect their talents, aspirations, strengths and unique qualities.
- To provide opportunities for students to be engaged, interested and challenged by what they do and learn every day.
- To continually strive for improvement in all areas through hard work, resilience and determination.

Our Values

Staff and students at Ridgewood School work hard every day to embody the school's core values: Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

We're proud of our high standards, excellent progress and strong values.



When we are kind to each other, everyone thrives.



When we take accountability for our actions, we can be proud of our achievements.



When we stay positive and try hard, we will achieve our goals.

OUR SCHOOL DAY

The compulsory school day starts at 8:40 am and ends at 3:10 pm.

Lesson Times

Time	Activity
8.40	Arrive on site
8.45-9.45	Period 1
9.45-11.05	Period 2 (including a 20-min 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	Invervention Y10 Intervention Y11 Lunch Y7, 8, 9, 12 Form Y13
1.15-2.10	Period 4
2.10-3.10	Period 5

Key Staff



Miss Mawby
Pastoral Lead



Mrs Watson
Assistant Headteacher



Miss Pearson
Transition Lead

After School

Enrichment – activities run from 15:10-16:15

We value a rounded education, so our students have access to an extremely wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. We firmly believe that students get out of school what they put into it, so we encourage our students of all ages to get actively involved in the many clubs on offer.

Enrichment Timetable

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Cheerleading All Years Gym Mrs Gibson</p> <p>Basketball All Years Sports Hall Mrs Newton</p> <p>Badminton KS3 Sports Hall Mr Inglis</p> <p>Drama Y7- Y9 01 Mrs Humphrey</p> <p>Dungeons and Dragons All Years B3 Mr Todd</p>	<p>Boys Football Y7 – Y8 Gym Mr Summerill and Mr Moran</p> <p>Boys Football Y9 – Y10 Gym Mr Westerman</p> <p>Netball All Years Gym Mrs Newton and Mrs Gibson</p> <p>Vocal Group All Years C6 Music Department</p> <p>We Compose All Years C8 Music Department</p>	<p>Rugby Y7 – Y8 Sports Hall Mr Summerill</p> <p>Girls Football Ally Years Sports Hall Miss De Carolis & Mr Westerman</p> <p>Badminton KS4 Sports Hall Mr Moran</p> <p>Y10 Drama Intervention Y10 01 Mrs Humphrey</p> <p>Fitness 15 15 Students Sign up via email Mr Barnes</p>	<p>Sports Science Drop in Y10 – Y11 D24 Mr Inglis</p> <p>We Compose All Years C8 Music Department</p> <p>Y10 Drama Intervention Y10 01 Mrs Humphrey</p>
<p>Year 11 After-school Art All Years ST5 Mr Todd</p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh Y9 - Y11 N5 Miss De Carolis</p> <p>Celebration Events Team All Years D9 Mrs Clayton</p>	<p>Dungeons and Dragons All Years B3 Mr Todd</p> <p>Year 11 After-school Art Y11 ST5 Mr Houseman and Mr Gauld</p> <p>Geo Club Y7 – Y9 N28 Miss Shelley and Miss Page</p>	<p>Minecraft All Years ST8 Mr Marcus</p> <p>Year 11 After-school Art Y11 ST5 Mr Houseman and Mr Gauld</p> <p>Fundraising Club All Years D9 Mrs McLaughlin</p> <p>Rock School All Years Practice Rooms Music Department</p> <p>STEM Science Club Y7 – Y10 ST3 Science Department</p>	<p>Perse Coding Challenge Test your programming prowess as you battle it out against teams from across the UK Speak to Mrs Brasier and Mrs Kenyon for more information</p> <p>Library Open after school 3-4 Tuesday-Friday Mrs Clayton and Mrs McLaughlin Reading, games, homework support and more!</p>

YEAR 7 READING CURRICULUM

The reading curriculum is currently delivered to Y7 – Y9 students four days a week.

Text considerations have been chosen using Doug Lemov's research about text selection – non-linear time sequences, complexity of the narrator and plot and resistant texts.

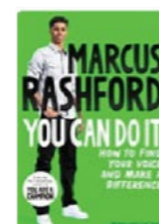
There has been careful consideration to develop and enhance Cultural Capital with opportunities to enhance PSHCE provision.

Teaching of vocabulary and contextual information during reading time offers students of all ability the opportunity to access a range of texts. Alongside this, the teacher reads aloud to model fluent reading, whilst also discussing complex vocabulary. This allows students to access a range of genres in a supportive environment. High quality questioning is pre-planned to support staff with the engagement of students to enable them to comprehend the text in greater depth.



Reading Curriculum – Reading for Pleasure

Year 7



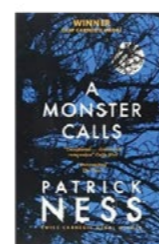
Marcus Rashford – You Can Do It
Genre: Autobiographical non-fiction
Themes: Friendship, teamwork, perseverance and overcoming adversity. Widening experiences of students through literary choices as students have less experience of autobiographical / non-fiction writing compared to narrative.



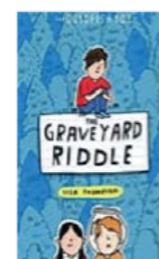
The Boy At the Back of the Class
Genre: Realistic fiction
Themes: Friendship, Immigration, Refugees and 'Power of One Voice'.



The Goldfish Boy
Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction
Themes: Value of family and friends, the effects of a mental illness, OCD and facing fears. Non-linear time sequencing



A Monster Calls
Genre: Mystery fiction
Themes: Trust, mystery, good versus evil, change, family and divorce.



The Graveyard Riddle
Genre: Fantasy contemporary fiction
Themes: Mortality and the grieving process, isolation and loneliness of grief and acceptance of pain, loss and truth. Resistant text.



Private Peaceful
Genre: Realistic historical fiction
Themes: War, injustice, courage and family.



Face
Genre: Young adult realistic fiction
Themes: Identity, relationships, responsibility, coming of age, racism.



Boy
Genre: Autobiographical
Themes: childhood memories, family, adventure



Boy 87
Genre: Contemporary young adult fiction
Themes: The refugee crisis, war, family.




SUBJECTS IN YEAR 7

All students study English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Drama, RE, Technology, a modern foreign language, Art and Design, IT, Music and PE. PSHCE is taught in dedicated lessons.

A detailed breakdown of what Year 7 students will learn in each subject can be found on the KS3 Learning Maps page of our website.

Time	Year Group
Sep – Oct	Half Term 1
Nov – Dec	Half Term 2
Design Technology	DT Rotation
Jan - Feb	Half Term 3
Feb - Mar	Half Term 4



Click or scan me to view KS3 Learning Maps

Instrumental Lessons

Ridgewood Music Department offers the following instrumental lessons:

- Woodwind (Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon)
- Brass (Cornet, Trumpet, Trombone, French horn, Tuba)
- Upper Strings (Violin, Viola)
- Lower Strings (Cello, Double Bass)
- Percussion (Marimba, Xylophone, Glockenspiel)
- Drum kit
- Guitar
- Bass
- Vocal



STUDENT VOICE



Mckenzie

“Once I started year 7 at Ridgewood, all of my worries about joining a new, bigger school just disappeared. You soon get used to finding your way around and everything becomes easier. The best thing about Ridgewood is the many enrichment clubs that you can join. You don’t even have to book-just turn up on the day!”



Laurettee

“My motto is always chase your dreams and keep smiling! I really believe in the school value of resilience-always try your best and don’t give up. Ridgewood is a friendly place where the teachers and staff are happy to help you.”



Hetty

“Although it’s easy to say don’t worry to new students, there will probably be things that you might be worried about like making new friends and getting lost. I would say to you, don’t worry. You soon get used to the school layout and there will always be someone to help you if you need it. The rewards at Ridgewood are really good and you also have a big choice of enrichment activities. I have enjoyed football and cheerleading. I’d really encourage you to get involved in the extracurricular clubs.”



Finn

The best thing about starting Ridgewood is making lots of new friends but of course, still keeping my old friends from primary school. The teachers and staff will always help you, so if you have a worry, make sure you speak to someone, and they will help you overcome it.”



PRAISE AND REWARDS

At Ridgewood all positive behaviour is tracked through Class Charts. This allows parents/carers, students and staff to recognise when you are being praised for getting it right.

As a school, we love to reward our students when they get it right.

Effective praise provides students with positive reinforcement that enables them to succeed, motivates them to learn and increases their participation in class. Everyone values being praised and recognised for their efforts.

Ridgewood Points

Ridgewood Praise Points are awarded for work of an exceptional or outstanding standard, dynamic learning, good organisation, high attendance and contribution to school life. All students are capable of achieving Ridgewood Praise Points and can accumulate them throughout the academic year.

We have a number of varied rewards across the year some of which are presented at celebration assemblies.

Attendance Vote and Win

Students with 100% attendance have the chance to be entered into specific prize draws. These are drawn every half term.



Golden Ticket Events

In the run up to Christmas all students across KS3 and KS4 are issued with 10 virtual golden tickets. The aim of this challenge is to have 10 golden tickets remaining at the end of a four-week period. Students lose tickets if they incur sanctions within school, such as a C3 or C4. All tickets that are saved by our students through good behaviour are entered into a prize draw for each year group, where students can win some fantastic prizes.

Reward Trips

Students with the required Ridgewood Points, high attendance and a motivated or outstanding attitude to learning will be invited on reward trips. Each year group has a specific day and trip.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are pleased to share details of our uniform with students and parents. Items of Ridgewood School uniform can be purchased from the SWI website.

Trousers: Charcoal grey trousers to be worn with plain black socks.

Jumper: Plain, V-neck grey jumper to be worn under a blazer, but not as an alternative to the blazer.

Shoes: Plain, black, flat/low heeled. Must be leather or leather effect and able to be polished. Shoes should not be canvas, trainers or trainer style or above the ankle - please see our website for illustrations of acceptable shoes.

Coat: Must be able to be worn over a blazer. Hooded tops/sweatshirts should not be worn as outdoor coats and therefore should not be brought into school.

Jewellery: No jewellery is permitted other than a small pair of stud earrings (must be removed for PE) and a simple, inexpensive watch. This includes charity bands. Only Altus, Prefect or other school badges will be acceptable.

Make up: should be minimal, natural looking and should not be reapplied during the school day. False eyelashes are not appropriate for school and students wearing them will be asked to remove them.

Nail varnish/extensions and builder gel: Coloured nail varnish may be worn, however false nail extensions/builder gel are not appropriate for school and students wearing these will be asked to remove them. Refusal to do so will be treated as defiance and sanctioned accordingly.

Hair: Lines, patterns, vivid colours are not permitted.

Headphones: Personal headphones are not allowed to be used in school. If, in social time or walking around school, headphones are visible either in ears or hanging out from school uniform, these will be confiscated by a member of staff.



Click or scan me for more information about the School uniform

VALIDUS CENTRE

We are extremely proud to be able to offer our students Validus, a dedicated wellbeing centre equipped to meet the needs of all our young people.

Validus provides a programme of holistic support, including qualified counselling support, professional and targeted support for young people experiencing issues, and specialist support for those students experiencing stress, anxiety, depression and low mood. It also raises the profile of wellbeing for all young people and staff and effectively supports our wider school teams. This outstanding facility enables us to effectively coordinate safeguarding, child protection, welfare and health concerns through one central hub and to provide opportunities for working with families and the wider community. It is also an appropriate and

confidential venue for external agency workers working with young people and their families in school.

Our Validus wellbeing Centre now has an app! You can find information on the support we offer and refer yourself (student) or your child electronically for any of the following services: Counselling, School Nurse, Drop-in Support, and our LGBTQIA+ Support Group. Our improved referral system remains confidential with our counsellors managing all referrals.



To make a referral please scan or click the QR code.

Key Staff



N Severn

Safeguarding Lead



H Mawby

Pastoral Lead



SCHOOL MEALS

We operate a cashless catering system at Ridgewood. This system means that lunch and break time queuing time is reduced, as students use their finger template or a pin code for their account which has been preloaded with money to pay for their meal, eliminating the time spent counting out cash and change. In line with current legislation, we operate an 'opt in' policy for the biometric system. If you choose not to have your child registered on the biometric system, a 4-digit PIN code will be allocated.

Alongside the new cashless catering system, we have introduced a more convenient way to pay for school meals, trips and much more online, using a secure online service called ParentPay. We are actively encouraging all parents to use ParentPay for school meals and trips. Accounts for school meals can be preloaded with money via ParentPay.

New to ParentPay?

You have a secure online account, activated using a unique activation username and password; you will be prompted to change these and to keep them safe and secure as your username and password for future logins.

If you have two or more children at a ParentPay school, you only need to activate one account to create your 'main account' and then add your other children via the 'Add a Child' tab on your home page.

Already have a ParentPay account?

If you already have a ParentPay account, either with our school or another ParentPay school, you can simply log in to that account and add your other children via the 'Add a Child' tab on your home page. You will need an activation username and password to do this.

Free School Meals

- Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you are receiving one of the following benefits or support:
- Universal Credit - Your annual net earned income must be no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of your most recent assessment periods.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and your annual income is below £16,190 (as worked out by HM Revenue & Customs)
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Parents receiving Working Tax Credit for four weeks after their employment finishes are entitled to free school meals during that period. This also applies to parents who start working less than 16 hours per week

You are NOT entitled to free school meals if:

- You receive Working Tax Credit except where the 'four-week run-on' applies as described above

An application must be made to DMBC before free school meals can be provided. Normally, the parent or guardian of the child makes the request. Please note, you will have to pay for any school meals your child receives before your application has been processed. DMBC will then notify the school if your child is eligible.

You can apply for free school meals up to a maximum of two months before your child starts school.



Scan or click me for more information regarding free school meals

TRAVEL

We are encouraging students to walk or cycle to school where it is safe to do so. However, we have received information from the SYPT regarding school transport.

It has been confirmed that the buses 540, 541, 542 and the 441 will run as normal.



Procedures for travelling on school transport and exact timings are subject to change, and parents/carers should check the latest guidance on the SYPT website. Please visit the Travel South Yorkshire website for further information on planning your child's journey to and from school.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

It is our intention that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported to achieve their potential through access to quality first-class teaching and additional provision. Regardless of need, we want all students to be able to join in and participate in the whole school experience, including extracurricular activities, trips, and visits, and to be happy and enjoy their time with us. Ridgewood is inclusive and will endeavour to support every child in their educational journey. We want students to have healthy minds and bodies, be safe in school and make progress so that they can move on to further studies or employment with the life skills they need to be independent.

It is paramount that students with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive the correct provision and support. We have many staff members whose role in school is to work with our SEND students in order to maximise their enjoyment and success whilst at Ridgewood.

How do we identify students with additional needs?

When students arrive in Year 7, we use information from their primary school alongside their KS2 data and the CATs (cognitive ability tests) we conduct in order to assess their needs, identify if intervention to support literacy or numeracy is required, and assess

potential and set targets for students as they move through the key stages.

What support do these students receive?

Students identified as requiring additional support can then access a wide range of resources, which may include one-to-one in-class support, additional lessons taught in curriculum time, collaboration with outside agencies, or an Individual Education or Behaviour Plan. We make sure that all teachers in the school are aware not only of these students' needs but also of their learning preferences and their personal likes and dislikes inside and beyond the classroom. Please visit the documents at the end of this below to read our SEND report and the local offer for SEND.

How are children with ASD supported?

Some of our students at Ridgewood have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (also known as ASD, Autism, or Asperger's). We have 'The Link', which acts as a safe place for students to have a soft start to their day and a smaller form of group provision. This supports students at key points in the day as they go into the main classrooms for their full curriculum package. Students on the Autistic Spectrum and others with sensory needs can spend their break and dinner time in a quieter dining area next to the main canteen. Some students in year 9

can complete a social skills and life skills intervention. We also have individual and small group mentoring during form time. We work with ASCETS and signpost parents to DAS for further support.

We also have support available for students with visual or hearing impairments, physical difficulty, EHCP plans, those requiring in-school support and those with social, emotional and mental health needs through our keyworker and well-being staff.

Who could provide more information?

At Ridgewood, we want all our students to succeed and to feel like they are part of a school community where everyone is valued equally. If you would like any more information about our SEND provision, please do not hesitate to contact the school, and we would be happy to speak to you.

Any complaints from parents of children with special educational needs about the support provided by the school will be dealt with by the SEND team.

Our SEND and Equality policies are reviewed annually in line with the statutory requirements.



Scan or click me for more information regarding SEND



M Colton
SENCO



L Jones
SEN manager

KEY DATES



Thursday 19th June 2025: Year 6 Information Evening

Year 6 Transition Dates 2025:

- Tuesday 8th July 2025
- Wednesday 9th July 2025
- Thursday 10th July 2025



**RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL**

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