



Message from the Principal

The final week of the autumn term has been festive and celebratory. Buddy the Elf continues to hide around the school and our students have been enjoying hunting him out and entering our prize draw each day. On Wednesday some of our Year 9 students visited Anglia Ruskin University Campus in Chelmsford for an 'Eyes on the Prize' careers event.

I have been attending our termly Honours Assemblies every morning this week for all year groups and it has been wonderful to share and celebrate individual students' achievements, hard-work and efforts. Congratulations to all students who received awards this term.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week our Performing Arts department staged a spectacular performance of our school production "The Neighbourhood" to sold-out audiences. The students involved performed superbly and should be extremely proud of themselves and I also want to thank our Performing Arts department for the enormous amount of hard work required to produce another brilliant school show.

On Friday, we hosted our annual student Christmas Lunch, which was enjoyed by almost 250 students across all year groups. A huge thank-you to our Catering Team for organising and delivering this festive event for our students.

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I would like to wish students, parents & carers, Governors and staff a restful holiday, a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I will be sending a letter and questionnaire regarding the new disruption free learning policy on Monday and would really appreciate further input from you.

I wish you all a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing our students again on Monday for the final two days of term.

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
(Week A)

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:

“Jubilation”

Why not have a go?

Say it: Joo-buh-lay-shn **Spell it:** Ju-bi-la-tion

Root: Jubil: (jubilant/jubilee)

Stem: / jubil/ shouts of joy

Jubilation (noun)

Understand it
A feeling of great happiness and triumph

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

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect

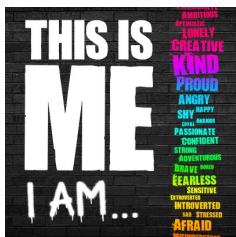
English Champion Badges Awarded



Christopher E - 7M1
Jake M - 7M1



Mia S - 10Z1
Riley N - 7A2
Lila N - 7A1
Charlie S -



Lila (7A1), Riley (7A2) and Mia (10Z1) entered the Young Writer's Poetry Competition and have been asked to have their poems published in the 'This Is Me, I Am Anthology'. Congratulations!

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 cast and crew of the school show for such a fabulous display of talent.

Well done to all!





Health and Social Care - Mrs Procter

10D/Hs1 - Congratulations to Scarlotte-May (10D2) on achieving her Health and Social Care Award badge for continued effort and empathy towards other students.

12A/Hs1 - Congratulations to Merry (SF3), Megan (SF2), Bethany (SF1), Grace (SF2), Serena (SF1), Emma (SF1) and Scarlett (SF1) for achieving their Health and Social Care Award badges for continued enthusiasm and passion for the subject.

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.)

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 16th December 2023. The students will organise the donations and Mrs Procter will deliver these to the centre.



Well done to Serena (SF1), Emma (SF1), Scarlett (SF1) and Grace (SF2) for their efforts in fundraising for the Changing Pathways Charity, and especially Grace for her dedication and hard work collecting donations and advertising on social media.

And finally, a big thank you to parents, the local community and staff for their donations to the Changing Pathways Charity.

Happy Christmas to everyone .



Festive Baking! - Mrs Hyde

As we draw to the end of the term most year groups have had the opportunity to create some festive bakes as part of their learning in Food.

The students working in the Bridge have made and iced mini Christmas fruit cakes, Year 9 have created a range of festive dishes of their choice to show their technical skills from the unit, having been assessed on their own home made pasta and sauce dishes the week before, and Year 10 made enriched sweet shortcrust pastry and turned it into mince pies which were presented beautifully.

It is amazing to see how much their skills have developed in the last term. I hope they will all continue cooking over the festive season and look forward to hearing what they have done.

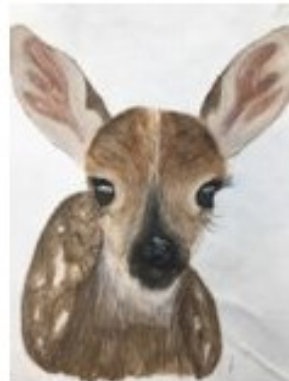




Art News



This week our students have been exploring the work of Sarah Graham and her photorealist paintings of sweets. They used a grid method to create these accurate studies.



Artist of the Week
Pyper Clark

I would like to congratulate Pyper on being this weeks artist of the week. She has been working tirelessly on developing her watercolour studies, exploring themes of nature, animals and natural forms. She has produced these stunning works.

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



Have you seen the work of photographer Suzanne Saroff?

In her series titled Perspective, photographer Suzanne Saroff creates fractured and skewed images of common foods and flowers as seen through vessels filled with water and glass objects.

The images play with concepts of light and shadow resulting in distorted still life groups that appear almost like digital glitches.



Use ordinary glass-ware you have at home, fill with water, and set up on a plain background. Put an everyday object behind the glass... see what happens...and photograph! Send us your results!

Further Challenge - Draw or paint what you see!

December Photography Challenge



Tea with the Principal

On Friday 15th December, the following Year 10 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.

Olivia H(10D2)	Holly W (10D2)	Alisha C (10Z2)
Mia E (10Z2)	Samuel M (10M1)	Aimie C (10M1)
Mia S (10Z1)	Oscar E (10Z1)	Kaison A (10D1)
Imogen L (10D1)	Keira B (10A1)	Emily P (10A1)
Robert L(10M2)	Dom D (10M2)	

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

The final full week of the school year has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7's and we are on the countdown to the Christmas holidays!

On Friday we had our Honours Assembly where we congratulated many of our students who received awards for a number of reasons, including those who have demonstrated the school's AIRR values inside and outside of the classroom environment. Well done to all of our Year 7 winners!

I am delighted to announce that the following students received zero negative points and achieved the highest amount of positive points in the year group this half term. They enjoyed a delicious rewards breakfast on Thursday for their efforts. I hope you all enjoyed this little treat.

James 7D2, Lara 7Z1, Brianna 7D2, Henry 7A2, Ingrid 7D2, Eleanor 7Z2, Sophia 7D2, Oliver 7A1, Riley 7M2, Jude 7D1, Annabelle 7M1, Annabelle 7Z2, Freya 7A1, Beau 7M1 and Georgia 7M2.

Parents/Carers, thank you for all your continued support since September. Please remember that I am a teaching HOY and will endeavour to deal with your queries in a timely manner. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated.

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

Contact: pshanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 8 - Mr Willingham

It was so nice this week to celebrate our students in our awards assembly. We also had 60 students who had 0 behaviour points which is a great achievement. Today we also rewarded some students who had the highest merits and no behaviour points.



I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing the students in the new year.

Contact: pwillingham@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 9 – Ms. Turnnidge

Thank you to all the wonderful students that attended our reward breakfast. I think it was enjoyed by all.



Well done to all of our wonderful winners for the Honours Assembly this week also. I would like to make a special mention to our special award winners, Alex 9M1 for the most merits, Daisy 9A1 received the Enrichment Award, Eleanor 9A1 won the Reading Award and finally well done to Kayden 9D1 for getting the Principles Award.

Have a wonderful break everyone and I look forward to seeing all students smartly dressed and ready to learn, with all school equipment needed on our first day back in January.

Contact: lturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 Eyes on the Prize Trip to Anglia Ruskin University - Mrs Compton

On Wednesday, a group of 45 year 9 students spent the morning at Anglia Ruskin University Chelmsford Campus, with student ambassadors and the university outreach team, getting involved in sessions about decision making, and thinking about how best to choose options at GCSE. Thank you to ARU for hosting this event it was really useful.





Year 10 - Mr Field

A great week this week with plenty of rewards and celebration.

Firstly, we had our celebration assembly on Tuesday to reward those students who won awards in relation to our AIRR values: Aspiration, Independence, Resilience and Respect. It was great to reward students for their focus on their work.

Secondly, we had our second rewards breakfast of the term for students gaining a high amount of positive points. This was a great time for them to enjoy each other's company and tuck into some fresh fruit and flapjacks. The lucky students were Ella (M2), Jack (D1), Darcie (M1), Liam (M2), Ella (Z1), Charlotte (D2), Liam (D2), Amelia (M1), Chloe (M2), Ben (A1), Sofia (Z2) and Brennan (A1).

Thirdly, it was good to see many Year 10's being rewarded for their hard work by having tea with the Principal today.

Lastly, on Wednesday the Year 10's performed the first of their Health & Fitness competitions. Pupils from the 3 classes came together to play volleyball against each other. After a half term of practising within classes, it was great to compete against other. Mr Clay's class were victorious taking home the trophy after some great plays and teamwork throughout the afternoon.



The following students gained the most positive points this week, well done and please see me on Monday morning for your 'Jump the Queue' pass as a reward. Students are: Ella (Z1), Mia (Z1), George (A1), Liam (M2), Amy (Z1), Oliver (Z1), Beth (Z2), Will (M1), Emily (A1) and Sophie (D1).

Two more days of school and then a well deserved rest for everyone. Enjoy the break.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton

Monday saw me leading our awards assembly for the past term, highlighting the achievements of our Year 11 students celebrating our AIRR values. This is always my favourite assembly of the term when the students who always do the right thing and quietly get on with their studies are recognised and applauded. It is important for them to realise how much their efforts are appreciated and that they will reap the benefits in the summer.

This weeks top achievers are Olivia 11D1, Paige 11A2, Izzy 11Z2, Eva 11Z2, Kacye 11D1, Finley 11A2 and Mia 11D2. Well done to them and to all the students trying their hardest every day.

It has been a long and at times stressful term and it is important that we all take the time over the festive period to relax and recharge the batteries for the final push to May. After Christmas there are only 11 school weeks to Easter and then after the Easter break three weeks until the exams properly begin. Clearly this will be a busy time for our year group and it is important to be well rested before it starts. Please also be aware that students should register in Form Groups on their first day back rather than Intervention groups

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and 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

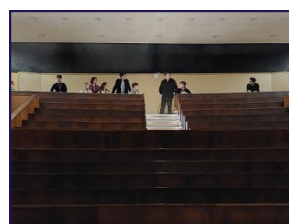
Chemistry Trip

Year 13 chemistry students paid a visit to the world renowned centre of research that is the University of Cambridge Chemical Laboratory on December 8th, accompanied by Mr Tompkin and Mrs Smith, as part of their A level Organic Chemistry studies.

Students were able to study important methods of assessing the structure of unknown molecules using the techniques of infra-red spectroscopy and proton NMR spectroscopy, as well as working in the Part II undergraduate practical laboratory (which contained a photograph of Mr Tompkin at the age of 21...) and seeing a range of other equipment used by the researchers in their work.

In addition, the students ventured into the Department library for a look at how scientists communicate their work internationally through publications in journals. They were able to find some research from many years ago by Mr Tompkin, and also to find themselves wondering why anyone would bother researching such obscure chemistry!

The photograph shows the NMR spectrometer that was used on the day to help the students work out the structure of the (very challenging) molecules selected by the superb University staff who helped us throughout the day





Days in the Life of Sixth Form

Hello! Welcome to the new Sixth Form news page. It is run by Lily (SF4) and Jasmine (SF5) both in Year 13. We decided to include our page in the school newsletter since we both have an interest in journalism and look to study it in the future. The page will be a chance to get an insight from the pupils and to give everyone an update on what we get up to during our time in Sixth Form.



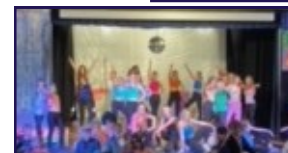
Christmas at Sixth Form:

On Friday the 1st of December the pupils in Year 12 and 13 brought Sixth Form to life by decorating the place! The picture on the left shows Alfie (SF2) and the picture on the right shows Luca (SF3), two pupils in Year 12 and of course Mrs Christmas herself, Mrs Penberthy getting in the festive mood!



The School Show: The Neighbourhood:

This year the school are performing "The Neighbourhood". It is a vibrant and exciting 70's theme, written by the school itself based off the hit musical "Saturday Night Fever". The images above show 'behind the scenes' of a rehearsal in preparation for the show on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. The pupils in the picture are seen rehearsing "Lady Marmalade," a song taken from Moulin Rouge, which is featured in one of the extravagant club scenes in "The Neighbourhood". The pictures below are from the live performance and the show was an absolute blast!



Year 12 and 13 Mocks:

Although the last couple of weeks have been full of fun and excitement with the countdown to Christmas, Sixth Form have been preparing for their real exams by completing a week of mock exams. A female student from Year 12 sat her first exam in Sports Studies and said:

"The practise will help me to prepare for my real exam on the 10th of January".

Two Year 13 students explained:

"The mock exams were very challenging and stressful since they will be our predicted grades for university applications, however we got through them and are relieved that they have finished them."

Here, we see how the pupils in Year 13 have been applying for their top 5 chosen universities in which they must complete a personal statement and answer a serious of questions.



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.



Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy

Weekly Newsletter

Issue: #14 – 15th 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

