



RIDGEWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL

8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: RidgeCamp and ParentPay activation

We hope this letter finds you well and your child has enjoyed their first few days with us.

At Ridgewood, we know how important academic study is when it comes to experiencing success at school. However, we are also aware that school is about far more than this; we want our students to be able to work independently, or as part of a team, and to develop skills of resilience, so they know how to respond to situations that might be unfamiliar to them.

To support this, we are excited to invite all of our Year 7 students to RidgeCamp, our annual overnight camp for all new starters. RidgeCamp takes place on Friday 15th September 2023. Students will take part in an entire day of teambuilding activities that focus on leadership, collaboration and of course having some fun with friends, both new and old. Towards the end of the day, students will pitch their tents, have a chip-shop supper together, play some games, before camping overnight on our lovely school field. Friends of Ridgewood (our Parent Teacher Association), will host a tuck shop so students are invited to bring some money, or their card to buy some sweets and other snacks! The following morning (Saturday 16th September 2023), students will have bacon and sausage sandwiches, (vegetarian options will be available) before taking the tents down and heading home. We are happy for students to make their own way home, if parents/carers have consented to this.

On the day of the event

Students do not need to wear their uniform on Friday 15th September 2023. They should wear sensible, practical clothing as, they will be outside for most of the day. Please keep in mind the variable weather we are having right now! Students should bring an overnight bag, which should include a change of clothes for Saturday morning, as well as some basic toiletries such as, a tooth brush. They should also bring a sleeping bag or quilt, and a ground mat if you have one.

Students will be camping in groups of up to six. Tents are strictly same-sex. At Ridgewood, we do have some tents but students are welcome to provide their own if they have them. Students are welcome to select their own tent groups, as this is very much an opportunity to make new friends and get to know each other, although we will also support all students in selecting their groupings, to ensure everyone is comfortable with who they are sharing with. This early stage of Year 7 is an exciting time and we will support students to develop new friendships. Mr Cannon and Mrs Baldry will be collating a list of the sleeping arrangements and will speak to students over the next few days, as well as taking orders for the fish and chip supper.

We ran RidgeCamp for the first-time last year, and nearly every single Year 7 student attended, and the impact this had on the rest of their year was huge. They gained new experiences, forged new friendships, and secured memories that will last a lifetime. We look forward to this happening again this year!

In order to cover our costs for RidgeCamp, we are asking parents for a contribution of £10 which will be payable via ParentPay, and you will also provide your parental consent on this platform.

ParentPay and consent

We are a cashless school and use ParentPay, which is an online system for all payments and consent to be provided throughout the duration of your child's time with us at Ridgewood High School. Please find attached a ParentPay activation letter, which includes your login details. We will email you a copy of our ParentPay 'how to' guide, which should answer many of the frequently asked questions. When logging in to ParentPay, you will only see the consent item for RidgeCamp. This needs to be completed by **Wednesday 13th September 2023**. A separate payment item in ParentPay will be uploaded shortly, which will need to be paid by the end of September.

If possible, we would like to have all the students with us for RidgeCamp and may have to beg and borrow some tents and sleeping bags, but we think we could provide a great time for all. It's a great opportunity to create the beginnings of the spirit of adventure we want from our Ridgewood students.

Yours faithfully,



Mr James Cannon
Deputy Headteacher
Ridgewood High School