



R I D G E W A Y
A C A D E M Y
P R O S P E C T U S

Welcome from the Head Teacher



Ridgeway Academy is a small, rural school located on an attractive green field site in Astwood Bank on the outskirts of Redditch, Worcestershire. The school is purpose built for secondary education with specialist and general classroom accommodation. On 1st December 2012 the school became a new academy and since then we have been using our new freedoms to build on the school's success in order to provide all our pupils with a first-class education. From September 2016 Ridgeway Academy will provide 600 pupils with secondary education between the ages of 9 and 16 years.

Ridgeway is a nurturing school with a stimulating learning environment. It is a school where success and progress are celebrated and where high expectations are the norm. Pupils thrive at our school securing good results in the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) and also Public Examinations (GCSEs).

In a small setting, where staff know the children well, we can provide all pupils the best possible opportunities for them to develop into confident young people. Children make progress when they have high self-esteem, a feeling of self-worth and the confidence in their abilities. We have a highly qualified, committed and hard-working staff who support pupils in their learning and teach across the year groups within their specialism.

We are enormously proud of our school and the pupils who attend here. Our high expectations with standards of work, behaviour and achievement are part of daily school life. We believe that the school brings out the best in all our pupils and prepares them for their next steps in life. We welcome visits to see the school in action so please feel free to book an appointment with the school office.

Mike
Head Teacher



"The support and encouragement offered to my child by all Ridgeway staff has helped my child flourish."
Parent of Year 9 Pupil



Some Recent Highlights

We have a proud sporting history with many of our teams competing at district, county and national level. Whilst encouraging elite performance, we also celebrate all -round participation.

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In December 2012 Ridgeway became an Academy and more recently was granted permission to become a secondary school in September 2016.

Owing to its continuing success the school has become increasingly popular. Numbers on roll are increasing year on year but we maintain the small school status that we are so proud of.

Science is a real strength in our school with the Ogden Trust having its regional headquarters on our site.



Teaching & Learning

Our curriculum aims to help all pupils gain academic success and achievements whilst helping them meet the demands of an ever changing society and the world of work. We recognise that many of the jobs that the children in school will do as adults don't yet exist.

Our curriculum gives learners the opportunity to ensure that they develop robust and transferable skills that they can use in any situation as they move into adulthood.

The school endorses the curriculum aims of the government as outlined by the National Curriculum and alongside this, it is important to us that we focus on what our pupils need giving them more meaningful learning experiences that help them to make informed choices and develop the skills for learning and life.

We have identified that our pupils need to become more independent: taking responsibility for managing their education, understanding how to achieve and reflecting on their progress. We also want to develop other personal, learning and thinking skills to enable them to become:

Successful

Pupils that are happy at school, make progress and achieve.

Confident

Individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Responsible

Citizens who make a positive contribution to society.



Learning Resources



The quality and range of our facilities ensure that teaching and learning is varied, interesting and successful. Staff work hard to give the pupils new and different opportunities that are unique to Ridgeway. We are constantly looking for ways to engage, challenge and encourage pupils in activities and opportunities that will give them experiences and skills for life.

We have two science labs, a dedicated music block with practice rooms, a food technology room, art & design room, practical room and 2 computing suites. Recent investment in desktop PCs and laptops has allowed us to use IT around the school and our Reading Room is well stocked and a busy centre at break and lunch times. Our outside classroom, pond, copses and awning provide pupils and staff with different learning environments, whatever the weather!

The school has a variety of animals which the children look after. The children interact with the animals and learn to appreciate the responsibilities of looking after their needs whilst gaining qualification.

Our school dog, Lottie, reads with the pupils to help engage them in their learning. The children also take her for walks and play with her when they need support for emotional or social reasons.



GCSE Subjects



"It's really good that we have great facilities and good teachers and school trips."

A Ridgeway Pupil

Compulsory Subjects

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Triple Science GCSE
- Combined Science GCSE
- PDC (Personal Development Curriculum)

Optional Subjects

- Art and Design GCSE
- BTEC First Animal Care
- BTEC First Hospitality
- BTEC First Performing Arts
- Business Studies GCSE
- Computer Science GCSE
- Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

- Design Technology GCSE
- Drama GCSE
- Food and Nutrition GCSE
- Forest Schools Award
- French GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- German GCSE
- History GCSE
- IT Technical Award
- Media GCSE
- Music GCSE
- OCR IT User Skills
- Performing Arts GCSE
- Physical Education GSE
- Religious Studies GCSE
- Sociology GCSE
- Spanish GCSE

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Some pupils arrive at Ridgeway having had a form of special provision for learning at their previous school. We know it is important that transition between schools is supported as much as possible and work closely with our feeder schools to ensure this.

Following discussions and consultations with teachers, parents and other professionals some children will need to be placed onto the school's SEN register for academic, health, social or emotional reasons identified. Pupils who are placed on SEN support, for whatever reason, may be entitled to additional help. Assistance will vary, depending on the need of the individual learner: some will receive modified work in the classroom and others may have learning interventions during normal curriculum time either in small groups, or individually.

Our team of dedicated and experienced Learning Support Assistants are employed to support learning in the classroom, or outside of it, dependant on the needs of the learner, including our more able pupils.

Over the last few years Ridgeway has invested in the development of specific learning and engagement areas for the benefit of all the children needing extra support in school.

We have the benefit of a Pupil Engagement Officer at Ridgeway who works with children that find school particularly challenging and we work closely with other specialists to provide a holistic approach to the care we offer our pupils and their families.

We have recently introduced "Shine" which was created to help develop pupils' social and emotional well-being, enabling them to engage with life and learning. The aim of the programme is to help pupils become more self-assured, capable and adaptable.

Although all lessons are important, pupils gain valuable skills in 'Shine' that help them to succeed in the classroom. During 'Shine', pupils participate in a variety of activities, from shelter building and nature watching to sitting round a fire and eating marshmallows! Each activity has a purpose, ranging from numeracy skills when planting seeds to team building skills when making a bird table.



"The teaching at Ridgeway is excellent."

Year 6 Student

Pastoral Care and Guidance

We believe that in order to make sense of the world and learn, children need an environment that allows them feel confident and secure. Ridgeway provides children with clear routines and expectations from positive role models to help give them a sense of purpose and belonging. All pupils are expected to meet high standards of behaviour at Ridgeway.

Ridgeway helps to prepare pupils for a changing world...





Safe ...happy and healthy

We raise awareness of child protection issues in order to equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe and have a Designated Senior Member of Staff who is responsible for any safeguarding issues identified.

We are conscious of the increasing impact of technology in the world and ensure that our children are equipped to use the internet and social media safely. We offer parent workshops to further support this.

Enjoy ...the activities, have friends in school and work well with adults

Staff work hard to give the pupils new and different opportunities that are unique to Ridgeway. We are constantly looking for ways to engage, challenge and encourage pupils in activities and opportunities that will give them experiences and skills for life.

Learn ...about the world around them and the role they play in it

Our curriculum offers lessons that are stimulating and challenging in a supportive environment.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Ridgeway offers a large variety of curriculum based day trips to all pupils as well as residential trips for specific year groups including a regular residential trip to a European country.

Breakfast and After School Clubs support children from working families and there is a huge range of lunchtime clubs and activities (often run by children).

Sports clubs are run after school and include football, rugby, cricket, badminton and netball with the opportunity to participate in our highly successful school teams against other local schools.

Music tuition is available for pupils who wish to develop their musical talents and include guitar, drums and singing lessons all provided by specialist tutors in our music block.

All children are offered the chance to be Duty Receptionist where they help the school support team provide the administrative support to the school.





Further Information

For more information about our school please see our website (www.ridgeway.academy) which is regularly updated or contact the school directly.

Ridgeway welcomes visits from prospective pupils and their parents, please contact the school in advance to arrange a visit.

Admissions

Full details of our school's admission procedures are available on the school website or may be obtained by contacting the school directly.

Our admissions are managed by Worcestershire County Council Admissions Service (worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20099/school_admissions).





All Children at Ridgeway LEARN...

Learning

Pupils and staff work together to ensure high quality learning opportunities are available.

Respect

Pupils and staff respect each other and the work they do, in and out of school.

Enjoyment

Pupils and staff enjoy the opportunities available and all make good progress.

Nurture

Pupils are able to develop in a caring and nurturing environment.

Achievement

Pupils achieve at Ridgeway, gaining recognition through public examinations.



For a tour of the school, please contact us at anytime.

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www.ridgeway.academy