

21 November 2025



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carer,

Now that we are getting settled into the new building, I wanted to give you a further update on two issues that were raised in the parent survey last half term: toilets and dining.

In terms of toilets, the toilets in the new building seem to have been very well received by the students. They have been designed in such a way that it prevents large groups of students congregating in them which means that they are a less intimidating space for students to use during break and lunch. The design also means that they are available for students to use during lesson time. There seems to be rumours circulating on social media that we have a policy that means students are not allowed to go to the toilets during learning time. This is not the case. However, students are actively discouraged from asking to use the toilet during lessons because of the disruption that this causes. Please speak to your child and encourage them to use the toilets before school, during break and lunch, and after school, wherever possible, to ensure that disruption is minimised.

Unfortunately, we have experienced some graffiti in the boys' toilets in the new building. Clearly, this is extremely disappointing. To counteract this, at break and lunch, the boys are going to be asked to remove their coat and blazer and hang it on the hooks available to ensure that they do not enter a cubicle with equipment that could be used to graffiti the walls. During lessons the toilets are not supervised, so any boy given permission to go to the toilet will leave their coat and blazer in their classroom (during the colder weather boys will be allowed to wear their blazer but leave their equipment in the lesson). It is regretful that we have had to introduce such actions.

The situation with the dining hall is taking longer to resolve. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, school staff and students are still getting used to the new layout and queuing system. Secondly, there is only, approximately, two thirds of the seating available at this stage of the new build. The reason for this is that there is provision for external dining in the final design. However, this will not be available until the demolition of obsolete buildings, and the subsequent landscaping have been completed. Finally, the catering staff are still familiarising themselves with the new kitchen and associated equipment. We have seen a definite improvement this week and all year groups have been served food at lunchtime with sufficient time to eat it. The provision at breaktime has been excellent with no concerns about delayed queuing times.

Despite a few teething issues, the new building is excellent. In addition to the improvements in the toilet facilities, the dining hall is a much calmer and quieter space, despite how busy it gets. Classrooms are large and airy. Corridors are wide and allow for easy movement at lesson changeovers. The art, drama, IT and music facilities are excellent. The temperature has dropped this week, but the building has remained warm! Feedback from the students is that they really appreciate the new facilities, as do the staff. The only disappointment is that we are going to have to wait longer for the external space to be ready for use.

In our attempt to better gain the views of parents, Adam Dale (CEO of Leger Education Trust) met with a small group of parents before half term. One of the issues parents raised was clarity around our homework policy and practice. Please see further information below about our homework expectations.

Homework Expectations

All homework set at Ridgewood is purposeful and supports learning. Homework enables students to practise their knowledge, understanding and skills, so that these are deeply embedded. Homework should take no longer than an hour to complete and students are given at least 7 days to complete their homework, to ensure that they are supported in their time management and well-being. Teachers encourage students to write homework in their planners so that parents/carers are informed as to what has been set and when it is due in.



'Prepare for the road ahead'

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

Students are rewarded with Ridgewood Points for submitting homework and demonstrating independent extended learning. Parents/carers can view non-completion of homework on their child's Class Charts profile. KS3 students who do not complete homework will lose Ridgewood Points. Students in years 10 and 11 will lose Ridgewood Points and receive a C3 (30 minute detention) if their homework is not completed to an acceptable standard.

Our homework expectations:

- KS3: English and Maths set homework weekly, Science fortnightly. Option subjects use learning maps for extended learning/revision for tests.
- KS4: Homework is set weekly in all subjects.

Further information about homework and to locate learning maps can be accessed by clicking on the links below:

[Ridgewood School - Homework](#)

[Ridgewood School - Learning Maps](#)

Our school library is open every Tuesday – Friday for students to access resources, including computers and revision guides.

Christmas Jumper/Non-Uniform Day – Friday 12 December

On Friday 12 December, we will be taking part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, celebrating the spirit of Christmas, whilst raising money for such a worthy cause.

All students and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper, other festive clothing, or non-uniform if they prefer.

All proceeds will go directly to Save the Children. This is entirely voluntary, but any contributions are greatly appreciated and will help support the charity's work with children around the world.

Thank you for your continued support. Please use the 'contact us' facility on the website to provide us with any feedback.

Yours faithfully



A Peirson
Headteacher