



Message from the Principal

On Friday we had our annual OAT led INSET day with a presentation from Tom Rees, the new CEO of the Trust on pupil performance and a keynote address on 'Belonging'. Staff then had a consultation session as part of our ongoing review of the academy's Visions and Values. Following on from this, **I look forward to seeing as many of our parents and carers as possible at our Vision and Values consultation on Thursday 7th December.**

On Tuesday, I sent a letter to you all with a link to a questionnaire regarding perception of behaviour in Rivers currently. Please click on the link below to complete the questionnaire:

[Attitudes & Behaviour at Ormiston Rivers Academy questionnaire](#)

Thank you for your feedback so far, it has been really helpful. We will send out further consultation in the next few weeks regarding behaviour expectations and our plan.

The first part of this plan next week is to improve corridor behaviour as many of you have raised this as a priority. I will be meeting with all students in assemblies on Monday morning to set clear expectations which are:

- 1. Move between classes in single file, keeping left and being responsible.**
- 2. At break and lunch get food, drinks and use the toilet in the first 15 minutes then be outside unless you choose to sit in the dining room or main hall, unless it is a wet break or lunch.**

Whilst we are establishing this practice, any unsafe behaviour or defiance will result in strict sanctions. I thank you for your support with this.

Further to this **on Wednesday 3rd January we will be having an extraordinary INSET day** in order for staff to have further training to implement our new behaviour for learning policy. Should this present any childcare issues for parents/carers we will of course be open to support you and further information on this will follow.

I wish you all a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing our students again on Monday.

Jo Williams, Principal

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 30 November - 3.45pm - 7.15pm
Year 11 Parents Evening

Thursday 7th December - 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Vision & Values Parent Consultation

Tuesday 19th December 2023
Last day of autumn term. Academy closes at 1.50pm

Wednesday 3rd January 2024
Extraordinary Inset Day (academy closed to students)

Thursday 4th January 2024
First day of Spring Term – all students return

Parent Pledge from the Principal

Any issue of concern that you may have that you are unable to resolve with a member of the academy leadership team, I will be available to speak to you on the phone within 24 hours or to meet with you within 48 hours.

15th September 2023

Date



Signature



Literacy

One of the literacy challenges we run weekly is “Word of the Week” where students are invited to use the word in a sentence and submit it in order to receive merit points. The WOTW for next week is **“Impending”**.

Why not have a go?

Say it: Uhm-pen-duhng **Spell it: Im-pend-ing**

Impending (adjective)

Stem: / pend / hang

Root: pend: hang (pendulum/perpendicular)

Understand it
Of an event regarded as threatening or significant; about to happen

Send the definition and the word in a sentence to Lsams@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk for merits!

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect



English Stars of the Week

The English stars of the week are:

Lila N 7A1 - She has always been consistent in maintaining the AIRR values. She wrote an exceptional expository piece about the Indian culture.

Ellie M 7Z2 - An independent student who always takes the initiative to complete assigned tasks on time. Shows exemplary AIRR values.

Well done!!

English Champion Badges Awarded



Oliver (7A1)
Kasey (7Z1)



Scarlett (7A1)
Ivy (7M1)
Jude (7D1)



Kasey (7Z1)
Jordan (7M1)
Rosealeigh (7A1)

Well done on all of your hard work!

Performing Arts Stars of the Week

The Performing Arts Team would like to recognise and celebrate the fantastic work that happens in the department each week.

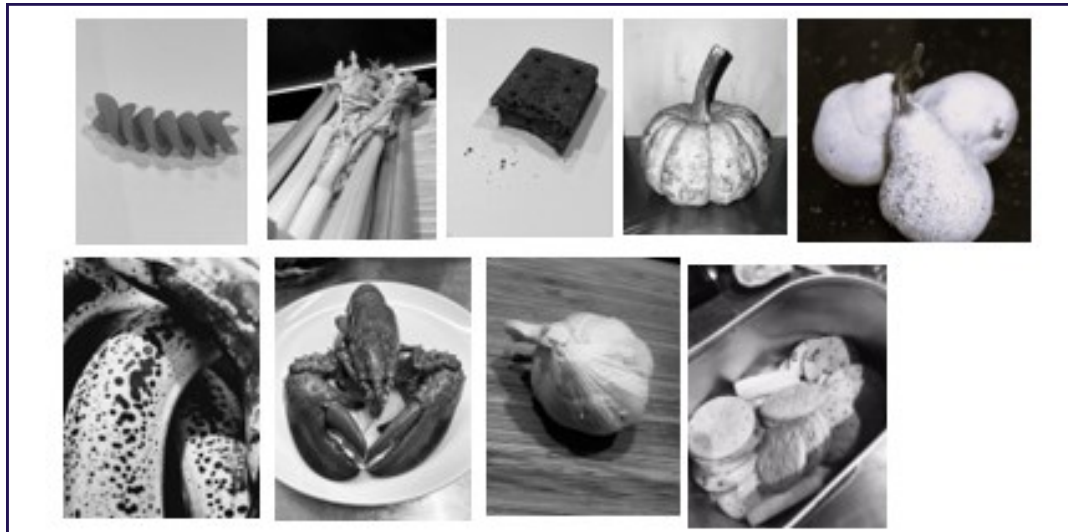
This week a shout out goes to all students who took part in the student voice panel during our department review.

Well done to all!





Art News



Fabulous Food Photography

Our students are continuing to explore the theme of Food in their artwork and have applied their creative skills to photography. Students have used the work of Edward Weston as inspiration and have produced these striking responses. This week we are exploring different digital manipulation techniques of the students photography. Well done to Annie (10M2), Darcie (10M1), Angelina (10M1), Harvey (10A1), Charlie (10D2), Amelia (10D2) and Abigail (10Z2).



Artist of the Week
Grace SF6

It is great when a student finds the art and style they truly connect with. Grace has found her passion for Impressionism and painting landscapes. The development in her painting skills is incredible as you can see in her work featured. We cannot wait to see her next masterpieces.

Why not complete the November Photography Challenge to achieve merits and rewards? Submit to Ms Nice

Just a reminder the Art room is open Tuesday and Thursday Lunchtimes and Tuesday and Wednesday afterschool. This is available for Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 to work on their Portfolio.



Why not look at the work of Jennifer Bakalay who takes photos of objects that look like the alphabet inspired by the book 'Alphabet City'?

Take photos of different objects that look like letters of the alphabet. Take a photo for each letter of the alphabet taking a photo for each letter.

You could photography letter forms you find, letter shapes in natural objects or man made objects? Why not use your photographs to create specific words?



November Photography Challenge

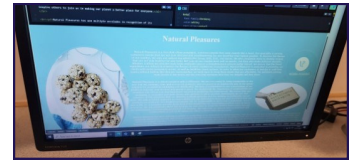
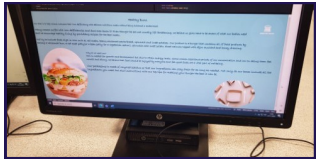


Careers News

Stemettes Tap and Tinker - Tuesday 21st November



A group of 30 Year 10 and 11 girls from Engineering and Computer Science classes, were invited to a morning session with the Stemettes who are a group that are showing the next generation that Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) are for everyone.



Apprenticeship Awareness Assemblies

Year 10 and 11 students had assemblies this week from Abbie at Aim Apprenticeships. This presentation informed students on what apprenticeships are, how to apply for them and when. The presentation has been emailed to students so they can refer to it their own time.



Alumni Visit

Ex ORA students Tia and Katy came into school to talk to our KS4 and KS 5 students who study Science and Engineering, about their career pathway and the opportunities that are available at their place of work.



The ORA Alumni is open to all former students who attended Ormiston Rivers Academy or St Peters school. Our objectives are to:

- recognise the achievements of past students and celebrate their successes
- maintain a register of all ORA Alumni members' contact and other details
- provide an Alumni community that allows past students to reconnect with the school and keep up-to-date with developments
- establish a link with past students who are able to provide real-life experiences and career insights to our present students.

Benefits of joining the ORA Alumni:

The old adage 'It's not what you know, it's who you know' is as relevant today as it has ever been.

To join the ORA Alumni please complete this form:

[Join our ORA Alumni \(office.com\)](#)



Solve for Tomorrow Competition 2023/24

Can you imagine a world where tech is used as a force for good to improve Education, Sustainability, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, or Health & Wellbeing?

Enter the Solve for Tomorrow Competition 2023/24 by Monday 18th December at 23:59 to be in with the chance of winning fantastic prizes.

Why should students enter:

- Students have a unique opportunity to gain the skills and funding needed to design the future and expand their horizons.
- First prize – £10,000 cash prize and 3 months expert mentoring for both 16-18 and 18-25 age group winners, plus industry connections and networking opportunities!
- Runners up – £1,000 cash prize, plus 3 months expert mentoring for both the 16-18 and 18-25 age group winners.
- All Shortlisted Entries – 1-2-1 mentoring from industry-experts and Samsung employees, providing valuable experience and talking points for CV or interview.

For more information see Mrs Gibson or Mr Lawman in IT or email on dgibson@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Good luck!

Pre-Loved Uniform

We do have a selection of pre-loved uniform in stock. If there are items of uniform that you need to purchase, just drop an email to finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk stating items required and size and we'll check to see if we can help, we just ask for a small donation for each item, if you are able to make one.

Change of Personal Details

It is essential that we are kept up to date with changes in your contact details. This may be a change to a mobile number, an e-mail address, a full address or even a change of who is the first priority to contact. By keeping us up to date with changes we can ensure that you are receiving information regarding your child's progress and that we can contact someone in the case of an emergency. Or preferred means of communication is by e-mail, please ensure that we have a current e-mail address for you. Please notify us of any changes by e-mail to: kcannon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

SAMSUNG

Solve for Tomorrow Competition 2023/24

An opportunity like no other to explore how tech can take on some of society's biggest issues. No qualifications needed.

Enter your tech-for-good idea for a chance to make it a reality!

Prizes and opportunities

Winners and runners up will be awarded prizes for both the **16-18** and **18-25** age categories. In addition, all shortlisted entries will receive 121 mentoring from Samsung and expert coaching as part of the competition process.

First prize
£10,000 cash prize, 3 months expert mentoring, plus industry connections and networking opportunities!

Second prize
£1,000 cash prize, plus 3 months expert mentoring.

Samsung tech devices will be given to all those who make it to the final.

The competition process

1. Visit bit.ly/sft2023d
Scan the QR code to visit our site and Innovator Hub
Download the Competition Entry Pack. bit.ly/sft2023a
2. Enter solo or as a team of up to five.
3. Submit your idea online by 23:59 Monday 18th December 2023.
4. Those who make it to the next stage will attend expert workshops and 1-2-1 mentoring sessions from February - May 2024.

"Just start with a really basic problem - because if it is so basic, it will be a need that everyone has."

Klara Taylor
Solve for Tomorrow 2022/23 Winner (18-25) and Creator of ReGrow, a device that recycles e-waste into wind turbines and car batteries to support farmers.

*Samsung Electronics (UK) Ltd. The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition 2023 is open to UK and ROI residents aged 16-25. Applications are open between 14/09/2023 - 18/12/2023. For full T&Cs visit: www.samsung.com/uk/solvefortomorrow/terms-and-conditions



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.

Scan the QR code to
take part



www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition





PE KIT

May I please ask that if your child has some PE clothing at home that has "ORA PE" written on it, that it's sent in with your child next week and returned to a member of PE staff.

This is spare PE kit that we keep in the department. The printing has been done especially so we can clearly identify it as kit belonging to the department.

Many thanks for your support.

Mr Clay

Year 7 - Mr Shanahan

Another week (albeit a shortened one), has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s! Due to the INSET day on Friday, we unfortunately had no assembly this week.

As a teaching HOY, my Year 7 classes are undertaking/will undertake assessments and this is happening in a number of subjects. Parents/Carers' can you continue to insure you are spending time with your son/daughter, making sure that they are fully prepped for these assessments, using the resources available on Go for Schools to help them.

I am delighted to announce that the following students had the most positive behaviour points awarded to them in the year group this week; Lila 7A1, Reuben 7A1, Finian 7D1, Sophia 7D2, Reuben 7A2, Henry 7A2, Teddy 7Z2, Olly 7M2, Angel 7M1, David 7M1, Annabelle 7M1, Jake 7M1, James 7D2, Eoin 7D1 and Lara 7Z1. Well done all!!

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing the students on Monday.

Contact: pshanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 7 Maths Circle Club - Miss Brooks & Mr Kennedy

This Wednesday saw the start of the new Maths Circle club with Year 7, and what a start it was! Our 36 budding mathematicians got stuck into some seriously tricky problems and puzzles which included topics such as square numbers, congruent shapes, and divisibility rules. We're so excited to see you all again next week!

We'd also like to say a huge thanks to our expert sixth form helpers Harry, Julia, Anna, and Luca!



Year 8 - Mr Willingham

This week we had a talk about the skills students learn in school and how this translate into skills in the workplace We try to encourage students to learn a range of skills not only in the classroom but also in the after school clubs which again I would really encourage student to participate in.

This week top merit earners are:

John (8A2), Lully (8Z2), Danica (8M1), Ryan (8Z2), Megan (8D2), Henry (8Z2), Nathan (8Z2), Edward (8A2), Aiden (8Z2), Tommy (8D2)

Congratulations to these students and keep up the good work!

Contact: pwillingham@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 – Ms. Turnnidge

Year 9 have had a good week and had an assembly on Careers this week. With student Options coming up soon, it would be great if you can start to discuss what your children may want to take and get them to focus on positive attitudes to learning in all lessons.

As well as attendance I will be arranging a special treat for our students with the highest positive points and no negative behaviour points. This will be before we break up for Christmas.

Just a reminder also that Year 9 Parents Evening is on Wednesday 14th February.

Well done to the following students for their top positive points this week:

Alex 9M1 - 1643

Matthew 9M2 - 1220

Amelia 9A2 - 925

Leo 9M2 - 812

Madison 9M2 - 1566

Kayden 9D1 - 1080

Lillie 9M1 - 890

Thomas 9Z1 - 1286

Tom 9D1 - 962

Jayden 9A2 - 854

Contact: ltturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 10 - Mr Field

Another good week for Year 10. I observed Maths and English classes this week and it was a pleasure to listen to students talk about their work and how they are improving in their subjects.

Assembly this week focussed on introducing apprenticeships and offering different pathways for students to take once they have finished school. Apprenticeships are different opportunities to study and work at the same time, gaining valuable experience in a variety of fields. Hopefully students found this interesting, and some may take up this opportunity.

Top earners of positive points this week are: William (D1) Mia (Z1) Liam (M2) Jack (D2) James (D1) Thomas (Z2) Katie (A1) Emily (A1) Brennan (A1) Oscar (Z2) Amelia (D2) Amelia (Z1)

Keep up the good work!

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



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Geography Field Trip

On 17th November Year 10 GCSE Geography students enjoyed a day exploring the Debden Brook in Epping. Thankfully the sun shone as we explored the source of the river in the forest and proceeded to measure the depth, width, and velocity of the river at three key points in the upper, middle, and lower course.

Afterwards the students analysed the gathered data, discussed the causes of the changes noted in our research and evaluated the methods of collection. The risk assessment that they completed before the activities helped ensure that the day was safely enjoyed.

The students gained skills and understanding that will not only support them in their geography studies and exams but can be applied to other subjects and experiences outside of the school environment.



Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton

A shorter week but still a productive one for Year 11. The hard work for those all important exams goes on.

Monday's assembly was a very important one presented by AIM giving the Year 11's an insight into apprenticeships and explaining the potential advantages of following this pathway moving forward. Hopefully most of Year 11 have an idea of their future plans, but if they are still unsure, then M/s Compton can arrange a careers meeting with an advisor to help. Knowing what direction you are intending to follow can help focus the mind on what needs to be achieved.

This weeks top achievers are Theo 11D2, Kai 11Z2, Daisy 11D1, George 11Z2, Luke 11Z1, Harvey 11D2, Will 11M2 Eva 11Z2 and Marli 11D1. Well done to them and to all the students trying their hardest every day.

Finally, may I say again, if I can help in any way to support your child with their school life, please contact me at the Academy.

Contact: rswinnerton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Miss Welham's tutor group is continuing to have the best attendance in the school with 99% to date! This is a fantastic accomplishment and we have been coming up with ways to reward them if they keep it up until Christmas. Overall Sixth Form attendance is strong but we would like to remind parents, carers, and students that if students are absent, parents and carers must contact the school and students need to email and speak with their teachers to catch up and be responsible for their own education.

Oliver's work experience last week gave us fantastic feedback saying that he enjoyed a very varied week and they feel he has acquired a good insight into how various teams within Sainsburys Tech operates. He spent time out with their field engineers as well as shadowing actual meetings. He visited one of the Sainsburys Store Support centres, had a behind the scenes IT tour at one of their supermarkets and today he was at our storage and staging facility in Milton Keynes. The feedback from those he has interacted with has been very positive. He was extremely attentive and interested in the activities he was involved with.

Good luck to Year 13 and a few Year 12s who are sitting their PPEs next week. This will help shape their UCAS applications. A reminder that the internal school deadline is Wednesday 13 December to ensure they are all sent off before Christmas.

We are so proud of our Year 13s who have been holding study sessions in the evenings in Sixth Form. Our English Literature and Sociology students have been hard at work.

Progress and future planning meetings are continuing this term. It has been really helpful to go through each subject with students and their parents/carers to discuss where they are ahead of PPEs and what they still need to do to secure their placements next year at universities and degree apprenticeships. We really appreciate the time parents and carers are taking out of their day to support and it has opened up some really good dialogue and target setting.

We would also like to thank our parents and carers for all the kind words. We have had over a dozen emails and positive phone calls from parents this week to thank the Sixth Form Team, especially Mrs Penberthy. We are glad students are bringing positive feedback home to parents and carers and it really makes our day getting thank you emails through. We have starting making a display board in our office to have a positive wall of messages.

Thank you so much!



Catering



Menu

We have pleasure in enclosing a link to next weeks menu. Please note that items are subject to change at short notice due to availability of produce from our suppliers. We welcome feedback on our catering offer; so please email our catering manager, Leanne Warner at lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk with any comments / suggestions.

Parentpay

The daily limit for students to spend is set at £4.50 as a default. This means, should a student select items at break and / or lunch which take them over the limit, they will be asked to put something back. If you would like to change the limit on your child's account please email our catering manager lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk. Please note: it can take a while before the cashless system updates once you have added funds to your child's catering account. Please be mindful of this and try and get the money on there in plenty of time for break / lunch. When adding funds please ensure you add it to Dinner money and make sure it's not just sitting in your parent account.

Free School Meals

The daily limit for free school meals is £3.30. Funds will need to be added to your child's Parentpay account should you wish them to be allowed to exceed the limit.

Catering Cards

Students must tap their catering card each time they wish to make a purchase, even if they are entitled to free school meals. Please remind them that they need to bring their catering card in every day. Those students without their card will be held back until the end of the queue, allowing those through with cards first. The cards really speed up the catering service, giving students more time to socialise with friends and eat their food. If a card is lost or damaged, a new one can be purchased for £1 on Parentpay. The new card will be delivered to tutors the following morning.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above please contact either Leanne Warner, Catering Manager lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk or Angela Mahoney, Finance & Business Director amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.