



## Message from the Principal

On Monday we held an assembly for each year group to set clear expectations around student behaviour in corridors 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.

A further reminder please that students should be wearing coats to school now that we are allowing them to wear them in the corridor. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not part of our school uniform and may be confiscated.

Your ongoing assistance in supporting our students with these expectations is greatly appreciated.

We held our first Parents' Evening of the year for Year 11 on Thursday. It was fantastic to see so many parents in attendance supporting their child's educational progress and eventual outcomes and attending my presentation on 'Supporting your child through their GCSE's'.

Our next Parents' Evening will be for our Rivers Sixth Form students in Year 12 and Year 13 on Monday 15th January 2024. Booking information will be shared in the new year.

On Friday a group of our Year 11 students attended the GCSE Science Live at the Dominion Theatre in London where they had the opportunity to see and hear four of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms, together with top tips from an experienced examiner.

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 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.

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 **“Simultaneous”**.

Why not have a go?

**Say it:** Si-muhl-tay-nee-uhs      **Spell it:** Sim-ul-ta-ne-ous

**Simultaneous** (adjective)      **Stem:** / sim / same

**Root:** sim: (similar/ simulate)

**Understand it**  
Occurring, operating, or done at the same time

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**



## English Star of the Week

The English stars of the week are:

Emily - 10A1, Samuel - 7A2 and Eleanor - 7Z2 for their creative writing.

Well done!!

## 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. .

It has been a busy week in the PA department with drama exams, dance exams and show rehearsals galore! So this week a shout out goes to:

Year 11 GCSE drama students for their amazing component 1 exam performances

And

Year 11 BTEC Dancers for their beautiful component 2 exam performances.





## Library News

Year 8 students at the Library Booktalk and Craft Club have made amazing Christmas countdown calendars. After Christmas, they can be adapted to use all year round as a desk calendar. Students used recycled card and a variety of collage materials to create and decorate the boxes and stands. The photo shows Christmas Countdown calendars made by Emme 8D2, Pippa 8Z2 and Penny 8A2 - well done! Next week we are planning to make origami Christmas decorations.



We always love to hear about the books students are currently reading, their favourite books, and titles they would recommend to others. The Library has an extensive range of fiction by new and popular authors, including a wide selection of dyslexia friendly books, suitable for students across all year groups. Students can borrow books for 2 weeks and renew the loan for an extra 2 weeks if they wish.

Library Champion badges are awarded to students that submit an outstanding book review or poster about an author, regularly volunteer to help in the LRC, and for students who attend 6 or more sessions of the Year 7 & 8 Booktalk and Craft Club. Congratulations to the following students who have recently been presented with Library Champion badges during their Library Lessons: Lara 7Z1, Lexi-Jaye 7Z1, Poppy 7D1, Teddy 7M1, Daisy 7Z1, Summer 7M2 and Emilija 7D2.

## Health & Social Care Charity Event

*Please support our Ormiston Rivers Academy  
Year 12 Health and Social Care students  
SH,SW,ED,GJ by donating*

- Children's toys (new/good condition)
- Non-perishable Foods
- Toiletries
- Sanitary Products
- Unused Beauty and Hair Products  
(Make Up, Hair Accessories Etc.)

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*This is in aid of the Changing Pathways  
Women's refuge in Basildon. This will help  
people affected by domestic abuse who are  
sheltering from abuse this Christmas.*

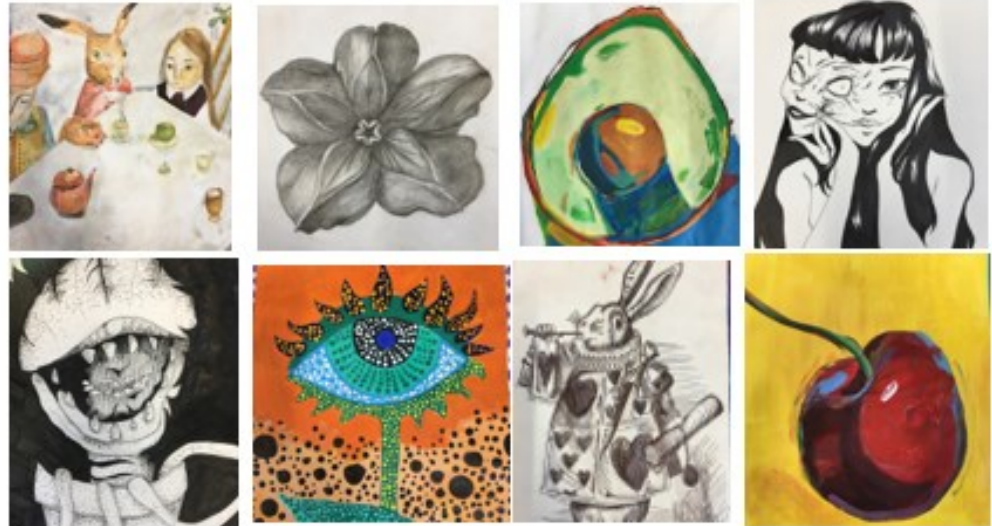
*Please send anything you can spare from the  
above list into school by the 16<sup>th</sup> December  
2023. The students will organise the donations  
and Mrs Procter will deliver these to the centre.*





# Art News

Some of our students have been exploring themes of Natural Forms and Storytelling. The result are these stunning responses to their artist's research. I am sure you will agree we have lots of talent at Ormiston Rivers. We are very impressed with the work of Lucy (11D2), Erin (11Z2), Jess (11Z2) and Beth (11D1).



Artist of the Week  
**Grace SF2**



Grace is an incredibly creative student who has found her passion for Photography. She explores this passion by planning and creating photographic works based on the theme of Classic Fantasy. Grace has set up her photoshoots and credited digital edits to create these striking and interesting photos. I know that Grace is already planning her next photoshoot and I cannot wait to see her photographs.

Why not complete the December Art 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.

Have you seen the work of Bob and Roberto Smith?

Patrick Brill better known under his stage name Bob and Roberto Smith is a modern British artist. He is known for his "slogan" or protest art.

As well as being known for his "slogan/protest" art and has been curator of public art projects like *Art U Need*.



Your challenge is to create an Anti Bullying slogan and present in the style of Bob and Roberto Smith. Use his lettering typography style and composition to present your slogan. Your work should be between A4 and A3 in size. You can use any materials you like. Feel free to create a larger piece.

Submit to Miss Nice by end of November for merits!

December Art Challenge



## Internet Safety Report November 2023

The majority of students use Social Media in a sensible manner, but there have been some instances recently of students using these apps such as WhatsApp and TikTok in a malicious way. Because of how important their digital footprint is to the rest of their lives and the legalities of using social media to incite violence or commit cyberbullying, we felt it prudent to remind parents and carers of the help available to keep your children safe online and to educate them into being Good Digital Citizens.



Last year the Online Safety Bill was amended to try and stamp out illegal content, For example, under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, it is an offence to send a communication with the **intention of causing distress or anxiety**; and under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 it is an offence to send an electronic message that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 covers threatening behaviour or harassment, including online and offline stalking. The penalties have increased to discourage people from carrying out these vile acts.



You, as parents/guardians, will need to monitor your child's phone usage and content so that it does not affect their future. On the school website there are parental guides for most of the Apps students use- [Ormiston Rivers Academy - eSafety](#) (scroll to the bottom webpage). We also have the free Safer Schools app (there is a video on the above page which explains about the app) which will give you access to everything you need to know about keeping your child safe online including setting up phones and consoles. Please note this app holds absolutely NO data about you or your child.



### How can you make your Child's TikTok account private?

To make your TikTok account private, go to your profile page and select the three-dot icon in the top-right corner. On the "Settings and privacy" page, tap Privacy. That takes you to the Discoverability page. Toggle the switch for Private Account. On this page, you can also control other safety and privacy features, such as who can send you comments and direct messages, and who can do a duet with you. Using the Friends setting or turning those features off completely limits contact with strangers.

### 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).



## Tea with the Principal

On Friday 1st December, the following Year 8 students, who had been nominated by their Head of Year and Tutors, were invited to tea with the Principal to celebrate their outstanding demonstration of the academy's AIRR values..

Jamie M (8A1)  
Sophie L (8A1)  
Oliver C (8Z1)  
Radley H (8A2)  
Jess W (8A2)  
Erin R (8Z2)  
Thomas O (8Z2)  
Danica C (8M1)  
Freya H (8M1)  
Emme C (8D2)  
Emily T (8D2)



## Year 7 - Mr Shanahan

Another week has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s and we are on the countdown to Christmas! On Friday we had an assembly delivered by Essex Fire Rescue. It was a really informative assembly, explaining all about the potential dangers of water, rail crossings etc. and how to stay safe around these potentially hazardous areas.

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 this week; James 7D2, Eleanor 7Z2, Mia 7D2, Lara 7Z1, Ingrid 7D2, Brianna 7D2, Phoebe 7A2, Annabelle 7M1, Jenna 7M1, Katie 7A1, Henry 7A2, Georgia 7M2, Esme 7A1, Liam 7D1 and Annabelle 7Z2. Well done all!!

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

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

## Snowboarding

Well done to Charlie from Year 7 who finished in second place at the Ajam Festival South Tour in Bournemouth over the weekend.

This was a slopestyle competition held at Warmwell Sports Centre and despite Charlie competing on his less favourable dry slope, he still had a great competition to finish on the podium.



Best of luck in your next competition.



## Year 8 - Mr Willingham

On Friday afternoon a group of Year 8 students who had been nominated by their form tutor for demonstrating our AIRR values were invited for Tea with the Principal. Congratulations to all of them. I hope they enjoyed their hot chocolate!

Our Year 8 students continue to be working well and the students below have done particularly well, earning the most positive points in the year group this week:

Ryan G (8Z2), Megan (8D2), Henry (8Z2), Lorna (8Z2), Henson (8A2), Tommy (8Z2), Erin (8Z2), Emme (8D2), Hervey (8Z2) and John (8A2) - Well done guys and keep up the good work!!

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

## Football - Mr Moon

On Monday we welcomed William De Ferrers Year 8 football team for a fixture. We unfortunately didn't come away with the result we wanted, but the boys represented the school very well not letting the result effect their effort or attitude towards the game. The boys showed some great teamwork and linked up very well to get us into some great attacking positions, but unfortunately could not capitalise on our chances. A special shout out to man of the match, goalkeeper Harry who made some amazing saves and showed great resilience and decision-making skills throughout the game. Well done boys!

## Year 9 – Ms. Turnnidge

Year 9 have had important assemblies this week on behaviour and SMSC, discussing being polite and behaving appropriately in the corridor. I would also like to encourage all students to speak respectfully to staff and follow instructions when asked. Thank you for your continued support as parents, as the majority of Year 9 are an absolute pleasure to teach and speak too. I really enjoy hearing about their successes in subjects and outside of school. If you have any achievement's, you wish to share regarding your child I would love to hear about them.

There will be an information assembly for students regarding Options during the last week of term. Please keep an eye on the newsletter in the New Year for Parent information.

Well done for our top achievers this week:

Alex 9M1 - 1930 points

Matthew 9M2 - 1248 points

Lillie 9M1 - 978 points

Verity 9M1 - 856 points

Madison 9M2 - 1621 points

Kayden 9D1 - 1151 points

Amelia 9A2 - 973 points

Thomas 9Z1 - 1464 points

Tom 9D1 - 1013 points

Jayden 9A2 - 878 points

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



## **Year 10 - Mr Field**

Another great week for Year 10. I walked around many lessons this week and saw great learning and work from the students. It was a pleasure to see them so focussed and wanting to do well.

Well done to Holly (Z2) for her artwork on drawing fruit. Great shading with charcoal for Josh (A1). Well done to Frankie (M1) on her knowledge of Ed Western and his single shade drawings. It was also good to see Robert (M2) and Olly (A1) using their knowledge of The Respiratory system from Health and Fitness, crossing over into their Science lessons. Lastly, well done to Charlie (D2) for her knowledge of positives and negatives of the appeasement of Germany leading up to the second world war.

The top positive behaviour points earners this week are Sofia (Z2), Bryony (A1), Connie (A1), Sam (Z2), Robert (M2), Connie (M1), Liam (M2), Harvey (A1), Amy (Z2) and Bobbi (A1). Keep up the good work folks

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

## **Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton**

The hard work for those all important exams goes on. Monday's assembly was a very important one presented by the Headteacher. This reviewed behaviour for lessons and reinforced the AIRR values of the school, especially focussing on respect for others, both in class and when moving around the building in confined spaces. All Year 11 students must remember that they are role models for the rest of the school and behave accordingly. Fortunately most of our students get this right all the time.

Parents evening was well attended yesterday and it was a pleasure to meet many of you in person and talk about how well your children are doing and about their plans for the future.

This weeks top achievers are Daisy 11D2, Rosie 11Z2, Mia 11D2, Finley 11A2 Marli 11D1, Eva 11Z2 and Amy 11A2. 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](mailto:rswinnerton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

## **Sixth Form Applications**

Sixth Form applications are due just after our return back to school in January. Interviews will be starting to take place in the upcoming weeks. Please reach out to the Sixth Form Team if you have any queries: Miss Sametz, Mr Moon, Mrs Penberthy, or Mr Madajczyk (Mr Magic). Year 11 tutors will be speaking to their tutor groups during mentor time to remind them of the process and answer any questions, as we know this can be a daunting experience.





## RIVERS SIXTH FORM

It has been a busy week in Sixth Form with Year 13 (and Year 12 Sport) Mock Examinations on at the moment. We are very proud of how hard our students have been working and hope they get some much needed rest this weekend.

A reminder that our UCAS deadline is approaching and we hope to have all university applications sent off by 13 December 2023. Students should be working with their tutor to get feedback on their Personal Statements and should be on their final draft by now.

Last year many students met the criteria for Zero Gravity, a free programme which matches them up with a tutor for 12 hours. These tutors are specific to their course and university and can help with Personal Statements, interviews, and subjects. Please make sure you are finishing the webinar and being matched with your tutor to get this amazing resource.

Sixth Form attendance continues to be fantastic in both Year 12 and Year 13, however, can we remind parents and students that punctuality is just as important as being in. With the weather getting colder and more students driving, please remind them to de-ice their cars a few minutes earlier and account for traffic.

Please continue to be good role models, which includes no phone use or earphones should be out in the corridors. These can be used in the Sixth Form area only.





# 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](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.

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).



Ormiston  
**RIVERS**  
Academy

# Weekly Newsletter

Issue: #12 – 1st December 2023

## School Show

Our school show, The Neighbourhood, is coming up soon and tickets are on sale at main reception for £5.00, payable by cash only.

**The Neighbourhood**

Ormiston  
**RIVERS**  
Academy

**12TH, 13TH & 14TH DECEMBER 2023**  
**DOORS OPEN 6:30PM - START 7PM**  
**TICKETS £5**

*Disco*

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect



Ormiston  
**RIVERS**  
Academy

# Weekly Newsletter

Issue: #12 – 1st December 2023

## **WOW!** **GIRLS RUGBY** Taster session



**Year 6 and 7 girls come and  
try girls only rugby**

**GIRL  
POWER**



Sunday 3rd  
December  
11am OR 12

40 minutes  
Followed by a drink and  
snack in the clubhouse

hosted by Tigah Renshaw

**PLAY**

The Gables, Airport Business  
Park, Cherry Orchard Way,  
Rochford SS4 1YG



Scan to secure a  
space 🍌



## BOOK ONTO OUR FREE WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS!

Eligible children and young people are invited to book onto our FREE, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations and brought to you by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education!



### IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Clubs offer spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years) who are eligible for benefit based free school meals. Limited spaces are available for young people who are also from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

### WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will be running across Essex in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring, Thurrock and Uttlesford!



### WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal! We also offer specialist youth, SEND and mental wellbeing clubs.



### HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

If you have received a Holiday Activities voucher code, click the link on the voucher to book your child/ren onto a club. If you're still awaiting a voucher code, please contact your school. If you aren't eligible for a Holiday Activities voucher as your child/ren do not receive benefits based free school meals, please contact a local club directly to book on by heading to our website below.



[www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate](http://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate)

