



THE RIDGEWAY NEWS

April 2011

www.ridgewayschool.com

Issue 143

Emily receives Diana Award

Full report see page 5



Keep up to date with your child's performance at

<https://frog.ridgeway.swindon.sch.uk/parentssignup>



YEAR 7 ENROLLING NOW...

The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College still have places available for September 2011 intake!

An outstanding School with a wide range of extra curricular opportunities.

2010 best results to date: 5 A-C grades 90%!*

Students are able to study towards the English Baccalaureate as well as retaining 3 option choices!

An outstanding 6th Form: A level 43.5% A-B grades!

In addition, the school prides itself on strategic pastoral care and provision for some of our vulnerable students including a nurture group for incoming Year 7's.

Transition

The process of transition and transfer from primary to secondary school can be an exciting but also a challenging time for students. As I remember it, feelings of anticipation, of the significant 'Right Of Passage' from child to teen, together with the smell of new uniform, worn proudly albeit oversized! The preparation and support for a smooth transition, however, was not so evident. Lunch and bus money in hand, off I set towards a new chapter with almost blind optimism!

Nowadays, transition is marked with Taster Days, Induction Days, Camps and all manner of 'Settling In' strategies designed to ease students' experience of this life changing chapter.

The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College prides itself in providing a carefully planned transition programme which seeks effectively to promote a smooth experience of change for all students. Care and guidance from mentors, peer mentors and the wider pastoral team fosters a strong sense of security, direction and belonging.

Planning meetings with our local primary schools ensure continuity and progression in teaching and learning. Students are also invited to contribute and participate in a Cross-Phase Project entitled 'The Environment And You'. Entries include songs, poems, paintings, sculpture, drama sketches & electronic presentations. Students are encouraged to express themselves through their preferred chosen medium with some stunning results which are then exhibited.

Our ultimate goal is for students to feel valued and cared for, and that they will find their place in this new learning environment with the wide range of enriching, challenging and educational opportunities the school has to offer.

Maria Nuevo, Year 7 Leader

A word from the

...Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to The Ridgeway News. I am delighted to inform you of a number of new developments that will bring improvements to school life for students and staff.

Academy status progress

You may be aware that the Governors have voted to convert to an Academy and we currently anticipate conversion on 1st September 2011. All Swindon secondary schools are now in the progress of consulting or progressing to Academy status.

Mentoring developments

In 2007 we moved to small mentor groups to develop pastoral care, knowledge of the individual and academic mentoring. We have developed student responsibility through the role of prefects, peer mentors and Sixth Form engagement in whole school activities.

From September we are going to develop the system further through joining the following year groups for mentoring –

- Years 12 and 13
- Years 10 and 11
- Years 8 and 9

We believe this will bring about a growth in, maturity, responsibility, exam/option preparation and develop an increased sense of family in the school. Mentoring group sizes will remain around 15 or 16 (8 students of each year). Year 7 will continue their current mentoring arrangements during their induction year in to the school.

Paying online for trips and school dinners - Parent Pay

Parents have been asking for some time for us to provide the ability to pay online for school trips, dinner monies, etc. We are delighted to announce that from Easter this facility will be available.

ParentPay offers the freedom to make payments, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Using a secure on-line login parents will be able to manage accounts and make payments when it's convenient.

Making a payment is straightforward. The school will load specific data onto ParentPay, such as trips and events. By simply selecting the relevant options on the payment screen, parents will be able to choose to pay for school meals, trips or events. Parents will also be able to review payment history and manage their accounts. Students will also be able to use a payment machine, in school, to top up their account to pay for school meals in cash should they require.

Payments via PayPoint are also possible. The most convenient PayPoint stores can be found at www.paypoint.co.uk/locator. Trip and activity information letters will carry a unique bar code which will allow parents to make cash payments at local PayPoint stores.

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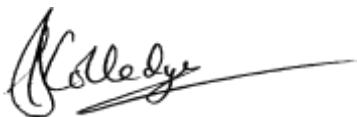
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New building developments

We are currently engaged in conversations with the Local Authority, along with the Parish Council and partner Wroughton schools concerning the future rebuilding of the local schools and community facilities. Whilst we have invested £1.1 million pounds in our building in the last two years there are significant concerns as to their ability to survive beyond 2020. Further updates to follow.

Wolfson Foundation Grant for two further Science Lab refurbishments

We have been delighted to receive a grant of £30,000 by the Wolfson Foundation to refurbish two further labs. Specialist funding enabled us to refurbish one lab during the summer holiday and this is a huge boost to our aspirations. The Wolfson Foundation was set up by the Wolfson family whose business was Great Universal Stores in the 1950s. It had an initial endowment of £6million but in 2010 this stands at £750million and under the Chairmanship of Lord Wolfson of Marylebone from 1973 till his death last year it has contributed large sums to education. Two colleges at Cambridge and Oxford bear the name Wolfson as a result of the investment made by the Foundation.



Steve Colledge, Headteacher



Gifted & Talented Challenge Day



On Monday 31st January, at Nova Hreod College, Able, Gifted and Talented students from schools across Swindon competed in a variety of subjects at the Year 7 Challenge Day hosted by Nova Hreod College.

The event was designed to challenge the abilities of Swindon's brightest students, and was supported by Swindon LA. Students took part in subjects ranging from Science and Philosophy to Humanities and

Finnish. It was a great day, and an opportunity to meet students from other schools and compete in events which wouldn't normally happen in the school day.

It was successfully won by a team of 12 students from Year 7 The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College, who did very well to beat off competition from 9 other schools.

Congratulations to; Robert Whitelock, Samuel James, Will Fieldsend, Miles Thompson, Cameron Lambell, Hannah Denny, Kezia Stevens, Jenna Luckwell-Stewart, Ellie Godfrey, Leasha John, Marion Alojado and Ella Chapman. All students were a credit to the school and should be proud of their achievement. Well done! Miss Jemma Grundon

Emily Receives Diana Award



We are delighted that Emily Banting was successfully nominated for the National Diana Award. She was presented with her certificate during a celebratory lunch on Thursday March 31st held in her honour when the Deputy Mayor Councillor Ray Ballman, Governors, staff and members of her family gathered at The Ridgeway School to congratulate her.

Emily follows in the footsteps of former Ridgeway students who have achieved this prestigious award for the way lives have been inspired through work undertaken in many different spheres. Emily has untiringly worked at Broad Hinton Primary School over three years giving much time in helping students, working alongside teachers, accompanying trips and generally being an excellent assistant. In addition to the three A levels she is working towards, Emily together with other Sixth Form students have raised money for school in Gambia through the selling of produce during parents consultations and other events.

The Diana Award is given to young people between the ages of 12-18 who make a sustained, selfless contribution to their community and who demonstrate exceptional personal qualities. The Diana Award is assessed by a quality panel of experienced and talented individuals.

All who have been in contact with Emily talk of her sunny disposition and selfless approach to life. She has been a brilliant student and we wish her every success in her future career.

Mrs R Cairns



Learning Resource Centre News



The winner of the Christmas Competition was Katie Merritt 7K1. Well done to her.

World Book Day (3rd March) was a busy day. The very popular author Sam Enthoven came into school to talk about his books and experiences. He is very enthusiastic and passionate about his work, giving the students lots of inspiration. Sam met a group of Year 6 students from Wroughton Junior School, who were all dressed as characters from books. He also met Year 7 and Year 11 students. All students enjoyed the experience; they asked Sam lots of questions about his books and writing in general.

The Resource Centre ran a competition for students to recommend a book for Year 6 students. This was a great success with lots of good recommendations and it was difficult to choose one winner, so in the end there were two: Olivia Tuck 9B2 who recommended *Caddy Ever After* and Andrew Wood 8A2 who recommended *City of Ember*

Both students came with me to Wroughton Junior School, where we met the whole of Year 6. Our students talked about the books they had recommended and presented copies to the Junior School students.

Mrs Julie Palmer, Learning Resource Centre

Pencil Station



For all your stationery needs come to the Resource Centre

Black Ball Point Pen	15p	Pencil	10p
Pencil Sharpener	15p	Eraser	25p
Correction Fluid	55p	15cm Rule	20p
Glue Stick	£1.20	A4 Punched Pockets	10p
Project File	35p	Protractor	20p
Set Square 45 & 60 degree	20p		

Available from 8.15am until 3pm daily

Mrs Middlemass Recommends...

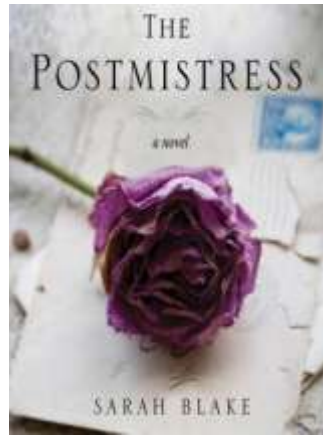
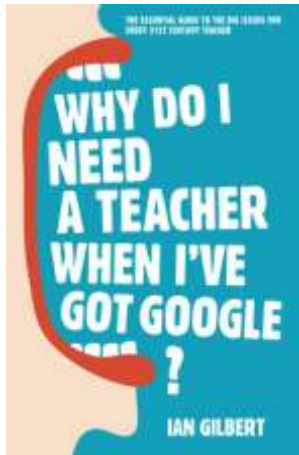
A huge thank you to all the Year 10 parents who have responded to my 'I'm reading right now. What are you reading at the moment?' query.

I've really enjoyed reading your suggestions and comments, so would like to make this a feature of all my emails to parents, plus a regular slot here in *The Ridgeway News*.

So, for Easter 2011 - here are my 'recent reads' and books that I'll be reading shortly!

Recent reads:

The Crying Tree - Naseem Rehka and *Why do I need a Teacher when I've got Google?* - Ian Gilbert



On my reading 'wishlist':

The Postmistress - Sarah Blake and *The Thirteenth Tale* - Diane Setterfield

Have a great Easter, Melissa Middlemass (Subject Leader)

Dublin Year 12 Trip...

Year 12 Historians had another successful trip to Dublin at the end of last term. We flew out early on the Saturday and spent 3 days touring the city. We bumped into Miss Smith, the Humanities TA, at the airport and then bumped into Miss Forde (a DT teacher who left last year) at the top of the Guinness tower. It's a small world! Highlights included:

- Seeing Jedward perform their 'greatest' hits (err hmmm)
- Watching Dublin beat Tipperary in hurling at the amazing Croke Park stadium
- Having a go at Hurling – Tom Babington won the prize for best average speed
- Having beautiful weather!
- Touring Kilmainham Gaol – the prison where many of Ireland's political prisoners were held and executed
- Mr Crossley's Fry Up and Mr Crossley's Leprechaun impersonation – if you see him, ask him to show you the photos!
- Peter Lay's immense burger eating marathon

Will we go again? To be sure, to be sure!

Miss Moloney

Ski 2012

Skiing/Snowboarding Saalbach Austria

30th March - 7th April 2012

£790 Skiing £815 Snowboarding

This is a fantastic opportunity to experience skiing/snowboarding during the Easter break in 2012.

Instruction is included in the price as is hiring skiing and boarding equipment. Clothing and helmets are not included but can be hired if necessary before we leave.

Food is included on a full board basis, with breakfast, packed lunch and an evening meal provided by the hotel.

All abilities are welcome, as students will have fully qualified instruction throughout their 6 days on the slopes.

Please see Mr Hill for further details.

BBC News at The Ridgeway School

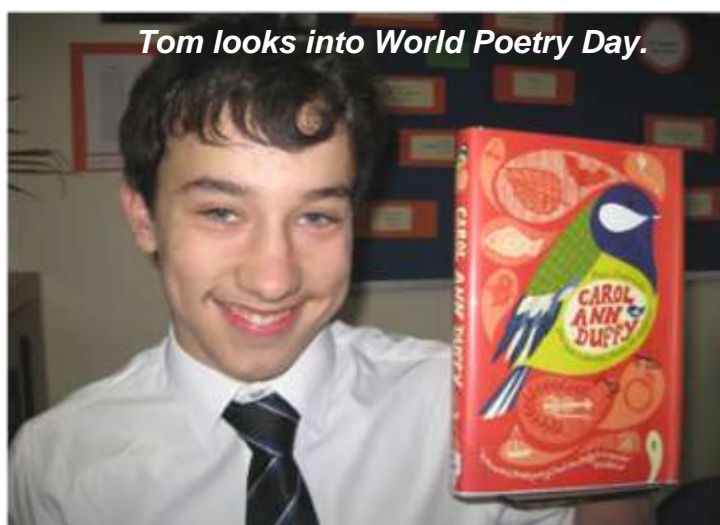


Following a series of live interviews as “School of the Week” on BBC Radio Wiltshire, news reporters from Year 9 went live to the world on the 24th March as part of BBC School Report 2011.

Our students covered stories from inside The Ridgeway School and outside in the community as they prepared for the big day. After daily editorial briefings, they made contact with the sources of their stories and used their interviewing skills to find out more.

Tom Fieldsend and George Dunk posed questions to Mr Colledge about the movement to Academy status and what it would mean for the students. (Please go to the school website to see the full interview). Tom and George also looked at the success of The Ridgeway Maths Challenge team with Mr Fletcher and talked to Mrs Palmer about World Poetry Day.

Emma Woodcock and Emma Bishop interviewed Mr Dawes about the growth of GCSE Astronomy and also found time to talk to Miss Stevens about the girls’ rugby team, as well as finding out more about Climate week with Miss Elstone and Miss Hanselman. They also interviewed Mrs Travers about the success of the STEM awards evening.



Tom looks into World Poetry Day.

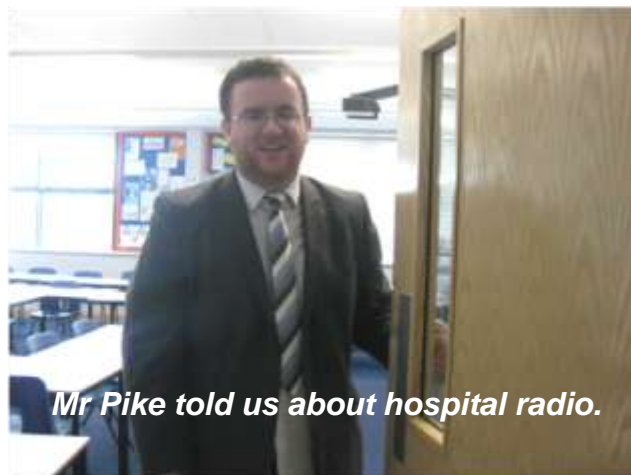


Emma interviews Mrs Travers

Ellie Thompson, Cameron Gill and Jaanki Patel spoke to Mrs Hodge about her links with Oscar winner Colin Firth and also chatted to Mr Pike about his involvement with hospital radio.

Our last pair of reporters, Jack Hughes and David Williams, led the interviews with the public at Lydiard Park to gauge local response to the forthcoming JLS concert.

In addition to preparing materials for the live news day, they also featured as "School of the week" on Graham Mack's breakfast show on BBC Radio Wiltshire. Every day, Graham ran a ten minute slot focusing on the thoughts of our students, asking about their attitudes to discipline in the classroom, their understanding of current affairs and how concerned they were with global warming. Graham was delighted with their responses and praised them every day on his radio show.



Mr Pike told us about hospital radio.



Ellie talks to Mrs Hodge.

Jack and Jaanki prepare for the broadcast



I would like to thank the students involved for their hard work and professionalism and also to the staff at The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College for giving up their time to be interviewed.

Please go to the school website to see the full news report.

Mr A Wallace

The English Team wish students every success in their forthcoming exams and also would like to recommend the following websites to students in Years 10 and 11 who will be busy revising over the coming weeks!

www.bbc.co.uk/school/gcsebitesize (general revision)

www.englishbiz.co.uk (examples of different writing styles e.g. persuasion, argument etc)

www.shared-visions.com/explore/english/ (basic grammar and style)

www.gcse.com (revision tips)

www.podcastrevision.co.uk (free downloadable podcasts on skills and texts – highly recommended!)

Good Luck

Maths News

The intermediate maths challenge, a national competition organised by the UK Maths Trust, was held in school back in February. We entered our top students from Year 9 and 10 and were delighted that our best achiever in school qualified for the next round. This is a similar style round but held across Europe rather than just the UK. Tom Fieldsend sat this round in March, we are eagerly awaiting the results. Certificate winners from the UK round are below:

Gold: Tom Fieldsend (best in school) and Seb Pease.

Silver: Carla Huynh, Catherine Tansey, Gareth Hook, Joanna Smith, Nicholas Bell, Chris Strong, Hazel Beaton, Alex Thompson and Lauren Golding.

Bronze: Adam Leslie, Andrew Pitt, Tirath Panesar, Kris Banham, Emma Taylor, Kelsey Cremin, Michael Wilkins, Ashleigh James, Connor Clark, Emma Bishop, Jay Byrne, Charlotte Leigh, Chloe Hand, Angus Lau and Ryan Nash.

One of the problems they had to solve (without a calculator) was:

The angles of a triangle are in the ratio 2:3:5. What is the difference between the largest angle and the smallest angle?

A 9° B 18° C 36° D 45° E 54°

If you want to see more of the problems they had to solve, see the maths competition notice board at the top of the stairs in blue block.

A team of 4 KS3 mathematicians also went to represent The Ridgeway at the team maths challenge, held at Wootton Bassett School on 18th March. This event consisted of 4 rounds.

Round 1 was a problem solving round where they had 10 problems to solve in 45 minutes.

Round 2 was a crossword round which sounds straightforward except one pair had the across clues and the other pair had the down clues and they weren't sat with each other.

The 3rd round was a relay, working individually in a chain, where the answer to the first question was passed on so that the next question could be solved and so on. 4 questions had to be solved in 6 minutes, so it was a tough round.

A1 Write down 10% of 20% of 30% of 40% of 50% of 10 000.

A2 *T is the number that you will receive*

The number $1000T$, when expressed as a product of prime factors, can be written in the form $2^a \times 3^b \times 5^c$, where a , b and c are integers. Write down the value of $a + b + c$.

A3 *T is the number that you will receive*

Write down the lowest common multiple of $\sqrt{64}$, $\sqrt{100}$ and \sqrt{T} .

A4 *T is the number that you will receive*

A cuboid with length 10cm and width 2cm is made up from T centimetre cubes. Write down the total surface area, in cm^2 , of the cuboid.

Continued.....

Charity Talent Show

Maths continued...The final round was a relay round actually involving running, so lots of physical energy combined with brain power. The team worked as two pairs, passing questions between each other rather than a baton.

We were very pleased to discover that the team came 5th out of the 20 teams entered. So congratulations to Tom Fieldsend, Alex Thompson, Nick Hafner and Emma Broughton.

For more information on the maths competitions held throughout the year, see the notice board upstairs in blue block or speak to Mrs Wicks. Mars Bar challenges are set every week. The UKMT challenge for Year's 7 & 8 is coming up in May, along with the Dauntsey's Dodecahedron for Year 7's. Mrs Hogan also sets the numeracy problem via your mentor group.

Mrs N Wicks

I was so excited to be the winner of this year's talent show on Thursday 17th March. It was a really great evening held by some fabulous Year 10's (with the assistance of Miss Davies) that demonstrated many different types of act. There were singers, dancers, and musicians, too, and despite it being a competition, the atmosphere was great and we had a fantastic time.

I honestly didn't expect to win as everyone else was incredible, but after I did, I felt so honoured, especially as the show was staged for a really important and worthy cause. We ended up raising over £200 for Swindon Young Carers, which has given a group of young carers the opportunity to go ice-skating – something that many of us take for granted but a young carer would miss out on the opportunity to do, as their life is so full of adult responsibilities.

I'd really like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in the night – especially the Year 10s and Miss Davies, who worked so hard to make it all happen. You guys should feel so proud that you made such a positive impact – and as cheesy as it sounds, you proved that not only can Ridgeway perform, but we can also make such a brilliant difference in the community! Olivia Tuck Year 9

SSAT Visit to Liverpool

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) Learning Visit to Liverpool

The Ridgeway School organised a SSAT weekend study for Teachers in the South West to Liverpool. The purpose of this learning visit was to explore effective teaching and learning strategies to deliver anti-slavery topics and to develop networking opportunities for Citizenship teachers.

The group were treated to a live performance "Keep your Eye on the Prize" at the International Slavery Museum. This was a very emotive performance focusing on the civil rights movement.

Teachers were provided with practical resources to deal with controversial and sensitive issues. This included exploring issues surrounding modern day slavery.

Following this learning visit The Ridgeway School has worked in partnership with St. Joseph's school to design revision programmes for the AS Citizenship students. Thirty four Year 12 students participated in a successful revision conference on Friday 25th March to explore current citizenship and to develop examination techniques. This session was planned and implemented using the expertise of trainees from Bristol University.

Citizenship students also participated in the Marlborough Brandt Lent Lecture held at The Theatre on the Hill. Students were given the opportunity to put questions to Andrew Mitchell the minister responsible for international development. The group were particularly interested in questioning the Minister over the government's approach to engaging young people in international development and the impact of Citizenship education following the 2010 White Paper. Thanks to Hannah Turnbull, Amy Davidson and Kieran Dickinson for giving up their Tuesday evening to represent the school at this event. Mrs Heather Siebenaller



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



Primary Science Festival



Annually, The Ridgeway School hosts the Swindon Schools Primary Science Festival during National Science & Engineering Week in March; new for 2011 only one date of the two day festival was hosted in March with the second date coming in June, making it possible for even more Primary Schools to take part! On March 15th we were joined by students from Gorse Hill, King William Street, Lethbridge, and Oakhurst Primary Schools. Each school presented workshops linked to the festival theme – Communication, judged by workshop leaders and STEM Ambassadors the winners of best presentation were Oakhurst Primary

School. A big congratulations to Oakhurst as this is their first time attending the festival! After the presentations the students enjoyed Science & Engineering workshops provided by Jonathans Jungle Roadshow, Greendown students and Dave Cleverly of the Society of Automotive Engineers and STEM Ambassadors: Lindsay Gill & Stephen Way from Garrad Hassan & Partners Ltd.

STEM Awards

On Tuesday 22nd March we celebrated successes in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths; from the Scientist of the Year Award to Lifetime Dedication to Green Team. Over 40 awards were handed out in all! Delicious canapés were provided and served by the very professional Year 10 Catering group, whilst the students, their parents, STEM teachers and STEM Ambassadors joined in the Malteaser Challenge! We were fortunate to be joined by several STEM Ambassadors who inspired the nominees with speeches throughout the evening.

Art at the Zoo

On Immersion Day 3, Friday 18th March Year 7 boarded the coaches and set off to the Zoo with their Science and Art teachers! The challenge? The students were asked to draw their favourite animal at the zoo and then consider 3 possible adaptations the animal has that help it survive in its natural habitat. The final pieces the students produce in Art will be used to compile a mural and the adaptation research will aid students with their Science unit later this year! And of course the visit was enjoyed by all with one group creating a brilliant video about their day, which will be entered in to the British Computing Society's Digital Creator Competition – to see the video visit the Science area in Frog!





The Ridgeway School has been invited to join Vision for Wroughton, Wroughton Parish Council, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Wroughton Junior and Infants Schools in their completion of a Stage 2 Community Spaces Lottery Bid. The project aims to transform an under-used, but highly visible open space in central Wroughton, (a location map is attached) into a vibrant community garden involving local schools, youth and community groups.

Ten students from Year 9 and 10 have formed the *Village Garden Student Committee*. The committee will be instrumental in the community consultation phase of the project and the members will have the opportunity to follow the progress of this exciting project! The *Village Garden Student Committee* will be attending meetings and events in order to reach as much of the community as possible, they will be:

- At the Wroughton Parish Council AGM at the Ellendune Centre on April 11th 2011
- Attending the Duck Race in Wroughton on 2nd May 2011
- Running consultation sessions at the Infants and Junior Schools during May

You may also find them asking for your thoughts during Parents Evenings next term!



Wroughton Village Garden Project

Preparation for Exams

Most science teachers are running extra sessions to help you prepare for your exams. The sessions range from BTEC catch up sessions to Year 12 coursework and Year 13 Revision for re-sits.

Please check with your specific teachers to find out if there is a session running which could help you.



COMIC RELIEF

2011

Students and Staff raised

£1275.38



Rave



Penalty Shoot-out Competition



Pancake





Cake Sale



Face Painting



clothes sale



PE - Newsdesk

Cross Country

In January we had 14 students compete for Swindon at the Wiltshire Schools Cross Country County Championships. Oli While came away with an impressive third place finish for the whole of Wiltshire!

Everyone competed extremely well and seven students were selected to represent Wiltshire at the South West competition of which six of them were then selected for the National Championships. Alex Bampton and Matt Raymond helped to make up an extremely strong Wiltshire team that finished in first place at the South West Championships and also had a strong team showing at the Nationals. Callum Bampton and Kieran Garraway competed well against some students that were over a year older than them. Laura Rothwell also showed her progress into the senior age group this year finishing 208th at the national event and Carla Huynh who took part in the junior event finished 168th.

Volleyball



Our volleyball team continue to train with lots of commitment being shown on a Monday afterschool. Their skills are developing to an extremely high level with some players being targeted to represent the South West. The squad recently competed at a South West competition and finished an impressive 2nd and were very unlucky not to win the whole competition.

Basketball

All teams competed very well in the basketball season. The Year 8s made steady progress winning half of their games. The highlight of their season was beating a strong Kingsdown team at home in the cup. In particular Clarence Comia and Jordan Rye put in some strong performances. The Year 9 team had a fantastic season with plenty of victories. In particular they did extremely well to make the semi-finals of the cup where they came up against a strong Churchfields team. Dan Reynolds, Curtis Payne and Ed Lever were a key trio in the team's success. The Year 10s had some consistent performances in the few games they played with Dhiraj Budha and Bradley Garlic particularly standing out. The Year 11 team had some good all-around matches with Max Curtis and Jack Stinson showing their excellent skills throughout the season.

The Year 10 netball team competed well this season even with several injuries during some of the games. They had some close matches against both Dorcan and Churchfields playing with good team spirit. In particular Katie Warren in defence made some great interceptions, Shania Carvey and Amy Lambert also showed some great movements skills as GA and GS.

Special mention must also go to Flo Smith who stepped into play on several occasions and showed great improvement through the matches.

Netball

Football

The Year 7 football squad continue to impress after winning the Swindon five aside competition, they then went on to compete at the South West Championships. They performed extremely well and finished a fantastic second in the competition. In terms of 11a-side the boys have shown huge commitment to training with over 20 boys regularly turning up. They have won all of their 11a-side games so far with a particularly impressive 5-0 win in the cup. In these early stages of the season Oli While, Jordan Lea and Max Cameron have



particularly impressed. The Year 8 team have some great footballers with Matt Evans and Tyler Wilkinson looking to dictate games from the middle. They have had some close games so far and have come away with some good victories. They are still in the cup competition so keep up the hard work boys. The very talented Year 9 team made a promising start to the season with a convincing win over Commonweal. Unfortunately they were dealt a tough draw in the cup in the first round against a strong Kingsdown team resulting in an early exit. They have continued to play well in their friendlies with victories against Greendown. In particular Will Randall and Will Heather have provided some great creative attacking football. Year 10 have made a fantastic start to the season beating Greendown 10-1! With cup fixtures coming up we are looking for this team to have an extended run. Players who have performed particularly well so far have included Ryan Rawlings and Macauley Patterson. The Year 11 teams' commitment to training and fixtures has been fantastic since the beginning of the term and they were unfortunate to lose narrowly to Commonweal. Having received a bye in the first round of the cup they will be looking for a good run to finish off their KS4 careers. The Sixth Form made it to the quarter finals of the Wiltshire Schools cup competition with standout performances from Oli Armstrong and Scott Currie.

In terms of girls' football the Year 7s have had a promising start to their football careers at The Ridgeway School. They have had some close games and came out victorious against Dorcan but were unlucky to only get a draw against Greendown. Amy Connaghan and Amy Davies in particular displayed some real skill. The mixed 8/9 team have shown massive commitment to training with players making some great improvement. They were unlucky to have a number of fixtures cancelled by other schools but put in a valiant performance against a strong Commonweal team. The under 16 team had some extremely hard matches towards the beginning of the season but showed their impressive progress by winning their last game against Greendown. Lucy Sanders lead from the front as the only Year 11 representative in the team along with some superb performances from Charlie Harvey-Jones and Holly Little.



Badminton club has continued to grow with students further developing their skills. The Key Stage 3 girls' team had additional success after winning the Swindon championships where they went on to become the Wiltshire champions. The team of Leasha John, Lizzy Gagan, Evie Cooper and Carla Huynh then went on to compete for Wiltshire at the South West Championships at Exeter University. The girls came against some very tough opposition and did well winning some of their double and individual matches. They succeeded in placing an impressive 6th for the whole of the South West. What is even more encouraging is that three of the girls will be still competing in the same age group next year so keep up the training girls. The Key Stage 3 boys' team were unlucky to miss out on winning the Swindon Championships, coming a close second to Bradon Forest in a tight final. The team was made up of Han Tiet, Jason Raymond, Will Fieldsend, Ross McKenchie who won all of their group matches. The B team also performed very well finishing third.

Primary School

Lots of our students have been involved in using their enthusiasm for sporting activities to inspire children at our local primary schools. Jessica Bradley, Shannen Skirttrall and Bethany Hook went out to our local primary schools and taught Year 5 and 6 students a dance that Jessica had choreographed herself. The children from these schools were then given the opportunity to show what they had been taught by taking part in the gym and dance performance. The same Sixth Form students also successfully lead a dance warm up at the Swindon School Partnership Netball tournament. Our Year 9 leaders have been involved in the running of several different primary festivals. Year 2 and 3 students from local primary schools came to Ridgeway and took part in a tri golf festival. Our Year 9 students ran different stations that included putting and chipping activities. All the primary children had a great afternoon and developed some new skills. We also had 90 year one students from Wroughton Infants come and take part in a multi skills festival. The Year 9 students took charge of stations such as bean bag throwing, hurdle jumping and ladder running. The Year 1's loved the event and were still talking about it at school the next day.

Our Sixth Form leadership students have also been busy visiting Wroughton infant's school, every Wednesday lunchtime they run playground activities for the children. This has involved them organising games such as What's the time Mr Wolf?, tag and hoop circle. This has encouraged more of the children to be active during their lunchtimes. All students involved in leadership have been a credit to The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College so well done to all involved.

The Key Stage Three hockey season had a slow start to the year due to the poor weather close to Christmas and so lots of matches have had to be rearranged. Once the games started the Year 7's started to show some good commitment and improvement in their matches. Amy Connaghan for Year 7's made some great saves in goal. The Year 9's made some excellent progress with some close matches, a particular highlight was an impressive draw against a strong Dorcan side. Rosie Hawkins showed her development has a hockey player with some excellent skill.

PE Staff Cycle for Charity

On the 9th April 2011 two members of the P.E staff, Mr Driver and Mr Jones are cycling the length of the country from John O'Groats to Lands End. The purpose of the trip is to raise money and awareness for the charity Swindon SANDS.

Swindon sands provide support for bereaved parents and promote research that could help prevent the loss of babies' lives. They are also building a memorial garden for bereaved parents in the Swindon area which is where the majority of the money from this trip will be used. Mr Driver, Mr Jones and the other 5 people making the journey have currently raised £3520 so about 70% of the way to the target of £5000.



The ride itself will take 12 days over Easter with an average of approximately 80 miles per day. Mr Driver and Mr Jones, have been cycling as much as they can in training for the event, often cycling over 100 miles over the weekends and cycling 20-30 miles some evenings on weekdays (usually when the sun is out!).

As Mr Driver is a Year 8 mentor he informed his mentees of the trip and the purpose of it and they kindly offered to run different school events throughout the year. This then escalated to involve the whole year group to take on a Year 8 challenge to raise as much money as possible for Swindon SANDS as they could in the year. We have had a very successful cake sale that raised £140 so a big well done to 8S2 mentor group for leading the sale including the organisation and preparation. Also a big thank you to all the staff and students who provided them with cakes to sell.

With all the fundraising for comic relief coming to an end hopefully Year 8 students will now have loads of ideas that we can do leading up to the 9th April and until the end of the year!

For more information on the ride you can visit the Just giving website and also see the newspaper report by the Swindon Advertiser online by searching "Tragedy spurs John on for charity bike ride".

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Gym and Dance Display 2011



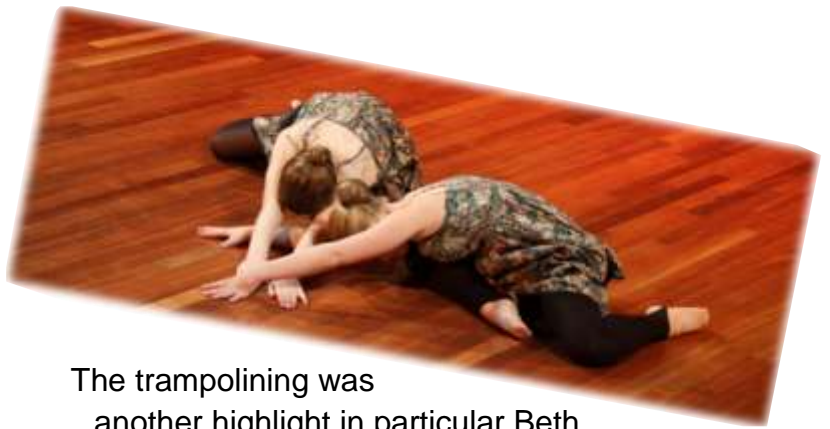
Gym and Dance display took place on the 3rd and 4th March and was another spectacular show. Students worked extremely hard in the lead up to the sold-out show, and as a result the performances were of an extremely high standard.

The dances included pieces from all years ranging from a Year 7 piece to Elvis Presley, solo GCSE pieces from Clarice Salfedoff and Claire Peers and a Bollywood piece from sisters Janki and Tulsi Patel.



Two vaulting pieces allowed students from all year groups to show the progress they have made in the activity. Many students showed some excellent handsprings, dive forward rolls and somersaults with four students even somersaulting over a treasure chest with a Sixth Form student inside it!!!





The trampolining was another highlight in particular Beth Bermingham producing an excellent solo and synchro piece in her last year in performance.

Well done to everyone who took part in the show and we are eagerly anticipating next year's performance.

A special mention should go to some of our Sixth Form students, Kym Rose, Jessica Bradley, Bethany Hook and Shannen Skirttrall, who choreographed some of the younger years dance pieces. The gymnasts showed a range of styles with both rhythmic and artistic group pieces, duets and solo pieces on display. In particular April Coombes performed another superb gymnastic piece in her final year at the school.



MFL News

Congratulations!

Routes into Languages Speaking Competition

Friday 11th March at Nova Hreod

Four students from The Ridgeway School took part in this competition and they were all commended on their creative, linguistic performances.

From Year 9, Rosie Hawkins did a presentation in German on her family and Thomas Fieldsend spoke in French about his hobbies. Thomas brought along his guitar and finished off his presentation with a very entertaining song!

Chris Charleston from Year 13 performed a highly amusing German rap and Zahra Sheikh of Year 12 shared her "dreams" with the audience.

Particular congratulations go to Zahra for coming runner-up under stiff competition. She presented in French on the theme of "Mon Rêve" (My Dream). Zahra explained that she shares her dreams with all the children of the world who wish for peace and freedom. Please read her moving contribution to this event. All our students received prizes and certificates for taking part. Congratulations to you all for doing so well! Mrs Wearn



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Mrs Wearn





Xingmai Ling, Kikuyu Makena et Muhammad al-Salaam : tous ces enfants ont dix ans, tous ces enfants ont des problèmes et tous ces enfants ont le même rêve : de vivre dans la liberté et dans la paix.

Xingmai Ling habite en Chine depuis sa naissance. Il vit sous l'impression que le monde est juste et pacifique. La veille de son dixième anniversaire il voulait que ces parents puissent avoir un autre enfant. Son rêve était d'avoir un frère ou une sœur

avec qui il pourrait jouer et grandir car il avait manqué de camaraderie dans son enfance.

Le terrain de l'Afrique est le plus beau comparé avec le reste du monde. Les animaux majestueux ornent le paysage et les étés longs donnent aux pays d'Afrique les meilleurs safaris. Cependant, il y a un mauvais côté associé avec la vie dans un pays chaud ; le manque d'eau... Kikuyu Makena rêvait de boire un verre d'eau. Sa famille consiste de ses parents, sa sœur et ses deux frères, mais ses parents devaient travailler dans un champ pour gagner trois livres par semaine. Donc, c'était la responsabilité de Kikuyu de fournir la nourriture et l'eau pour sa famille tous les jours. Malheureusement, il a rencontré un grand problème : la sécheresse !

Muhammad al-Salaam, dix ans, de Libye : Son rêve est de mener une vie sans violence, sans terrorisme, et surtout avec la démocratie au Maghreb. La chose dont il se souvient le plus était les mots finals de son père quand il était sorti de la maison pour aller au travailler il y a deux jours. Son père, où-est-il ? Personne ne sait ! Maintenant, les communications ont été interrompues et une révolution se passe dans les rues de Tripoli.

Ces rêves dont nous parlons de sont les rêves typiques des enfants du monde. J'espère que je serai capable d'aider ces enfants parce que je partage leurs rêves parce que leurs rêves sont mes rêves.

Zahra Sheikh Year12

French Exchange Visit 2011/2012

The proposed dates for this year's exchange are from 14th – 25th October in Bordeaux and from 31st October - 11th November in Swindon. The exchange is a unique opportunity for students to develop their language skills, to make new friends and to experience a new culture.

In Bordeaux, our students follow a programme of language activities and trips to places of interest in the local area. They stay with their partner's family while in France and this is reciprocated on their partner's return visit to Swindon.

Students who have previously been on the exchange will tell you what a wonderful time they had and they always fully recommend it!

If you are interested in taking part this year, then please see Mrs Dixon for a letter.

'English is not enough'

The importance of learning a foreign language

Over recent months Modern Languages have taken centre stage once again in the educational arena. As part of the newly introduced English Baccalaureate, the teaching and learning of languages either ancient or modern is now at the forefront of every secondary head teacher's mind.

The Modern Foreign Languages Faculty at The Ridgeway School is committed to providing a quality language experience for all students, whilst exposing them to the culture of the country and having fun. It offers a rich and varied programme of study which embraces many skill areas such as group work, independent study and presentation. The majority of Ridgeway students continue studying a language until the end of Year 11 and as such fulfil one criterion for the English Baccalaureate.

The Modern Foreign Languages Faculty currently offers both French and German in the curriculum with all students having the opportunity to study a foreign language. Enrichment activities allow further exploration of language with some possibility of learning either Spanish or Italian.

Students have the opportunity to learn meaningful language and to use the transferable language skills they may have acquired through exposure to a foreign language in primary schools. Students are encouraged to develop independent thinking skills and to examine the workings of the language.

The language learned in the curriculum is fully enhanced by several trips abroad. Students in Years 7 and 8 have the opportunity to visit the Christmas Markets in Germany where they can experience at first hand the culture of the country and can try out any language they may learn in school. Students in Years 8 and 9 can enjoy a cultural visit to France, staying in Normandy and Paris. Again there are plenty of opportunities to experiment with the language. In Key Stage 4, students are offered the chance to participate in an exchange programme with schools in Bordeaux in France and Tübingen in Germany. These have always been highly successful trips and some students go back year after year.

We have strong links with our primary schools with members of the MFL team regularly teaching in the schools and involving the primary children in activities. We hold an annual languages skills day for Year 5 students which explores transferrable language skills. This is a great opportunity for primary students to experience life at The Ridgeway as well as meeting peers from other schools. This initiative has been recognised, sponsored and utilised by CILT (National Centre for Languages) as good practice. We have provided a French club for primary school children and their parents as well as introducing a 'Let's get cooking in French' road show.

The MFL team are keen to make language learning relevant and fun. We offer many opportunities for students to use their language and have taken part in a regional speaking competition where our KS4 and 5 entrants have either won or been runners up. We have also organised and run successful immersion day activities which linked MFL with the Design and Technology Faculty as well as with English. Sixth Form students have the opportunity to visit various local universities to take part in language events and several students go onto study languages at degree level.

Last year, several Year 9 students were invited to take part in a cross curricular Gifted and Talented project involving French, Drama and Art. The project hinged on intercultural understanding and SEAL and also involved students from a school in Poitiers. Contact with the French students when not face to face was maintained via an online blog although the greatest success was during the actual live performances. This project has positively impacted on students' achievement as well as developing them as individuals and achieved national acclaim in September 2010.

Continued.....



*Things can get tricky when people can't communicate
The Health & Social Care sector needs people with language skills

www.languageswork.org.uk



Continued....

Around the 26th September each year sees our European Day of Languages events. This is always a highlight in the MFL faculty calendar. It is a day of language exploration and experimentation. Staff and students are encouraged to 'have a go' in any language of their choice. A cake sale is held and all monies raised are donated to MacMillan as it ties in nicely with their Biggest Coffee Morning.

The MFL Faculty is open to all. Please do come to visit us. We have lots more exciting ideas we would like to pursue. If you would like to try your hand at French or German or indeed if you have a language experience you would be willing to share with the Students at The Ridgeway School, please let us know! We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs Helen Dixon, MFL Faculty Leader

Astronomy Club

In June 2009 I met a group of teachers who were teaching GCSE Astronomy. I have a passion for astronomy and it has been a hobby for many years but I could not see how it could fit into the busy schedule of the GCSE curriculum. However, a chance remark from one of the group got me thinking. Why not set up an Astronomy Club for Year 8 students with the suggestion that they study for the GCSE over two years and take the exam at the end of Year 9. This was certainly ambitious but not impossible.

So, in September 2009 I invited a few Year 8 students to a meeting and told them the plan. Since then, seven, budding astronomers have turned up every Tuesday after school for an hour and a half. And really do mean every week. I'm going to name them because they deserve some recognition for their commitment and enthusiasm. They are:

Elliott Garraway, Tom Harper, Carla Huynh, Gemma Lupton-Weekes, Sophie Rawlings, Kirsty Scott and Joanna Smith.

We have studied all sorts of interesting things. Favourite topics include the Moon where we borrowed some rock samples from NASA, asteroid impact where we used a computer simulation to try and save the Earth, the Drake equation which calculates the possibility of alien life, and, more recently, we have been studying star magnitudes, real and apparent.

The students have to do some observing of their own as part of the course. Some have done Moon observations of features and phase; others have measured the changing length of the solar day. Constellations have been studied with respect to light pollution. It's true to say that some of the independent observations have been excellent.

The Astronomy Club will continue. The current Year 8 students have been invited to join and the idea is to get 6th formers involved too, to help with the younger members and to study for a GCSE themselves. We hope to set up some observation sessions using proper telescopes and in this respect I would welcome any help from any keen amateur astronomers in the community. Please contact me at school via email dawsk@ridgeway.swindon.sch.uk. Mr Kevin Daws

SCT - Easter Art Project



On Wednesday 16th February myself and other selected GAT students were given the opportunity to take part in the Swindon Churches Together Easter Project 2011, a collaboration from Art and R.E.

We spent the day designing and creating a large piece of artwork portraying the passage from the Easter story, Jesus prays in the garden of Gethsemane.

The finished piece of artwork, along with others involved in this community project, is to be displayed around Swindon from 17th-25th April.

We each came up with our own design and then presented these ideas to each other. We voted on the ideas that we liked and came up with a group design from this. The art work was created on a large canvas, using acrylic paint and modroc to add texture and depth. It was a team effort, some students working on the main painting of Jesus praying in the olive gardens whilst other created modroc elements and leaves.

It was a great opportunity and a fun day for everyone. We can't wait to see our art work on display in the town! Lauren Golding Year 9



GCSE Exams

The 2011 GCSE Exams start Monday 16th May

Holiday Issues affecting lessons in the build up to Summer GCSE Exams

- Students come back to school after Easter Holidays and Bank Holiday on **Tuesday 26th April**
- Week beginning 25th April (Week B) is **3 day week** due to **Monday 25th April** and **Friday 29th** both being Bank Holidays
- The week beginning 2nd May (Week A) is a **4 day week** due to **Monday 2nd May** being a **Bank Holiday**

This means that teaching staff and students have only 1 Full school Week (Week B) out of the 3 weeks of term prior to GCSE exams starting on Monday 16th May.

As we lose 3 school days due to Bank Holidays the following will happen:

Week commencing 25th April – (Week B)					
	Monday 25th	Tuesday 26th	Wednesday 27th	Thursday 28th	Friday 29th
Altered Days	Bank Holiday	Monday Week B	Wednesday Week B	Monday Week A	Bank Holiday

Week commencing 2nd May – (Week A)					
	Monday 2nd	Tuesday 3rd	Wednesday 4th	Thursday 5th	Friday 6th
Altered days	Bank Holiday	Tuesday Week A	Wednesday Week A	Thursday Week A	Friday Week A

Week commencing 9th May – (Week B)					
	Monday 9th	Tuesday 10th	Wednesday 11th	Thursday 12th	Friday 13th
Altered days	Monday Week B	Tuesday Week B	Wednesday Week B	Thursday Week B	Friday Week B

Sixth Form College Triumph



After an intense day of discussion and reasoned argument, four sixth form students from The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College have triumphed as debate champions of the West and South Wales Regional Final of the Institute of Ideas Debating Matters Competition. The team have not only won a place at the National Final, a three day residential event in London, but have also bagged £500 worth of books and resources for their school library.

The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College have now participated in what has been dubbed 'the toughest debating competition in the country' over six years. However, before their win on Friday the school had failed to progress beyond the Regional Final stages. Having staved off competition in earlier debates on copyright and the arts and on the future of fossil fuels, the team managed to make their way through to the final debate of the day on the use of 'smart drugs', held at the Wills Memorial Building at the University of Bristol.

Following a hard fought and exciting discussion, the panel of prestigious judges went away to deliberate, with one experienced Debating Matters judge, Professor Mark Viney, announcing that this: *"is the hardest decision I have had to make at a debate final."*

As the decision was eventually announced Ridgeway teacher Andy Lanigan was visibly moved. One of the judges at the final debate, Phil Sooben, Director of Policy and Administration at the Economic and Social Research Council said of finalists Matthew Gowshall and Katie McCabe from the Ridgeway: *"Both of you stood your ground exceptionally well against a barrage of questions and challenges from both judges and the audience – well done!"*

The judges then awarded the team the regional title.

Speaking after the win, teacher Andy Lanigan said: *"The team have done absolutely brilliantly this year – they have been really dedicated to doing their research and grappling with the big ideas behind these debates. This competition really brings students out of their shell and attracts those with real intellect."*

In addition to their team victory one speaker, Matt Gowshall, won the prize for the 'Best Individual' of the day from a team of individual judges. His team mate Chloe Pierce was awarded an 'Honourable Mention'. Speaking about his experience of the debates Matt said, *"It is really thrilling to be able to come back with a relevant response to the judges who are often experts in the field and engage them in an intellectual row."*

Teacher and students alike believe that they will go on to achieve great things at the 3-day Debating Matters Competition National Final in London in July, which the students won a place to, alongside subscriptions to Encyclopaedia Britannica and £500 worth of Hodder Education books for their school.

Debating Matters is no ordinary debating competition. Renowned for being 'the toughest debating competition in the country' debaters were grilled by panels of expert judges. Judges included: James Lawford-Davies, leading lawyer and lecturer in law and medicine; Simon Watt, Presenter, Inside Nature's Giants; George Brock, Head of Journalism, City University, London; Dr John Wand, Deputy Director of Research, Economic and Social Research Council Natures Giants and Janet Lewis-Jones, Former member of the BBC Trust and Vice President of the British Board of Film Classification.

The winning team were The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College, Swindon and the runners-up Bournemouth School for Girls: New College, Swindon; Cardiff Sixth Form College; Bodmin College, Cornwall; Gryphon School, Sherborne also took part.

Photo: The Ridgeway School team L-R: Katie Williams, Katie McCabe, Chloe Peirce, teacher Andy Lanigan and Matt Gowshall. Mr A Lanigan

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The Ridgeway School - TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2010 – 2011

Inset Day, school closed to students


	August/September					October					November					December					
Monday	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
Tuesday	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Friday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Saturday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
Sunday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

	January					February					March					April									
Monday		3	10	17	24	31			7	14	21	28			7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		
Tuesday		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		2	9	
Wednesday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		3	10	
Thursday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		4	11
Friday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		7	14	21	

	May					June					July					August/September						
Monday		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
Thursday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	1
Friday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	2
Saturday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	3
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	4

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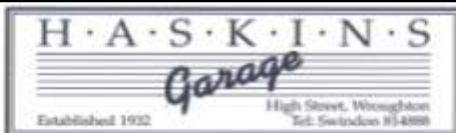
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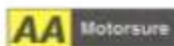
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