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20th October 2025

Dear Families,

I wanted to write and share how proud we are of the positive start that the students have made to this academic year, and to thank you for your part in supporting this. The students have, in the main, continued to demonstrate exemplary uniform, attendance, punctuality and preparedness for learning. Equally as important, the students have been polite and considerate and demonstrated warmth and welcome towards our many visitors this term.

Thank you to all those of you who engaged with our Meet the Mentor community event. We really believe that this is an important connection to make at the start of the year, in order to enable effective communication to support the students' endeavours.

We have been delighted to see hundreds of students taking part in our extra-curricular activities, our sports teams, Ridgeway Stage Academy and engaging with our Personal Development programme, especially those in Years 7, 8 and 9 who have turned out in high numbers for school teams and events. We are very proud of the start our Year 10 students have made to their GCSE course, of the contribution our Year 11 School Prefects have made to our many events this term, and of the students in all year groups who supported both the Year 6 and R6 Open Evenings. We have finished the term with celebration assemblies, our House Bake Off challenge and are looking forward next term to our Remembrance and Festive events.

Our Year 12 students have transitioned smoothly into Sixth Form life, with notable strength in adapting to independent study and the academic challenge of the new term. Our Year 13 students have begun their applications to university, with the timeline for apprenticeships starting soon. It is an important time for our students in the final year of their school journey, and we wish them luck with their preparation for the Mock Exams next term. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 11 students luck as they also prepare for Mock Exams and their post-16 applications, with deadlines for these in the next term. Our Grade Booster programme for Year 11 will begin once the mock results are collated.

Thank you once again for the start that you have supported, we look forward to continuing to work closely together this year.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Buttery

Head of School

RESPECT | HONESTY | ENDEAVOUR | CREATIVITY | COMMUNITY

