



## Message from the Principal

It has been a busy and productive final week of this half term at the academy. We started the week with a Curriculum Development Review in Maths, which was led by the OAT Lead Practitioner. These reviews are carried out regularly to provide us with valuable insight and feedback as to how the academy can enhance student learning, engagement, experience and outcomes in each subject.

On Thursday over 30 of our students across all year groups swapped their pencils for aprons to join the Great Ormiston Bake Guinness World Record attempt for the largest baking lesson, and I am delighted to let you know that they smashed the world record!

Later in the week our Performing Arts department took 40 Year 10 GCSE Drama students to see 'The Woman in Black' at the Palace Theatre in Southend.

After passing her Dog Mentor training last week, Bear has started working with her handlers to support several of our students with their wellbeing.

A letter has been sent to all parents separately regarding uniform changes. Your support is really appreciated to ensure our students are smart and ready to learn.

I hope you all have a fantastic half term break and look forward to seeing our students rested and refreshed on Monday 6th November.

Jo Williams  
Principal

## Dates for your Diary

**Monday 23rd October to Friday 3rd  
November 2023**

Half-term (two weeks)

**Monday 6th November**

Back to school (returning on week B)

**Thursday 30th November - 3:45-7:15**

Year 11 Parents Evening

## 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.

15<sup>th</sup> 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 **“Compassionate”**.

Why not have a go?

**Say it:** Kuhm-pa-shuh-nuht      **Spell it:** Com-pas-sion-ate

**Root:** pass: pitying/concern

**Compassionate (adj)**      **Stem:** / pass/ Caring

**Understand it**  
Feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others

Send the definition and the word in a sentence to [Lsams@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:Lsams@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk) for merits!

**Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect**

## Performing Arts Stars of the Week

The Performing Arts Team have introduced “Performing Arts Stars of the Week”, where one or two students will be recognised each week for their work and effort.

This week’s worthy winners are:

Ailsa (10M1) - For a great first music assessment

And

Beau (7M1) - For all of his hard work in his drama assessment

Well done both of you!



## Tea with the Principal

On Friday 20th October, the following Sixth Form students, who had been nominated by their Heads of Year and Tutors, were invited to tea with the Principal to celebrate their outstanding demonstration of the academy’s AIRR values.

- Grace (SF2)
- Charlie (SF2)
- Grace (SF1)
- Keiran (SF1)
- Luca (SF3)
- Sam (SF3)
- Dani (SF3)
- Amy (SF2)





**Celebrating**

**Black  
History  
Month**

# B:IM2023

**DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER**

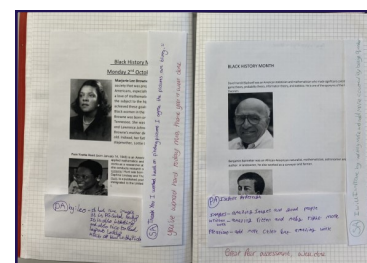
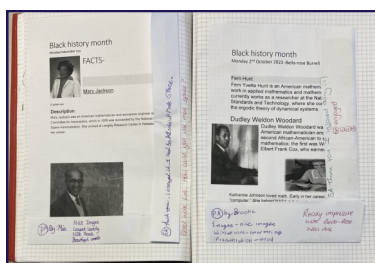


**English - Ms Smith**

In English, Year 7 library lessons have explored openings to novels by modern black young adult writers, as well as reading Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes.

**Mathematics - Ms Havard**

Here is a sample of the work completed by our Year 7's when researching famous black Mathematicians.



**Guinness World Record for the largest baking lesson (multiple venues)**

On Thursday, Ormiston Rivers, along with most Ormiston Academies across the country (both primary and secondary) took part in the Guinness World Record Attempt for “the largest baking lesson at multiple venues”. This was led by our Lead Practitioner for DT and Food, Dan Woods who showed everyone via a video call, how to prepare their pastry, cut their fruit and bake and glaze their Apricot Galette. Students worked really well on this and were so excited and proud when towards the end of the lesson, the announcement was made over video from Dan, that we have broken the record with a whopping 739 participants (the previous record was 496 participants!) I think the cheers may have been heard all around the academy!



A big thank you to all the students who took part, to OAT and Dan Woods for putting on this event, to Ms Slade, our wonderful Food technician, for supporting with the organisation, and to Mr Argent our DT Technician who kindly acted as steward, ensuring that the rules were adhered to and verifying the number of students who took part. It was a wonderful experience for students!





## Bebras Challenge - Ms Gibson



Computational Thinking Challenge

## UK Bebras 2023



Bebras Fortnight  
6th-17th November 2023

As part of Computer Science curriculum and STEM based learning, all Year 7, 8 and 9 students will take part in the Bebras Challenge over the first 2 weeks of next half term, as well as Year 10 and 11 GCSE Computer Science students, it will also be offered to Year 12 and 13 IT students as part of their enrichment. The challenge, which is run by Oxford University in conjunction with the Raspberry Pi Foundation, introduces computational thinking to students to help with problem solving and is organised in over 50 countries. It is designed to get students all over the world excited about Computing. This year over 320,000 students are expected to take part nationally with more than 2.5 million students participating worldwide. Students achieving scores in the top 10% in the UK will be offered the chance to take part in a further challenge set up and run by Oxford University, this takes place in February and will receive a Gold certificate. All Students will receive Distinction/Merit or Participation Certificates. The Problem solving skills they learn are highly transferrable between subjects and are an important life skill to have.

Each participant answer questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

Here is an example that is directed at Year 7 students

Previous
Next
**Painting Houses**

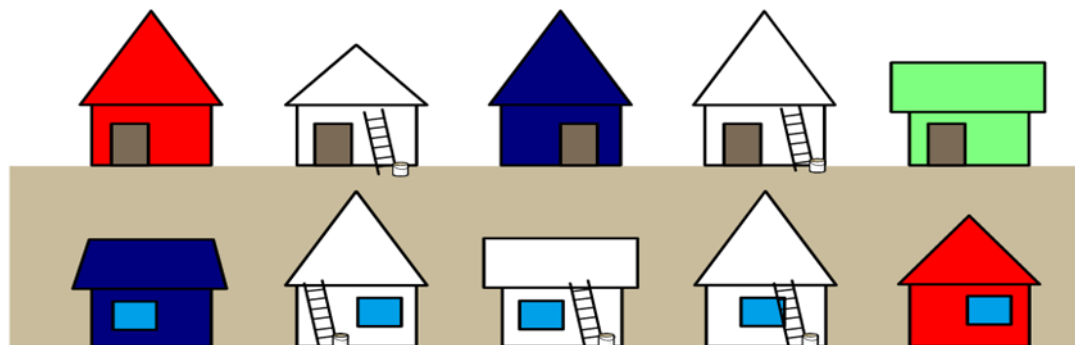
The people on Taro's street decide to paint their houses according to these rules:

1. All houses must be painted either red, light green or dark blue.
2. Houses next to each other must not be the same colour.
3. A house must not be the same colour as the house directly across the street.

In the picture below you can see that some of the houses have already been painted.

**Task:**

Choose colours for all the houses so that the above rules are followed.  
Click on the white houses to cycle through the colours.  
(Remember to press Save when you have finished.)



Have a go!

If any other student from Years 10-13 which to participate please email [dgibson@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:dgibson@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk) I will be happy to facilitate this in an after school session within the 2 week window.



## Careers and Work Experience - Ms Compton

### Careers Masterclass - Medical Science

On Wednesday afternoon, 20 students took part in a Medical Science careers masterclass, enabling them to be able to look at how modern technology works in the body.



Thank you to Emma and Marie for taking the time to come in and talk to our students, it was extremely informative.

### Work Experience - Years 10 and 12

In July 2024, Year 10 and Year 12 will be heading out on a week of Work Experience.

Year 10 - Monday 15th-Friday 19th July 2024

Year 12 - Monday 8th-Friday 12th July 2024

The details have been given out in assembly this week and email sent home to parents / carers

Details can be found also on the academy website here [Ormiston Rivers Academy - Work Experience](#)



## Year 10 and Year 12 Student Work Experience July 2024



In July 2024 our current Year 10 and 12 students will be heading out on a week of Work Experience.

We want students to start thinking about where they can go for their placement. Maybe a family member or friend they could ask, or parents/ carers may have a colleague they can ask

### Can you offer a placement?

In July 2024 our students will be completing a week of work experience and we would like to hear from you if you can offer a placement. The dates are: 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> July

If you are able to help please get in touch via email to Fliss Compton on [fcompton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:fcompton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

Please include your contact details and profession

We look forward to hearing from you

ORA Careers Team



## Environmental Group - Mrs Mahoney

The Environmental group has had a busy first half term. We began with cutting back the hedging along the perimeter fence on Maldon road, as some of the trees planted five years ago had grown considerably. Following our visit to Hyde Hall we continued our preparation for Winter planting and cleared the flower tubs at the front of the school, ready for re-planting after the half term break with Winter bedding plants. We used the skills we had learnt at Hyde Hall and harvested some of the seeds from the sunflowers grown earlier in the year. We have kept some for replanting and others for bird feed during the Winter months. We have harvested the last of the tomatoes from the vegetable garden, which were used to make pasta sauce in the kitchen and we have helped maintain the school with a number of litter picks.



This week we have celebrated Halloween early by carving pumpkins, which were displayed in the canteen. They have now been placed in the canteen freezer and will be used for pumpkin soup and other recipes after half term.



We took meter readings from the water bottle filling stations last week and are happy to report that we have saved 301,237 plastic bottles going into landfill since we installed them in 2021.

We also have fantastic news; we applied to renew our Eco Schools Green Flag during the Summer break and have been awarded a distinction! We are really pleased with the outcome, you will see the green plaque outside the main reception doors.



The Environmental club meet every Thursday after school. We meet in the Library before heading off to work on various projects. If you are interested in joining you can do this through Evolve Clubs or email Mrs Mahoney at [amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk).





## British Values Assembly - Ms Crump

This week our Year 7-9 students enjoyed a British Values assembly with a twist! We were joined by members of our Sixth Form Drama class, who brought to life the concept of British Values in a short play based on Britain's Got Talent. The assembly was enjoyed by all, and really helped to embed this important topic.



## 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](mailto:kcannon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk).

## Pre-Loved Uniform

If you have uniform that no longer fits or is no longer needed and would like to donate it to the school, please drop it off at main reception. A crate will be left between the two sets of doors during half term, should you wish to leave any whilst reception is not manned. Any school books that you no longer need would also be very much appreciated.

We will be holding a sale of pre-loved uniform on Friday 27th October between 10.00am and 12.00 noon.

## National Schools Equestrian Association - Mr Clay & Miss Ball

If your child is interested in representing the school in equestrian competitions this year, could you kindly complete the form using the below link?

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cCy76NwEk0ilgsR7VNVsKgyqtVqelR1Bh7a24p1J6jpUM0dIM0hFVkw4RkxQQTdTNlo1SFdIRERURC4u>

Thank you



## Year 7 - Mr Shanahan

The final week of this half term has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s! On Friday we had our weekly assembly and it was also an opportunity to positively reward members of our year group for a variety of things including attendance. Well done to all our winners!

Talking of positivity, I am delighted to announce that the following students had the most positive behaviour points awarded to them in the year group for this half term and were treated to a surprise reward breakfast in the canteen on Thursday morning; Henry 7A2, James 7D2, Jamie 7M2, Harley 7M2, Em 7M2, Eleanor 7Z2, Megan 7D2, Riley 7M2, Riley 7A2, Josh 7D2, Emilija 7D2, Ingrid 7D2, Sophia 7D2, Ryan 7A2, Hannah 7Z2 and Zach 7M1. Well done again and thank you to the canteen staff. There wasn't much food left!



Many congratulations for completing your first half term Year 7, have a relaxing two-week break and I look forward to seeing you all again when we return.

Contact: [shanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:shanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

## Year 8 - Mr Willingham

This week we rewarded students for perfect attendance this half term. Well done to those students.!

Owen	8D1	Haidyn	8M1	Pippa	8Z2
Emme	8D2	Lorna	8Z2	Jess	8A2
Tegan	8Z2	Edward	8A2	Chloe	8M1
Louis	8Z2	Eilena	8Z1	Lully	8Z2
Bradán	8M1	Henry	8Z2		

We will do the same next half term, so students will get another chance to win.

This week we also had a student voice meeting and students were given the opportunity to feed back the information to their forms.

We will also be having a rewards breakfast for the top 10 merit earners for the half term who were :

Lorna	8Z2	Emme	8D2	Bradán	8M1
Tegan	8Z2	Pippa	8Z2	Haidyn	8M1
Erin	8Z2	Lully	8Z2	Ryan	8Z2
Henry	8Z2				

I hope you have a safe half term and I look forward to seeing you when we get back.

Contact: [pwillingham@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:pwillingham@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)





## Year 9 – Ms. Turnnidge

We gave out Attendance Rewards in assembly this week for the tutor group with the highest attendance - well done to Ms French's tutor group - 9Z2. Rewards were also given out to students with 100 percent attendance. Please continue to support in ensuring students attend school every day and on time.

The new uniform rules were discussed in assembly also. On students return please ensure skirts are mid-thigh length, blazers worn, along with ties. No hoodies are permitted in school at all. Thank you for your support on this.

A massive well done to the following students for top positive points this week:

Madison 9M2 - 1099 points

Thomas 9Z1 - 886 points

Matthew 9M2 - 747

Amelia 9A2 - 727

Tom - 9D1 - 636

Lillie - 9M1 - 613

Kayden - 9D1 - 601

Jayden - 9A2 - 585

Freya - 9D1 - 524

Bobby - 9A2 - 503

Keep up the good work Year 9!

I hope that Year 9 have a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing them on their return.

Contact: [ltturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:ltturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

## Year 9 Girls netball - Ms Blogg

The Year 9 girls had their second netball fixture of the half term, away to Beaulieu. Despite the score, the girls still played their socks off and tried their absolute hardest against a very good and very quick side. Player of the match, as nominated by Beaulieu, was Kaitlin, who made some amazing saves as our GK! Well done girls!



## Year 9 Geography - Ms French

Year 9 Geography students have been showing their understanding of the different tectonic plate margins by building moving models and presenting in the class. We have been impressed by their creativity including having students under the desk to ensure that the magma 'erupts' from the mantle to create new land! Here are a small selection of their work.

We are looking forward to seeing their active volcanic models and presentations after half term.





## Year 10 - Mr Field

It has been a great first half term for Year 10 as they started their GCSE courses. I have witnessed pupils focussed and enjoying their option choices as I have walked round their lessons over the last few weeks.

It was great to reward those pupils who achieved the most positive points this half term with a breakfast on Tuesday. It was nice for the pupils to sit around a table and chat whilst eating some lovely pancakes and cookies. Well done to the following pupils: Isabella, Mia, Skie, Emily, William, Oscar, Imogen, Max, George, Connie, Molly, Sophie, Fraser and Oliver.



Further rewards went to Jack, Olivia & Liam who won a sweet cone each in the raffle for having 100% attendance. The form group with the highest attendance was Ms Sivakumar's (10Z2) with a brilliant 95% attendance. I hope the pupils enjoyed the sweet box!!

Assembly this week gave an introduction to work experience, where the pupils will undertake one week of work in an industry in July 2024. The pupils will have to organise their own placements and have plenty of time to do this, but please encourage them to not leave this to the last minute, otherwise they could be disappointed. The two week half term will be a great opportunity to begin to organise a placement and even sharpen up on interview techniques, if required.

Parents, please ensure pupils have the correct uniform for their return in November. As I have previously said, I recommend purchasing the standard ties which are cheaper and will last longer compared to the clip on version.

Please have a restful two weeks and complete any homework or revision that is required in preparation for the next half term.

Contact: [sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)



## **Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton**

The first half term has come to its conclusion and the seven weeks have flown by.

Revision tips were given to all in this week's assembly and we celebrated excellent attendance with rewards for three lucky winners with 100% attendance. Attendance being one of the most crucial factors in achieving success in the final exams, as you cannot learn if you are not here, and anything under 95% attendance can lead to a drop of one whole grade at GCSE level.

Following the half term break, we will have seven school weeks until Christmas, which will also pass really quickly. Then we will be into 2024 and four months away from those final exams starting in May.

Outstanding students this week are Stanley 11A2, Aidan 11A1, Luke 11Z1, Will 11M2, Daisy 11D1, Nathan 11M2, George 11A1, Archie 11M1, Freya 11Z2 and Thomas 11A1. Well done to them and to all the other students who I know are trying so hard to achieve their best.

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.

Have a great half term!

Contact: [rswinnerton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:rswinnerton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

## **Netball**

Year 11 girls had an away game yesterday at Beaulieu. Despite the loss, it was great to have our girls playing back on the courts this year. This was their first match of the season for our KS4 team. Netball club will continue to run Thursdays 3:20pm-4:20pm. Please sign up your students on Evolve to take part.





## RIVERS SIXTH FORM

What a fantastic start to the academic year for our Year 12's and what an eventful final week we have had too. Well done to the pupils who performed in the British Values assembly and another well done to the drama students who had their first practical assessment this week. We heard lots of positive things about the performances.

### Football

On Wednesday we hosted Plume Academy for the Sixth Form football match. It was a very close game, finishing with Plume winning 4-3 with the winning goal being scored in the last 30 seconds of the match. The boys all played brilliantly they represented themselves and the school with pride. It was great to see everyone on the side lines supporting Ormiston Rivers. Man of the match has to be Owen for stepping up and playing in goal for the first time. He had a great game, and he should be proud of his performance. A shoutout needs to go to Calum for his three goals, keeping us in the game.

### UCAS

Early entries have all been sent off to UCAS this week as the deadline was Monday 16 October. This includes any students who have applied to Oxbridge and Medicine and just a few who were excited to have it sent off and get rid of the stress! It is fantastic that two students have already received offers from their chosen universities.

We are looking forward to sending the rest of the applications sent off by Christmas!





## RIVERS SIXTH FORM

We have had a busy week of fundraising and awareness with Sixth Former's raising money for various charities.

Congratulations and thank you to Olivia for running the charity 'Teacher V's Sixth Form' dodgeball match for cancer research.

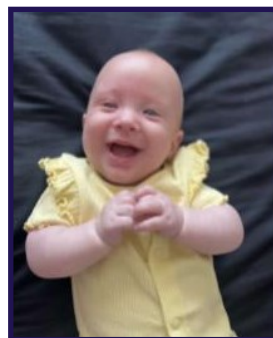
#WDR23 - Friday 20 October is Wear Red Day: Shown Racism the Red Card. Sixth Form students have been encouraged to incorporate red into their clothing today to show that we do not tolerate racism. In an ever-expanding world, it is so important to embrace and celebrate all cultures. Well done to our Sixth Formers for being great role models and standing up for adversities.



Tom (SF1) has signed up for the London Landmarks Half Marathon in April 2024 to raise money for a charity called Shine. He has chosen this charity because his friend's daughter Poppy has spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

*He has told the Sixth Form team: 'I will be doing this for a cause that is close to home and raising money for a charity called Shine. The charity Shine raises awareness and helps families with spina bifida & hydrocephalus. Their support is out of this world and provides such a lovely connection of people. My friends were told in October 2022 at their 20 week scan that their daughter Poppy has spina bifida and that she wouldn't have mobility from her waist down, causing bladder & bowel issues. They had the opportunity to undergo surgery whilst still pregnant to give her a better quality of life and so Poppy underwent foetal surgery whilst still in the womb at 27 weeks to close up her spinal cord. She was then born at 31 weeks and came out an absolute fighter! She had a 3-week NICU stay in King's College Hospital whilst her back was still healing, and she was still growing, but every single day she has shown how brave and strong she is. We do not know what the future holds for her yet, but her family know that whatever it is she will fight through!'*

The Sixth Form Team wishes Tom all the best with training and running and will be wishing Poppy good health. If you would like to read more about Shine or donate to Tom's run, please [visit this site](#).



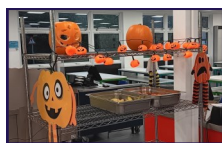


# Catering



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Free School Meal Vouchers Update** - This term, support will continue for families in receipt of Free School Meals. However, there will be some minor changes to allocations and timings of payments from the local authority. This has been done primarily because those families in receipt of FSM will be receiving additional support from the government's cost of living payments. As a result of this, there will be no half-term payment this October 2023 or during the Spring term 2024. Vouchers will be issued in December and should be used to cover Christmas 2023, and the Spring 2024 half-term.

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