

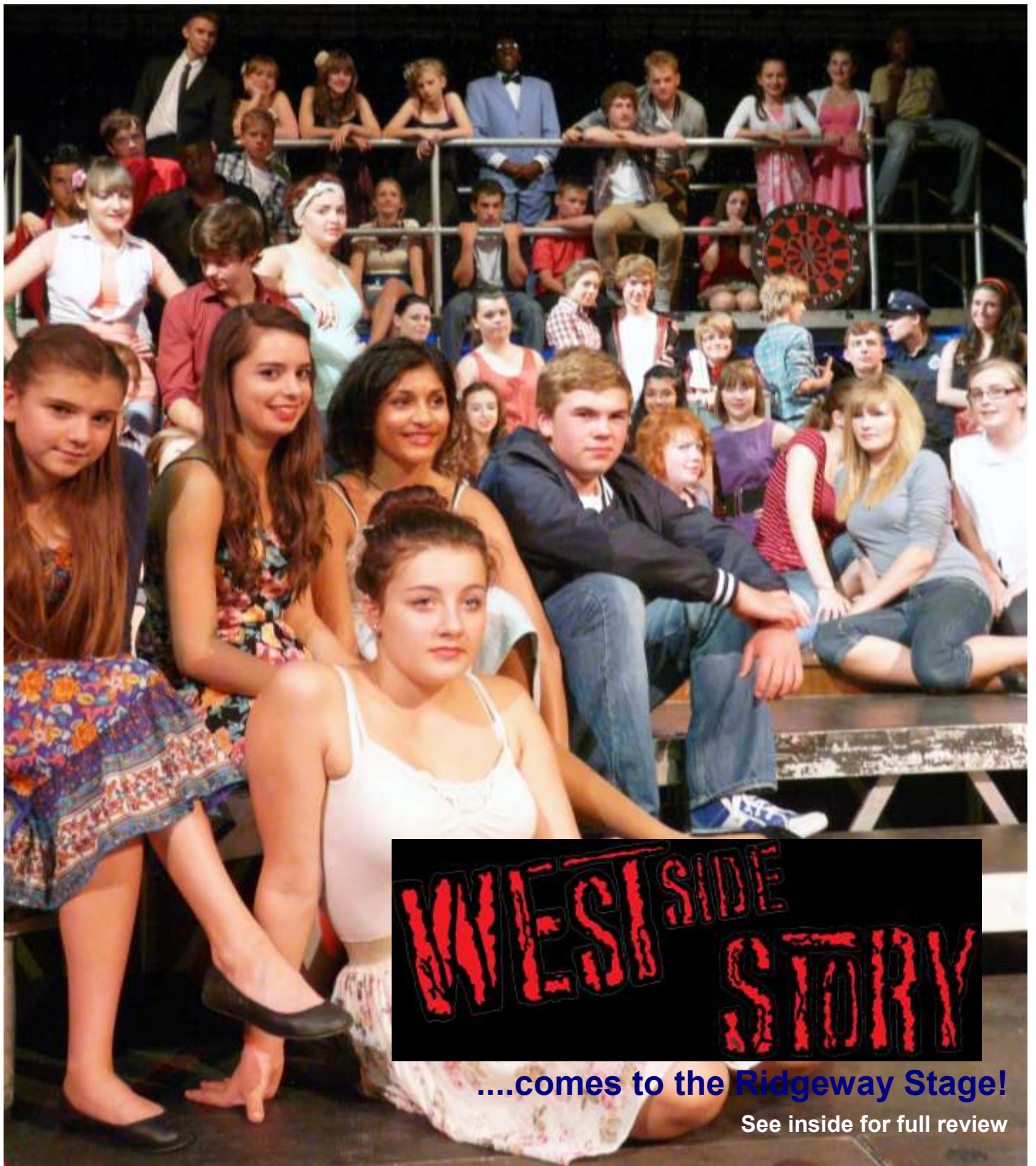


THE RIDGEWAY NEWS

July 2011

www.ridgewayschool.com

Issue 144



....comes to the **Ridgeway Stage!**

See inside for full review

Keep up to date with your child's performance at
<https://frog.ridgewayschool.com/parentsingup>



The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College

 *Inspiring Learners for Their Future*

We offer a vibrant, innovative and supportive learning culture developing resourcefulness, resilience and responsibility. Maximising individual students' development and achievement is what everyday is about. Achievement in examinations is high and we offer an extensive range of leadership and extra-curricular opportunity that is second to none. Our students are wonderful ambassadors for the school and take pride in continuing to shape and develop further the excellent community to which they belong. It is our aim that students leave us with a passion for life-long learning.

Year 6 Open Evening

Tuesday 13th September 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Open Mornings

Weds 14th & Thurs 15th September 9am - 10.30am

Weds 21st & Thurs 22nd September 9am - 10.30am

For further information
please contact:

Mrs M Nuevo

The Ridgeway School &
Sixth Form College, Inverary Road,
Wroughton, Swindon, SN4 9DJ

nuevom@ridgeway.swindon.sch.uk

Tel: 01793 846100

www.ridgewayschool.com

Headteacher:

Steve J Colledge



Ofsted
Outstanding
2008/2009

Providing an Outstanding Quality of Education - Ofsted 2008

A word from the

...Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers

Ridgeway News

The Summer Term draws to a close with the usual intensity of activity. The Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers' Balls were fine occasions. Year 13 have been a sociable and committed year group and they have contributed hugely to the life of the school. This climate has been in no small part due to the efforts of Head Boy, Dan Stretton, Head Girl, Elizabeth Frainier, Deputy Head Boy, Ross Tremlin and Deputy Head Girl, Sophie Pakenham. We wish them every success as they move on. Year 11 have also shown commitment to their work and pride in their school with many involved in the fantastic performance of West Side Story. Arriving in style on the sunny evening at the De Vere they were watched by a huge turn-out of supportive families.

West Side Story was performed to packed audiences for four nights and no audience went away not impressed by the high quality that had been achieved. More can be found in the next pages of this edition. Many months of preparation and weeks and weekends of rehearsals placed huge demands on staff and students – but what a show! Clearly Ridgeway boys are very able and willing to join their female peers and perform with focus and accomplishment. I can only wish the whole cast, backstage crew, musicians and staff a very good summer break. I have heard that dates have been reserved in the diary for a 2012 production.

Our International links continue and we have recently hosted our Italian partners from Lecce. They came for two weeks and undertook a study of the differences between ours and their system. For two weekends they experienced The Ridgeway emphasis on outdoor experience and went to Brecon and also St. Ives taking in some surfing – in waters much cooler than they normally experience. Plans are well advanced for some of our students to go to the Netherlands and be hosted by one of our other Comenius partners on a Design and Technology Project.

We are delighted to announce that the school has been awarded the Linked Up Award for Languages in recognition of its contribution to languages nationally. The award comes following the highly successfully cross curricular project between Drama and French. 19 gifted and talented Year 9 students took part in the project which ran over the course of a year after school. All details on the award can be found on page 17.

The 'Create' Art exhibition celebrated and acknowledged the artistic achievements of our GCSE, BTEC and A Level students. The students were understandably very proud of their work and keen to show it off to family and friends who turned up in large numbers. We also had 2 members of the local DFAS (National Association of Decorative Fine Arts Societies and Royal Society of British Artists) who visited the art exhibition and selected 4 pieces of A level artwork that has been entered and may be exhibited at the 2011/12 RBA members' annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London - a very exciting opportunity for them.

After much hard work we were very pleased to hear that we have been achieved the Bronze Award from The Food for Life Partnership. The Food for Life Partnership supports schools' commitment to physical activity, emotional health and wellbeing through enhanced opportunities for student involvement inside and outside the classroom. Full details overleaf.

Continued over page....

When we return in September the school will have become an Academy. There will be no noticeable change for parents or students and we will continue to be known as The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College. The Governing Body will adopt different committees and is expected to reduce in size from 21 to 15 over the next twelve months. As an Academy the Governing Body will also be the Academy Trust and will consist of one third of parents, one third of staff and one third of professional/skilled people from the community.



Steve Colledge, Headteacher



Food for Life Partnership - Bronze Award

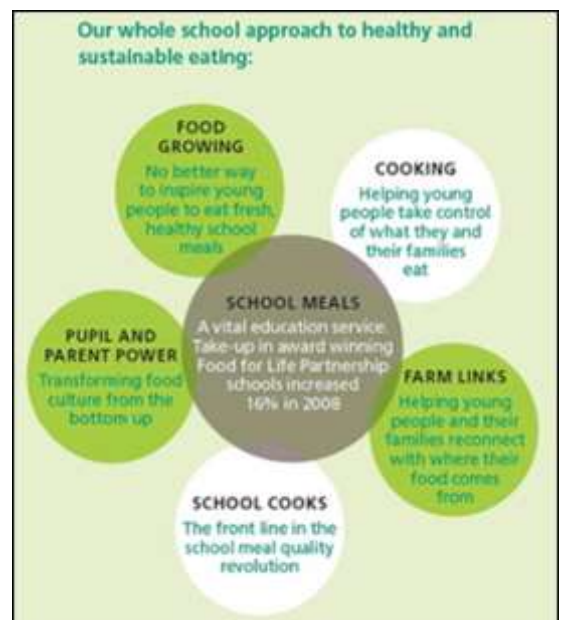


The Food for Life Partnership supports schools' commitment to physical activity, emotional health and wellbeing through enhanced opportunities for student involvement inside and outside the classroom. Our record for all these initiatives included in our detailed application impressed the panel.

After much hard work we were very pleased to hear that we have achieved the Bronze 'Food for life' and we are already on the way to achieving Silver. The Food for Life Partnership bridges learning, health and sustainability priorities, scaffolding school determined pathways to realising local visions for improvement. Hands-on food experiences including cooking clubs as well as our well designed food curriculum, growing vegetables, farm visits and Green Team activities have all captured young people's interests and imagination. We have also engaged parents and the wider community in relevant projects and enterprises and enjoyed working with the Vision 4 Wroughton. In addition the school restaurant has introduced different dishes which are not only compliant to the Nutrient Standards set by the Government but use ingredients sourced locally.

We really value the opportunities offered by the Food for Life Partnership to engage students in relevant learning, to develop skills critical for successful 21st century learners and to combine all this with creative and innovative approaches to learning that is fun. The Food for Life Partnership award scheme recognises the challenges schools face in developing inquiring and independent learners and positively encourages students, parents and the local community to participate in and address food issues that matter to them and their futures.

In order to achieve the next level of Silver, we need to include not just Farm Assured produce but more organic ingredients in our school meals. As always, we balance the costs of ingredients with supply and demand with our aim to provide exciting and well balanced dishes which are affordable to all. Already the amount of students enjoying the meals at The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College has increased and I would urge all to taste and see for yourself the range of good things on offer. Rosemary Cairns



Media Students at The Guardian HQ

Aspiring journalists took an exciting visit to *The Guardian* newspaper's London offices on the 6th and 7th of July. Given expert guidance by the paper's Education Centre, our eager students used the hi-tech facilities to investigate the news process and then produce their own front page.

Setting off early in the morning to battle the rush-hour traffic, the reporters arrived at *The Guardian's* magnificent futuristic building to quickly be given deadlines to meet for publication. A veteran journalist then took them through the construction of the paper, exploring such features as the 5 W's, image selection and what stories sell on the news stands.



Working with the live feeds that the professionals were using next door, our intrepid hacks chose their stories carefully, created attention-grabbing headlines and – mindful of the deadlines set – produced their front pages. All were printed out for the students to take home and their excellent work will be displayed prominently in the English corridor. Thanks must go to our beautifully behaved students and the magnificent drivers, Mr Piper, Mr Pearson and Mr Simpson for their patience and skill in the London traffic. In addition, the trip would not have run but for the support of Miss Orsi, Miss Jupp, Miss Cain and Mrs Wilkins and the superb finance team who supported the organisation of the trip on both days. Anthony Wallace, Media Studies



Learning Resource Centre News

iPod



palmer)

Closing date 30th September 2011

iPod

Illustration Competition

Closing date 30th September 2011

Sustainable Ridgeway

During the past school year the Ridgeway Green and Eco Activities have grown and grown...

There are now active Green Teams in Year's 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12; with the addition of Greenfacts representing every mentor group in Key Stage 3 creating an abundance of green tie wearing students dedicated to increasing the sustainability of the school! The Greenfacts and Green Teams have instigated new recycling for printer cartridges and phones, have planted our first community Orchard, led workshops at Broadhinton Primary School and the Earth Summit and worked with Thames Water & Global Action Plan to reduce water consumption. The school has put in place a full action plan for reducing energy with the input of the Year 10 Green Team and submitted an application form for Solar Panels! The Swindon & Wiltshire Eco School Leaders Network his now fully fledged and we are planning our first event for November! Our green community support continues and this year we were invited to join the committee for the Village Garden Lottery Big Spaces Project; the second stage application will be submitted over the summer. Finally we will celebrate all things leafy and eco-friendly during the Green House Challenge Day on Thursday 20th July!

Miss E Hanselman

THE GREEN TEAM

Read and Write Gold

“Read and Write Gold” is coming: new software to support our dyslexic learners:

By September 2011 we should have a new assistive technology product in school and accessible on all the computers. “Read and Write Gold for Schools” is a fully customisable, easy-to-use floating toolbar that provides speech feedback, spelling support, word prediction and homophone support. It can be used with practically any Windows programme and Internet Explorer. Obtainable from *iansyst ltd*, this software will be of particular benefit to dyslexic learners but also useful to other students, of all ability levels.

With “Read and Write”, students can hear any text on the screen read back, while Word Prediction allows them to use those interesting long words they have in their heads, rather than the simple words they know how to spell. The spell checker is especially sensitive to the kinds of errors typically made by dyslexic learners and “Word Wizard” helps when they are struggling for vocabulary.

In addition, this software provides a range of study features to assist any learner with research and composition. “Fact Mapper”, for example, is useful for collating and organising facts. Different categories of information selected from a text can be highlighted in different colours and then extracted and ‘blocked’ by colour. This can form the first stage of planning and structuring an essay. There’s even an on-screen, speech enabled scientific calculator for that science research work, through to A level.

All these powerful features provide effective literacy support to enable independent learning. For more information about “Read and Write Gold” and many other products available for use in schools or at home, phone *iansyst* on 0800 018 0045 or look at their website: www.dyslexic.com

It is becoming known that I am leaving the School and my role as SENCo at the end of August, when I retire. A few months ago I was lucky enough to win £2,500 for The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College in the Times Educational Supplement Centenary Prize Draw. The conditions were that the money should be spent on something that would not be part of ‘normal’ school expenditure. This sum covers a Secondary School and Sixth Form Site Licence for “Read and Write Gold”, which seems a fitting legacy to leave to the students I shall so much miss supporting. I hope it will be helpful to them.

Elsbeth Wollen



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

Burma Day



Burma is a country shrouded in mystery. Somewhere no one really knows very much about. Many people realise that there is trouble in Burma, yet not many people realise the devastating affect the military rule has on some of its citizens. I knew nothing of Burma. I doubt many of my peers did either, but by the end of the day, I had learnt so much through a diverse mix of personal stories and teachings of the history and politics.

At the beginning of the day we were joined by Nova Hereod and Commonweal and we sat in a mixture of students from different schools. Firstly, we had to do a quick quiz on Burma. Afterwards, we watched a presentation by Miss Rowe, summing up what we were learning today. We also delved into the political timeline of Burm dictatorships, Junta, controls Burma, and at first I didn't understand fully what it was like to be ruled under a dictatorship. I had read books, and watched films, but in comparison to this dangerous military rule, they cannot comprehend recent history, including Aung San being assassinated (1947) and the military coup (1962).

Democracy is a big issue in Burma; it was fitting that we as a class touched on what identity, ethnicity and democracy meant to us, and to the wider world. In Burma, they hold elections, but if a democratic party was to win, the election would be ignored (such as in 1990 when the NLD won). The military dictatorship, Junta, controls Burma, and at first I didn't understand fully what it was like to be ruled under a dictatorship. I had read books, and watched films, but in comparison to this dangerous military rule, they cannot comprehend. The people are restricted to not expressing their opinions - for fear of being prosecuted.

Human rights are also something we are all entitled to. Since the military took over, Burma has had a number of abuses of human rights. Many people face a long and torturous jail session, for protesting against the Junta. Censorship also applies in Burma. Television programmes, art exhibitions and news items all have to be approved by the government and that is why we don't often hear much about Burma in England. We cannot report from there without facing difficulties. Religious issues are also controversial. Burma is primarily a Buddhist country and the government demand Buddhist monks follow its rules. Troops will ransack certain monasteries to remove protesting clergymen. Muslim and Christian church activities are also monitored closely by the Junta.

continued.....

After a short break, we heard from our guest speaker Moe Bu. She had experienced first-hand the horrific system in Burma. She had been forced to move home at the age of 10, after her father was sent to the army, and her mother died, she had to care for her 3 younger brothers, until her grandparents arrived. Growing up she faced a daily fear of being tortured, killed or raped by the military. At the age of 15, she escaped to nearby Thailand, by walking for three months through the jungle. Moe Bu was an inspirational woman, as her hopes for the future were to go back to Burma and help treat other people in similar situations to her.

We also wrote a poem/song on how democracy affected the Burmese citizens. It was hard at first to think of the correct words, that could sum up the control and terror that was everyday life in Burma. Each group came up with a brilliant poem, and it was beneficial to think about these issues in a creative manner. Poetry can be a powerful tool in trying to make others perceive an important point.

After lunch we planted a jasmine plant, signifying Burma's hopes for the future. This whole day was based on Aung San Su Kyi's achievements and we hope that in the future, her vision of a brighter Burma will be recognised. Miss Rowe prepared a short speech on Burma's future; whilst other students planted the jasmine plant. This was an informative day, and we all felt connected to the stories that we had heard. With this greater knowledge, we hope to spread the word about Burma, and stop this harsh political injustice.



Alice Fry, Year 9

Face to Faith

On Friday 10th June, a class of Year 9 RE students took part in a Face to Faith video conference with St. Thomas', a Catholic school in New York. I was one of the students and found it brilliant – it was a fantastic way to experience the thoughts and feelings of children who may live far away, but share with us many common interests, ideas and viewpoints.

We discussed a range of topics – from the structure of our school days and the activities we participate in out of school, to how we feel about major global issues such as terrorism, war and the economy. Some very insightful points were made from students in both schools, and we often found ourselves agreeing with each other or at least understanding the opinions of others. It made a big change from conventional learning in a classroom and was proof that young people can often learn from each other as they do from teachers.

It was an absolutely great experience – thank you very much to Miss Rowe and everyone who made it happen, I wouldn't have missed it for the world and am sure many others in the class feel the same! Olivia Tuck, Year 9



Maths News

The junior maths challenge, a national competition organised by the UK Maths Trust, was held in school back in April for students from Years 7 and 8. Numerous students earned certificates for their achievements in the event:

Gold certificates were awarded to Miles Thompson (best in school), George Martyn, Simon Basevi, Emma Broughton, Nick Hafner and Samuel James.

Silver certificates were awarded to Tom Smith, Eleanor Jerome, Han Tiet, Tamara Cowley, Ben Spurdell, Thomas Leer, Sam Gowshall, Adam Game, Matt Goodwin, Ethan Anderson and Isabelle Rendell.

Bronze certificates were awarded to William Fieldsend, Joshy Lupton, Kate Bell, Amy Jacob, Naomi Willett, Elizabeth Gagan, Joe Sanderson, Robbie Easter, Jack Plumb, Robert Whitelock, Amy Futcher, Nadia Harper and Rhian Best.

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

Earlier in the year Tom Fieldsend (Year 9) qualified for the European round of the Intermediate maths challenge. He did very well, scoring 94. Another mark would have put him in the top 25%! Nevertheless, this was a great achievement as the mean score of all entries was a mere 85.

Our top Year 7s also entered the Dauntsey's Dodecahedron Competition. 2 qualified for the final which was held at Dauntsey's school in June, Sam James and Will Fieldsend. Congratulations to them both for finishing joint 4th overall.



This year saw the second team maths competition held for Year 5 and 6 students. We ran it on similar lines to the team events our sixth form and Years 8 and 9 compete in, with a mixture of problem solving questions to sheer speed when using a calculator. A team from Lawn Primary school won the event overall, with a Wanbrough team coming second.

The team from Drove Primary school were the fastest 40 digits on the day and I'm very pleased to report that the randomly selected girls demonstrated they were far superior to the randomly selected boys at quick arithmetic and spacial awareness.

A huge thank you to the Year 11 students who came in to help run this event, they were a delight to work with and made the morning run very smoothly – Louis Priday, Callum Blunt, Harry Webb, Mason Carter, Ellie Dunk, Issy Anderson, Lauren Ponting, Claire Peers, Amber Stevenson, Amy White, Alice Roberts and Katie Pullan.



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 challenges for next year are: Senior – Tuesday 8th November
Intermediate – Thursday 2nd February
Junior – Thursday 26th April

Later this term, some of our gifted Year 10 mathematicians are spending the day at a conference at New College. Among other things, they will have a lecture entitled 'Crop Circles' and another 'To Infinity and Beyond'. The students attending last year thoroughly enjoyed the event so we are hoping for another stimulating day. Mrs N Wicks

Celebrity Chefs

Year 8 Food Technology students have been piloting an exciting new project devised by the celebrity chef Simon Rimmer.

Students have focused on the qualities needed to be a television chef and have created their own recipes based on the use of fresh ingredients and the leftovers. They have written articles to encourage more people to cook.

The students have then produced their own cookery demonstrations and role played the part of a celebrity chef. Their cookery demonstrations were then filmed.

Mr Willis played the part of TV camera man and has uploaded a selection of the video clips onto the School Cooks website. These clips will then be judged by Simon Rimmer and his team as part of a national competition.

Congratulations to all the Year 8 students who have put so much time and effort into this project.

Mrs H Siebenaller



Democracy in Action



Focusing on the legislative processes to investigate how Parliament make laws, saw Year 7 Citizenship students following the stages of a Bill from the First Reading to the Third Stage and to Royal Assent.

Groups generated their own laws thinking about why the law is needed, who it will affect, how it will be achieved and how the law would be enforced.

The students then voted on the best laws and role played the different stages a Bill would pass through before becoming an Act of Law. Mrs Nuevo dressed up as the Queen to sign and give Royal Assent to the new law.

Students then wrote letters to Robert Buckland MP explaining the purpose of the work that they had undertaken and why they wanted these new laws in society. Examples of their work are displayed on the notice board in Red Block. The students were so inspired with this activity

that they invited Robert Buckland into School for a question and answer session on Monday 6th June.

This is an excellent example of young people engaging with the democratic process and producing high quality outcomes. Well done to those students in 7A/SE3, we may well have some future politicians in our midst.

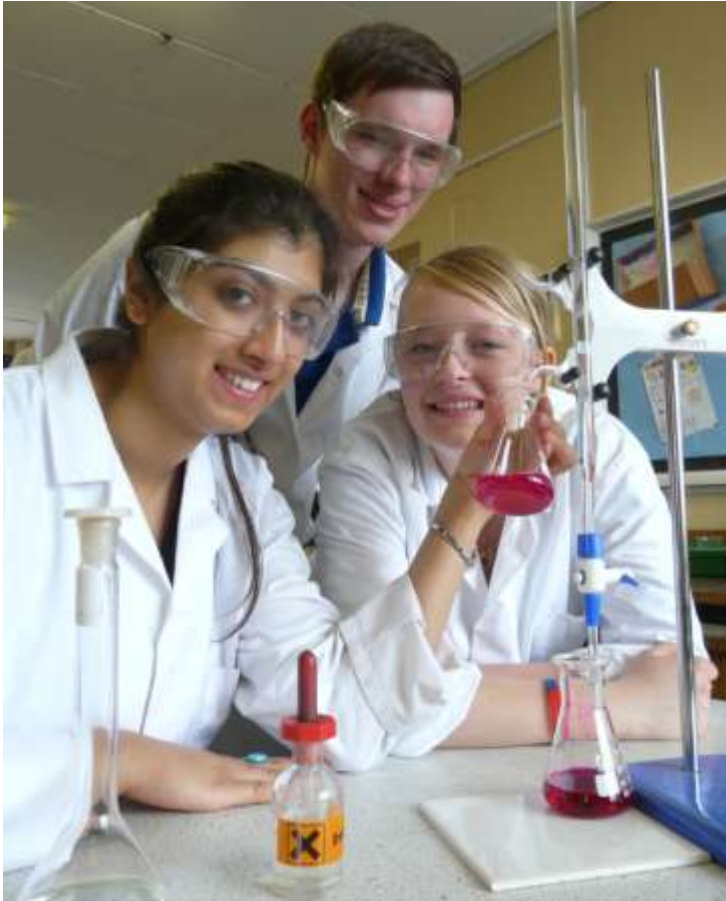
Mrs H Siebenaller

"PSHE has been great this year and I enjoyed and learnt a lot about democracy, teenage concerns and campaigning."

Serena Kembery



Science News



As the exam season comes to an end one of the greatest pleasures of being a teacher is the look of relief on sixth formers faces as they return their books. They come to talk to you about the exam, try to dissect the paper – which is of course to be discouraged at this stage and they say thank you. This has been the toughest set of exams they have faced so far and many people say ‘the toughest of their lives.’ On these exams rides everything – not just the grades they will get but where they will go from sixth form, which university they will get into, where they will live for the next three or four years and what opportunities lead on from there! We have a relaxed chat and their faces are beaming – they go off happy, able for the first time in years to have a ‘free’ summer. The pressure on our young people nowadays is unbelievable with GCSE courses commencing in year 9 and many GCSE modules being taken in Year 10 as well as Year 11. In science alone an A level Biology student will have completed 11 modular exams from Year 9 to Year 13 as well as a minimum of three pieces of coursework in Years 10 and 11 and six in the sixth form. This all assumes that

the students perform to their potential in the first round and don’t have to do any re-sits!!! So our sixth form students who come to say good bye deserve their well earned rest, their freedom to ‘play’ and their happy smiley faces – for now it is done and results are a month away! We wish all our students - whether BTEC or A level, and all the other options we offer the very best of success.

Exams aside 2010-2011 has been a very exciting time in science seeing the completion of the refurbishment of PO3 (Mr. Kench) and thanks to the success of the bid to The Wolfson Foundation PO4 (Mr. Bowman) was updated and PO2 (Miss. Stokes) was completely refurbished. The bid had been led by Mr. Gwyn Newman supported by Emma Hanselman – Science Specialist Co-ordinator and myself. Not simply a paper trail we were visited by a representative of The Wolfson Foundation who interviewed and saw the science department in action to find out that we really were making a difference to the science education of our youngsters. We really appreciate the difference that money from The Wolfson Foundation has made and are proud of our ‘new and improved’ laboratories.



THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION





Of course accommodation is only part of the story as science at The Ridgeway continues to offer an exciting and demanding curriculum and so many other things besides. Just a few of the extras we have done this year include year group visits to Bristol Zoo for conservation and classification, Innovative Science at London Science Museum, field work at Clouts Woods and Didcot Power Station! The STEM Club too have been out and about, visiting the Bloodhound workshops at Intel, Wind turbines at Shrivenham, the Big Bang Fair at Exeter and even joining the astronomy club to visit the National Space Centre at Leicester. In school we have hosted our second Researcher in Residence; Beth Woodward and students have discussed active research with scientists through 'I'm a scientist get me out of here'. This year we also hosted and led a series of CPD events for Swindon and Wiltshire Science Facilitators including Triple Science Support, Earth Science and STEM Leader delivery. Over 10 Primary schools joined us in March and June for the annual Primary Science Festival furthermore several Primary Schools requested support with their own science weeks and events. The now annual STEM awards evening was an opportunity to celebrate with the parents and students of some of our truly amazing young scientists. The list of extras we do is endless and ever growing so watch out for our SSS publication which will tell you a bit more about all the exiting things we do.

So, what makes science at The Ridgeway so special? Teaching science at The Ridgeway School is not just about delivering the curriculum but engendering a love of the subject, a thirst for knowledge and nurturing enquiring minds fascinated about the world around them and how things work. We have had enormous support from our partners in the community Catalyst, STEM Ambassadors, Learning and Skills Network and RCUK (Research Councils UK) as well as links with other secondary and tertiary providers. We believe that the STEM agenda is vital in producing scientists for the future so that the UK can compete on a world forum.

We have a fantastic science team of professionals who know and love their subject and want to share this with the young people we teach. This year we were joined by Miss Rebecca Elstone, Miss Vicki Stokes and Mr James Watts on the teaching staff and Wendy Wyatt as senior technician. Dr.Rita Punn returned from Maternity leave, Mr Peter Kench became a dad again and Mrs Lia McMeeking is going off on maternity leave – an ever productive team in more ways than one we have two new little boys and we wish Lia a well earned rest for the next few weeks at any rate! We are sorry to say good bye to Mr Andrew Crossley who leaves us after *13 years* to take up Head of Science at 'Dauntseys' and we wish Celine and Seb all the very best at University. As Team Leader I want to give a special thank you to the whole science team. In the words of Sir Isaac Newton 'If I have seen further it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.' The science team at The Ridgeway School is 'simply the best' and we wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. Mrs E Travers



PE - News desk

Rounders

The rounders' teams showed excellent commitment to training and this has shown with their performances in matches. In the leagues all teams have played lots of different schools with all teams having success. They also all competed well at their tournaments.

In Year 7 Jess Hutching performed extremely well as the bowler and Amy Davies showed some great batting skills. They also performed extremely well in the Swindon Schools tournament coming 3rd overall out of all of the Swindon schools.

The Year 8's had a mixture of matches performing well in a lot of their league games but not being quite as successful at their tournament. In particular Emma Broughton and Angie Koopoe showed both great fielding and batting skills.

The Year 9's had huge numbers turning up to training with over 15 students in their squad. They played some extremely close games with success over Kingsdown. All the students performed really well and showed great improvement. In particular Sophie Robson, a new member of the squad this year, had some excellent batting performances and Emma Bishop made some great catches on forth base. In their tournament they performed extremely well finishing third out of all schools and were unlucky to miss out on the final by only ½ a rounder. The under 16 squad also had some good games at the start of the season. In particular Amy Lambert and Christine Smith worked really hard at training and in games. Unfortunately the girls missed out in some games due their exams.

Athletics

It was another successful season of athletics. In the National Cup Competition all teams competed well. The junior boys' team were particularly impressive and qualified through to the regional round where they finished fifth. In the Swindon Schools competition both the Year 7 and Year 9 boys were victorious. In particular Jonny Dowell in the 200m and Tom Fieldsend in the triple jump had particularly strong performances. All other age groups performed well at the championships with both Year 8 teams and the Year 9 girls coming third.

Individually students performed very well at the trials with many qualifying through to represent Swindon at the Wiltshire Championships. At the Wiltshire Championships we had several students come away as Champions. In the long distance events Alex Bampton won the inter boys 800m, Callum Bampton the junior boys 1500m with Kieran Garraway coming second and Carla Huynh winning the junior girls 1500m. The three winners also went on to compete for Wiltshire at the South West Championships. In the minor boys events Johan Warensjo won the hurdles event and came second in the high jump and Jonny Dowell came third in the 200m. Well done to everyone that has competed or trained through the athletics season.

Tennis

We had two boys and two girls' teams in the Swindon Schools tennis tournament. The boy's first team of Jason Raymond, Lewis Coppock, Ben Spurdell and Ashley Warren finished an impressive second with some superb individual and doubles performances. The other team of Olly While, George Longmore, Max Cameron and Nick Loubser showed some excellent promise and still have another year at this age group! The first girls' team made up of Emma Broughton, Mia Ridler, Leasha John and Annabelle Pugh also came an impressive 2nd with three out of the four players being Year 7. The other girls' team of Angharad Bailey, Beth Pearson, Kate Bell and Lydia Gagan worked very well as a team and showed great improvement throughout the tournament.

The level of commitment shown by many Year 7's, 8's and 9's this season has been fantastic. We have often had 30 or more out on Wednesday after school meaning we have been able to develop some brilliant team cohesion. It has also been really good to see the influence of older students in the development of younger years.

The Year 8's are an improving team that are a very good bowling and fielding side. Our focus in recent sessions has been to improve the teams batting and we are seeing some good progress week on week. There have been several Year 7's that have played for the Year 8 team and have showed a lot of promise these include, Will Fieldsend, Jai Sharma, James Clancy and Oliver While.

The Year 9 team have a good squad that have clearly progressed from last year because of their hard work in both lessons and at after school training. The highlight of the season was beating Nova Hreed with the team lead by Tom Fieldsend, chased down their total of 74 runs. We are certainly looking forward to their continued development in Year 10.

School Staff Golf Tournament 2011

On Thursday the 9th of June the Ridgeway golf tournament teed off at the Broome Manor Golf Complex, supported by the staff of The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College.

Our sponsors for the tournament were AFM Facilities Management and Jewson's Building Merchants who kindly gave golf balls, hats and t-shirts for prizes. We also had a donation of a dozen golf balls by Mr Povoas and Mr Goodall's son kindly donated a bottle of champagne from his company.

The first four competitors teed off the competition. Mr Pugh and Mr Driver were in this group. Mr Pugh had a reasonable round but Mr Driver played brilliantly by winning the competition with 32 stapleford points over 13 holes, (bandit).

The second tee off was at 4.10pm and this was Mr Goodall and Mr Powton. Mr Powton had a very good round and but unfortunately is was not such good luck for Mr Goodall.

The third and final set of four competitors the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher teed off at 4.20 pm. Mr Povoas had a very good round compiling of 28 stapleford points but Mr Colledge was not so successful. Mr Kenward had a very good round with his driver and scored a total of 25 stapleford points, as did Mr Lanigan with a high handicap.

At the presentation trophies and prizes were awarded by Mr Timothy Goodall. The 1st prize went to Mr Driver and he also picked up a trophy for nearest the pin on the 11th hole. He also won a frozen chicken which was sponsored by Miss Emma Hanselman's chicken farm, Just Chicken. Second place trophy went to Mr Povoas and third place went to Mr Kenward. Prizes were also given to players who participated so everyone was a winner in the end.

Mr Goodall



Primary Sport

The summer term has been another busy term for primary festivals. There had been Year 2, 3 and 4 swimming galas with many of our young leaders helping out as officials and coaches. We also had a primary active afternoon where children that had not had an opportunity to be involved in a sports festival came to The Ridgeway school to try alternative events such as trampolining, cheerleading and fun relays. The children really enjoyed the afternoon and the leaders did a fantastic job of inspiring them.

Year 5's from Wroughton Junior School came to take part in a Year 5 multi-sport festival. The children were going to take part in football, rounders or dance supported by our leaders. However due to bad weather we couldn't run the football and rounders competition. Instead this meant all the Year 5 children took part in a dance workshop. This was led by two of our excellent Sixth Form leaders, Shannen Skitrall and Beth Hook, who taught 90 children a dance routine. The children then split off to work with Year 9 students to come up with their own bit of dance. Our Year 9 leaders did a fantastic job of helping the children come up with different dance sections and this was even more impressive as a lot of the leaders were expecting to help with rounders and football! All the children had a fun afternoon and produced an excellent dance piece at the end.

Throughout the year none of the festivals could have run without our fantastic Year 9 leaders. They have grown and developed throughout the year and have been excellent ambassadors for the school. Please congratulate all of them:

Emma Bishop, Emma Woodcock, Sophie Tremlin, Lucy Ford, Hannah Roberts, Rosie Hawkins, Carla Huynh, Emma Stamp, Courtney Stevenson, Hannah Moxham, Vanessa Coubrough, Claire Caswell, Jasmine Barratt, Chloe Watts, Georgina Leckie, Danielle Lifford, Laura Windel, Sophie Robson, Emily Pugh, Will Randell, Will Heather, James Ferguson, Tom Fieldsend, Kris Banham, Kyle Perkins, Ross McKechnie, Dominic Fiore, Josh Keogh, Jack Swan, Lawrence Panter, Dan Reynolds and Josh Perkins.

The Swindon School Sport Partnership hosted another excellent award presentation evening this year where secondary and primary schools were recognised for work they do with PE and school sport. At the evening we had three of our Year 9 students, Tom Fieldsend, Emma Woodcock and Ashleigh James, presented with awards in front of 200 people. The students did an amazing job and were excellent ambassadors for the school. We also collected an award for our 'Team of the Year' which was our Year 7 boys' football team which Oliver While and Max Cameron accepted on behalf of the team.



Fairy Tale Day at the Ridgeway



On Friday 24th June, we welcomed Year 5 students to the MFL Department for a day of story-telling in four different languages. Owing to its great success, we are very happy to announce that this has now become an annual event for Year 5.

This year, the Year 5 students came from Chiseldon, Bishopstone, Broad Hinton and Wanborough primary schools. They attended four sessions in which they were given various challenges in French, German, Spanish and Italian, based on the story of “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”. Students used their existing language skills to identify key words in the well known story in all four languages. By the end of the day, students realised that language learning skills are transferable and that learning a language is a great deal of fun!

Here are some quotes from the Year 5 students themselves:-

“The sessions were exciting and jolly”.

“It was easy to learn the languages through story telling”.

“There were lots of different language activities”.

“Languages share similarities and they were easier to understand than expected”.

“We could recognise similar words and make links between the different languages”.



We would like to thank everyone involved in this event, especially the primary school staff and our Year 10 helpers. Mrs Wearn.

Linked-Up Award

We are delighted to announce that the school has been awarded the Linked Up Award for Languages in recognition of its contribution to languages nationally. The award comes following the highly successfully cross curricular project between Drama and French. 19 Gifted and Talented Year 9 students took part in the project which ran over the course of a year after school.

The aim was to work on a project that involved a diverse cross-curricular group of teachers in both the home school and our partner school in France. We wanted it to be wide reaching to include the primary sector as well as the wider community. The principal aim however was to enhance students’ awareness of intercultural understanding and to add a further dimension to language learning.

We wanted our students to develop positive attitudes, social awareness and an understanding of communication as well as to create an empowering experience in which students celebrated difference and explored stereotypes. This was done through a simulation of a genuine exploration of different beliefs both within the project itself and in subsequent follow-up activities. Language was made meaningful and purposeful through the context of the project. The title of the project ‘The Froggies and les Rosbifs’, was deliberately chosen to highlight the stereotypical views the French and the English have of each other.

The project grew beyond all expectations and all students hugely benefitted from the experience. The project was showcased at the CILT national conference (National Centre for Languages) in London at which it was highly acclaimed.

Mrs H Dixon

West Side Story



Our whole school production of “West Side Story” took place during the first week of July and what a wonderful story it was! We played for four nights to packed audiences. We had been rehearsing hard for most of the year and prior to the performances everyone had put in some really long weekends but the hard work really paid off and the production was a huge success. Virtually every Faculty in the school

was involved in some way from the Maths Team who became our official box office, Technology staff providing wonderful interval refreshments, Miss Blackler and the Year 10 Cope students ran the Front of House, an assembly line of Hair and Make-up was beautifully managed by Mrs Lanigan and Miss Hanselman and we must not forget Miss Pickles, Miss Jones and the Year 10 BTEC Arts students who had been working for months designing the set and all our publicity and marketing. We even persuaded Mr Povoas to wear his West Side Story T-Shirt and work back stage complete with a walkie – talkie. It really was a whole school effort! We also managed to coerce several members of the local community to give up their own time over many months to play in the amazing band! The level of commitment, performance discipline and talent that our young performers demonstrated is difficult to describe in print but suffice to say that many people commented that it was better than many professional productions they had seen. Every single night when we sat at the back of the hall and



watched the whole cast sing “Somewhere” we were reminded of what amazing young people Ridgeway School students are and what a privilege it is to teach them. Anyway wonderful memories but as with all schools its onwards and upwards and we are already starting to think about the next year’s production – it’s a closely guarded secret at present but watch out for information about auditions which will be out next term. So it only remains for us to say have a wonderful holiday and enjoy all those warm “Summer Nights.....” The Faculty of Creative and Performing Arts





“As audience members, we (and our extended family and friends - grandparents, godparents and others!) thoroughly enjoyed the show and were astounded by the quality, the professionalism and the performances”

“Great show- well worth the long trip up from Cornwall. We thoroughly enjoyed the evening!”

“I've have just spent an amazing evening watching West Side Story! I sat in the audience in admiration, awe and feeling so proud of all of the students.”



“I just wanted to let you know that tonight's performance was amazing... A very big congratulations to all of the students taking part and all the people behind the scenes....”

“West Side Story -Just Brilliant! Just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the show last night. What a great production! All that hard work put in by staff and students really paid off. The pace was great with fab performances, lighting and music. Loved it!”



Wroughton Carnival



Creative and Performing Arts students and staff worked very hard on the recent Wroughton Carnival float entry and after winning it last year, the team certainly had a lot to live up to!

Students in Art classes from across the school were involved in making decorations for the float, the theme of which was West Side Story to coincide with the School's recent performance. On the morning of the Carnival, willing volunteers got up early and helped transform the empty lorry into a colourful and eye-catching float!

The dedicated West Side Story team of dancers, actors and musicians performed fantastically on the day of the Carnival, and really made the float stand out amongst the crowds! Anyone watching from the pavements will have seen that the staff also tried to have a go at dancing!

All involved were extremely pleased to find out that the school had won the float entry for the second year running! A fun day was had by all!



Fashion Show and Exhibition



June 23rd was an evening of celebration for Design and Technology involving students from Primary Schools, KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form.

The event exhibited outstanding final pieces of Controlled Assessment work from Graphics, Product Design and Textiles students with a range of tasty refreshments made and served by Catering students.

The evening also celebrated design through a fashion show which focused on sustainability through the use of jeans, soft furnishing fabric and oddments of material to create up to date waistcoats by Year 9 students, Eco-Wear and Fashion from Trash by Year 10 students and an interpretation of The World under Water by Year 12 students.



Top end fashion was demonstrated through the modelling of Prom wear, kindly provided by 'Gowns of Distinction', which brought an element of glamour to the show. The finale congratulated a host of Primary students who had created some wonderful designs by turning trash into a range of innovative products. The Ridgeway Design and Technology staff had taken lessons in 8 local Primary Schools where students were challenged about sustainable design. Students were then left to complete the challenge by turning their ideas into products. These were photographed and printed onto t shirts which were proudly modelled on the catwalk and prizes awarded.



The evening was a great success of design and celebration. Thanks go to all staff, students, parents and guests who helped to make it possible. Mrs P Lane

Create Exhibition

A Culmination of 2 years hard work by BTEC, GCSE & Sixth Form students shows how many talented students this school has – outstanding work!! Visitors were very impressed and there were positive comments throughout the evening. The students were understandably very proud of their work and keen to show it off to family and friends. It was a fantastic showcase for examples of excellence across the department from 16 - 18 age group. The staff are extremely proud of all of the students. See the website to view all artwork. Miss H Jones.



Gifted and Talented

Challenge Day

On the 13th June 2011, 12 Year 9 Gifted, Able and Talented students competed in the annual Swindon Challenge day at Nova Hreod. The students competed in a range of different subjects and after an exciting day they were very excited to be comprehensively crowned Year 9 Champions, with a total points score of 665.

The students were a credit to themselves receiving excellent feedback from many of the teachers from the other Swindon schools. Ridgeway students were said to be “exceptional linguists”, “extremely good mathematicians” and Stuart Davidson was given a special mention for his outstanding skills in ICT enabling his team to win the ICT challenge.

As a prize for winning the GAT challenge day the students will visit Intel and try out the Blood hound simulator (the car attempting to beat the land speed record) as well as have a tour around their labs.

This was a fantastic achievement for all those involved and is especially good for the school, as our Year 7 cohort of GAT students also won their category earlier in the year.

Well Done to all!

Miss Grundon and Miss Stokes



Various Gifted and Talented Art students in Years 7 and 8 have been working extremely hard to transform the Teenage Section of the Library in Wroughton.

They have designed and painted the mural by themselves and have certainly improved the reading environment! It is not quite finished, but will be very soon!



New Mural for Wroughton

Solutions

SWIM SCHOOL

**LEARN TO SWIM
at Ridgeway**

****Small Classes****

****After School or Saturday
morning****

****Learn in a safe & fun
environment****

****ASA Swim School****

**Established over 12 years
Why settle for second
best ?**

Ring us on 423126



RIDGEWAY
LEISURE CENTRE



**Recently Refurbished
Fitness Suite**
with new Nautilus Cardio Exercise Machines

Open 7 days a week
Membership prices to suit the whole community
No joining fee
Personal fitness programmes
Something for the whole family
25m Swimming Pool
Fitness Classes
All this and it's only around the corner

For more information call 01793 813280
Inverary Road, Wroughton, Swindon, SN4 9D)

**£10 Off
First Month**
on all Centre
Memberships with
this leaflet

Need to talk? We'll listen

Whatever you're going through, we're here to help
24 hours a day – in confidence and without judging.

 08457 90 90 90*  07725 90 90 90*

 jo@samaritans.org  www.samaritans.org/swindon

Or meet us in person at 6 Curtis Street, Swindon SN1 2LL –
best to call first to check if we're open.

Registered charity 252847
*Please see our website for
latest call charges.

SAMARITANS
of Swindon and District

SUMMER SWIMMING

The Ridgeway Leisure Centre will
be opening the Swimming Pool for
extra sessions.

Tuesdays

2nd, 9th and 16th August
2-3pm Wet & Wild
3-4pm Casual Swim

Thursdays

4th, 11th and 18th August
2-3pm Wet & Wild
3-4pm Casual Swim

Saturdays

6th, 13th and 20th August
12-1pm Wet & Wild
1-2pm Casual Swim

**If you are interested in advertising in our Newsletter please contact Sharon Gilchrist,
Reprographics & Marketing Manager on 01793 846138 for further details.**

*The Ridgeway School accepts advertisements in good faith and cannot be held responsible for any contracts
undertaken with contributing companies.*



Old Town Chiropractic Clinic

30 Newport Street
Old Town
Swindon
SN1 3DP

Dr Sally Hobbs
BSc D.C.
Dr of Chiropractic



Who can benefit?

Everyone – Young or old. From neonate to nineties. Back pain, neck pain, joint pain, sciatica, trapped nerves, migraines, are some symptoms that respond well to manipulation.

We show you how to adapt your lifestyle, occupation and hobbies to benefit your health, body and well being.

TEL: 07 8888 555 87 01793 325298

sally@chirocentreswindon.co.uk
www.chirocentreswindon.co.uk

richard james

sales • lettings • new homes



Specialising in sales,
lettings and new homes
in your area...

richard
james

www.richardjames.info

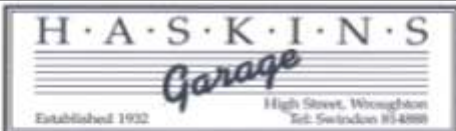
SOLD etc.

01793
520720



Swindon: 01793 520720 Wroughton: 01793 814542

www.richardjames.info



Servicing and MoT All Repairs Fast Fit Tyre & Exhaust Centre

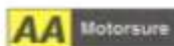
Brake & Clutch Centre

FOR ALL MAKES OF VEHICLE AT
COMPETITIVE PRICES

Ford, Vauxhall, Rover, Peugeot, Renault, Nissan, VW,
Audi, Citroën, Toyota, Honda, Volvo, BMW, Mercedes,
Fiat, Mazda, Saab, Landrover, Jaguar, Subaru,
Mitsubishi, Suzuki, all 4WD . . .

**Free collection & delivery from
your home or place of work**

For further details without any obligation simply ring:
STEVE or JUSTYN on 814888



Rosstyles

DISCOVER
MERCEDES AND
YOUR PERSONAL
CHAUFFEUR



Excellent value...

- Wedding cars (S-Class E-Class package)
- Airport transfers (pleasure or business)
- Special occasions (celebrations day or night)



For a service you can still afford
Rosstyles Chauffeur Services
T 01793 845791 M 07887 700595
www.rosstyleschauffeurs.co.uk

Attention to detail

(Licence No: PO1092)