



Message from the Principal

It has been a busy week at Rivers with our Year 13 students sitting mock exams, a Year 11 Geography field trip to Walton on the Naze, a visit to St Marys Church for our Health and Social Care students, a Year 11 Geography field trip to Stratford Regeneration and an A Level Science trip to Cambridge Laboratory.

We held our Vision & Values parent/carer consultation on Thursday afternoon and it was fantastic to be able to discuss with some of our parents their thoughts about the future of the academy and what our Vision & Values should be. More feedback and consultation on this will follow in the new year.

I am aware that there are some concerns around the time students have to use the toilets. We do encourage students to use the toilet and get their food and drink during the first 15 minutes of break and lunchtime as this then allows them time to get outside for some fresh air. However, they are also allowed access to the toilets after this time should they need to use them.

Please can I ask that if you have any concerns to raise these directly with the appropriate member of staff at the academy rather than via social media as this will allow us to address and resolve any issues. Please do also remember to share the positives with us and with each other.

In preparation for our new Disruption Free Learning Policy, we want to consult with you about our new classroom behaviour expectations. These expectations are listed on the form linked below and we would like you to complete the form to let us know if you feel that these expectations are reasonable and if there are any changes or additions you think would be helpful. Please feedback as soon as possible. We will then look at your feedback and add to or amend these expectations and share them with our students in assembly on the first day back after the Christmas holiday.

[ORA parent/carer consultation on Classroom Behaviour Expectations](#)

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

**Jo Williams
Principal**

Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 15th January 2024
Rivers Sixth Form Parents Evening - Year 12 & 13

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 **“Assimilation”**.

Why not have a go?

Say it: Uh-si-muh-lay-shn **Spell it:** As-sim-i-la-tion

Stem: / sim / same

Assimilation
(noun)

Root:
sim:
(similar/
simulate)

Understand it
The process of becoming similar to others by taking in and using their customs and culture.

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

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect

English Champion Badges Awarded



Beau Y - 7M1

Jack F - 7A1

Louisa W - 8A2



Grace H - 7M1

Thomas F - 7Z1

Finian R - 7D1



Annie B - 7Z2

Ingrid B - 7D2

Jude L - 7D1

Oliver K - 7A1

Youth Speaks Competition - Mrs Sams

On Tuesday 5th December 12 students from Ormiston Rivers Academy took part in the Rotary Club's Youth Speaks Competition. In Debate Club, these students worked hard to plan and present a 15-minute debate in groups of three on topics of their choice. On Tuesday, they presented these speeches to the Rotary Judges, parents and staff in round 1 of the competition.

The students that took part were:

Molly H - 10M2

Oliver H - 10Z1

Max H - 10M2

Annie B - 7Z2

Ingrid B - 7D2

Katelynn C - 7D2

Alice M - 7Z1

Lara M - 7Z1

Evie H-M - 7A1

Lou Lou C - 7D2

Beau Y - 7M1

Zach S - 7M1

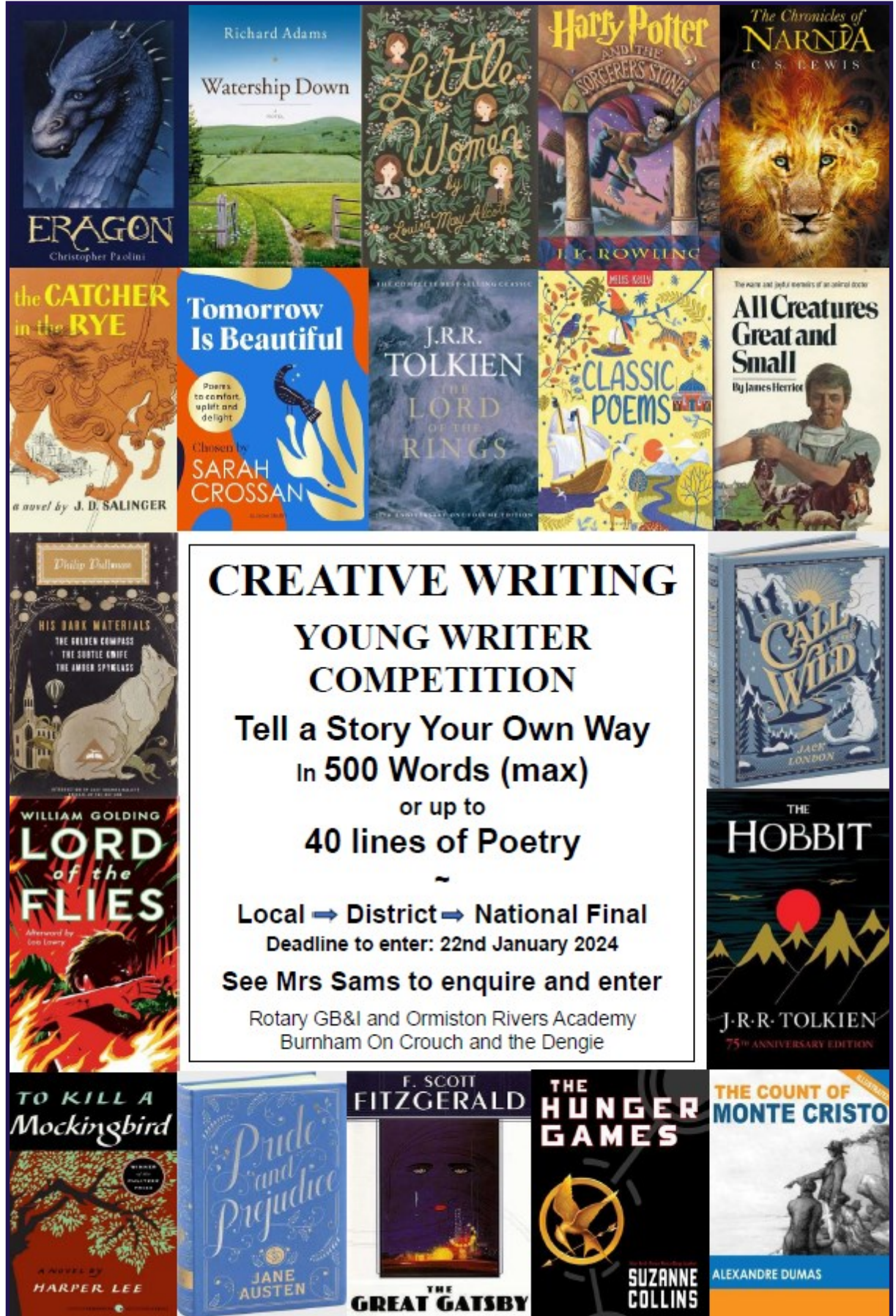
Overall, two groups went through to the District round which will take place in Chelmsford Cathedral in February. These were Molly, Max and Oliver from the Debate Dynamo Collective, who spoke about Artificial Intelligence and Alice, Lara and Evie from the Diamond Trio who spoke about Homework.

It was a great achievement for all the students involved and showed incredible resilience and courage.

Congratulations!



Competition



**CREATIVE WRITING
YOUNG WRITER
COMPETITION**

**Tell a Story Your Own Way
In 500 Words (max)
or up to
40 lines of Poetry**

~

Local → District → National Final
Deadline to enter: 22nd January 2024

See Mrs Sams to enquire and enter
Rotary GB&I and Ormiston Rivers Academy
Burnham On Crouch and the Dengie



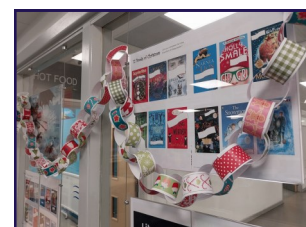
Library News - Mrs Yerbury

Students enjoyed making origami Christmas decorations at the Booktalk and Craft Club on Wednesday after school. This exercise was very successful with more than 25 paper trees completed in just one hour!

The Library has been decorated with festive paper chains and there are many different word searches, colouring sheets and quizzes to complete at break and lunchtimes, including our 12 Books of Christmas Challenge. Well done to everyone taking part.

There is still plenty of time to borrow books to read over the Christmas holidays. Please encourage your children to visit the Library at break or lunchtime to choose books they may wish to read.

The Reading Rivers Competition is running for Year 7s in their Library Lessons to encourage students to think about all of the opportunities for reading throughout the day, from lesson timetables to catering menus, signs on the way to school to the books they are currently reading. Mrs Sams, English Teacher and Literacy Lead, will select the best entries and award prizes.



Congratulations to the following students who have been presented with Library Champion badges this week for writing excellent book reviews or creating posters about authors:

Hayden 7D1, Edward 9M1, Ingrid 7D2.

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 the entire cast of our show *The Neighbourhood*. They have all been working really hard in their break and lunch times, as well as in rehearsals after school.

Well done to everyone and keep up the good work!





Tea with the Principal

On Friday 8th December, the following Year 9 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.

Max (9Z2)	Avril (9Z2)
Emmaline (9A2)	Karsten (9A2)
Jack (9M2)	Maddison (9M2)
Thomas (9A1)	Ash (9M1)
Alex (9M1)	Isla (9Z1)



UK Bebras Competition - Mrs Gibson

The results are in:



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 400,000 students took part nationally with more than 2.5 million students participating worldwide. Our students performed fantastically with 19 students achieving scores in the top 10% in the UK. These students will now be offered the chance to take part in a further challenge set up and run by Oxford University, which takes place in January (Mrs Gibson will notify students) and they will receive a Gold certificate. All Students will receive Distinction, Merit or Participation Certificates (Distinction = top 25% of the school, Merit = top 50%. Of the school).

The top 19 students are listed below with special mentions to:

- Lara (7Z1) who scored the highest in year 7 and will also receive “Best in School” for the juniors age group.
- Hazel (9Z1) who will receive “Best in School” for the intermediate age group for scoring the highest in both Yr 8 and 9.
- Theo (11D2) who gained the highest score in the Seniors category and will also receive “Best in School” for this category.
- Tobiasz (SF5) who received a “Best in School” for the elite category.

Beau - 7M1	Teddy - 7M1	Lara - 7Z1	James - 7D2	Georgia - 7M2
Tommy - 8Z2	Arran - 8D2	Archie - 8M1	Max - 9Z2	Freya - 9D1
Hazel - 9Z1	Arron - 9M1	Tobi - 9A2	Emmaline - 9A2	Oliver - 9A1
Will M - 10M1	Theo - 11D2	George - 11A1	Will H - 11M2	

Students who scored near to the 10% boundary and last years' entrants will also be invited to take part in the next round.

Well done all!



Spiritual Awareness Trip - Mrs Proctor

Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 Health and Social Care students went to our local St Mary's Church for an insight into spiritual awareness and how this impacts on people during their lives, which is relevant to many areas of the courses they are studying. Reverend Suzie spoke about the informal care she offers and what different faiths can do for the community. Reverend Suzie then answered questions from the students and allowed them the opportunity to look around the church. This will help the students with their coursework, general knowledge and awareness in the sector.



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.



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 form tutors to their tutees about human rights, focussing on human rights day and famous people who have fought for their human rights.

I am delighted to announce that the following students had the most positive behaviour logs in the year group this week; Oliver 7A1, Kasey 7Z1, James 7D2, Freya 7A1, Jude 7D1, Maya 7D1, Harry 7D1, Finian 7D1, Emmie 7D1, Skye 7D2, Lila 7A1, Harley 7M2, Liam 7D1, Sam 7D2 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

Year 8 - Mr Willingham

As we near the end of term, our thoughts turn to our Honours Assembly: a time to reflect on our achievements and celebrate the successes of this first term. Our teachers have been voting for students who have shown the AIRR values and our form tutor team are selecting our winners. I look forward to announcing them next week and I will share these with you next week.

I do feel that we need to celebrate the top positive points scorers too - well done to these!!

Emme - 8D2	Louisa - 8A2	Chloe - 8M1	Isla - 8Z1	Isabelle - 8M1
Radley - 8A2	Tommy - 8D2	Henson - 8A2	Jenson - 8A2	Haidyn - 8M1

I am also looking forward to seeing our Year 8s in the school play next week - I have seen them practising their acts and dancing and think it will be fantastic.

Have a lovely weekend

Contact: pwillingham@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 9 – Ms. Turnnidge

As Christmas approaches I am looking forward to celebrating all of the fantastic achievements of Year 9 in our Honours assembly, along with attendance awards.

A reminder that ties must be worn and can be purchased from main reception and students should have all their basic school equipment with them.

I would like to invite the following students to attend a reward breakfast for having the top positive points in the year. This will be held on Monday 11th December. Students need to register with their form tutor in morning registration and make their way to the canteen straight away.

Alex 9M1 - 2244

Matthew 9M2 - 1354

Lillie 9M1 - 1022

Jayden 9A2 - 947

Suzie 9D1 - 849

Madison 9M2 - 1839

Kayden 9D1 - 1296

Amelia 9A2 - 1022

Verity 9M1 - 904

Faith 9Z2 - 838

Thomas 9Z1 - 1642

Tom 9D1 - 1112

Bobby 9A2 - 954

Leo 9M2 - 901

Karsten 9A2 - 817

Have a great weekend

Contact: iturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 Netball

Our Year 9 girls had a tough match against Plume on Wednesday where we ended up being short players for the team. They had some great shots and did play well together with Kaitlyn holding a strong line of defence and Madi being nominated Women of the Match by the other team. Isla, Skye and Daisy all managed to score some fantastic shots. We know this time of year is busy and filled with colds and illness. Can parents and carers please ensure if their child is unable to make a match, contact is made with either the PE department directly or via your child so we can try to find replacement athletes. Thank you to those who let Miss Sametz know right away their child was unable to attend.





Year 10 - Mr Field

As we get closer to Christmas it is good to see the Year 10s continuing to work hard.

I visited Computer Science this week and the pupils were reviewing their test results, and it was great to see Jack (D2) Amy (Z1) and Will (M1) all gaining deserved grades, well done all. I also visited Health and Fitness and it was good to hear pupils talking about the process of diffusion of Oxygen and Carbon within the alveoli. Thank you to Ellie (Z2), Emily (D1) and Leila (M2).

Top pupils with most positive points this week are: Amelia (D2), Imogen (D1), Emily (A1), Mia (Z1), Molly (M2), Isabella (M2), Sophie (D1), Connie (A1), Charlotte (D2), Izzy (D2) and Joslyn (Z2).

Can these pupils see me on Monday morning to receive their Jump the Queue Lunch pass as a reward.

Have a great weekend

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Mighty Mussels! - Ms Hyde

We were one of 250 schools in the country lucky enough to receive 8kg of fresh, rope grown mussels donated by River Teign Shellfish and Offshore Shellfish and organised through the Fish Heroes Organisation this week.

Our Year 10 food students were able cook and taste the fresh mussels (which was a first for many!) and to learn about sustainable and seasonal seafood and the production process beforehand. Students were really interested to learn how the mussels are produced (they grow on coconut fibre “ropes” in the sea which they attach themselves to) and were surprised how affordable they are compared to a lot of fish we might eat (around £4 per kilo). Mussels are high in protein, low in fat and really quick and easy to cook.

Students made either Thai green curry mussels or tomato and garlic mussels served with some fresh baked rolls. Our students were surprised how much they liked them and they enjoyed eating them in the lesson - even bringing their friends in from the corridor at the start of lunch to try them!

Comments included “Really good – these are just like I have had in a restaurant!” and “I really enjoyed this, I’d love to cook mussels again!”.

Thank you so much to Offshore Shellfish for donating the mussels, DFDS who kindly provided the logistics of getting them out to schools, and the Fish Heroes programme for organising it all. It was an amazing experience! Well done to our students for being brave and doing something outside of their comfort zone too!





Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton

Christmas is approaching fast but there can be no relaxing yet!! The hard work for those all important exams goes on (obviously you can have Christmas day off!).

Monday's assembly was presented by Ms Compton, explaining about human rights. I thought it important to stress to everyone that with rights, also come responsibilities and stressed the need for respect for others, especially during lesson time. It is vital we respect the rights of others to have no disruption to their lessons. Fortunately, most of Year 11 get this right all of the time.

Monday will see our awards assembly, celebrating all the efforts that have been made this year.

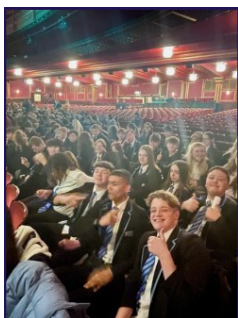
This weeks top achievers are Daisy 11D1, Freya 11Z2, Suraya 11D82, Kai 11Z2, Lily 11Z1, Felicity 11A2, Harry 11M1, Thomas 11A1, Lois 11A1 and Aiden 11A1. Well done to them and to all the students trying their hardest every day.

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

GCSE Live Science Conference - Ms Hoare

On Friday 1 December, 40 Year 11 students attended a Science Conference at the Dominion Theatre in London. They listened to a fantastic line-up of scientists including Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock (Presenter of the BBCs Sky at Night) talking about her career in Telescopes and Space Research and Prof Robert Winston, an IVF pioneer and Peer in the House of Lords. These talks were inspiring and showed how science can be for everyone, and how much fun it is! The students also found the sessions from a Chief Examiner useful, as these covered how to approach different types of exam questions and lots of revision techniques. The students were a credit to the academy.





RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Well done to all of the students who sat PPEs last week. We know it can be a stressful time especially alongside university applications. We want to remind students and parents that this set of examinations is a really good progress point. Students should be taking in feedback from their teachers to see what skills they still need to develop, and what units need revision.

Today's assembly for Year 13 was on resilience as a follow up to PPEs. We know many students will be proud of the hard work they put into their examinations but it's important to always strive to be your best. Even the most motivated and successful people tend to be hard on themselves and we looked at reasons someone may have barriers to stop their resilience.

We have had half of the Year 11's upstairs this week for small assemblies with Miss Sametz, one of the Heads of Sixth Form. These assemblies have been to allow our students to be in the Sixth Form common area and see the facilities and speak about Post-18 options. Students have been reminded of the importance of future planning and looking at what they might want to do Post-18 to make sure their subjects match. The other Year 11 tutor groups will be invited up next week as well to help all of our students make informed decisions about their next steps. A reminder that Rivers Sixth Form applications are due Friday 5 January 2024.

We are getting very excited to see all the hard work the Sixth Formers and other students have been putting into the school show, from singers, to Elite Dance and Dance captain, and the light box, many of our Sixth Formers have stepped up to be great role models.

Thank you to Nicole who helped officiate Wednesday's Year 9 Netball match at Plume.



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.



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



Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy

Weekly Newsletter

Issue: #13 – 8th December 2023



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN
THE TOWN MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
AT THE

TOWN'S ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 6PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHURCH ROAD
BURNHAM ON CROUCH CM0 8DA

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE

