



## Message from the Principal

We reach the end of our first full week back after the Christmas holidays and it has been a busy week at the academy as our staff and students engage with our new Disruption Free Learning policy. We have successfully launched this new behaviour policy and our students have really stepped up to take on board the 3 Rs: Be Ready to Learn, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. Positive feedback has been received from both staff and students about the beneficial impact the policy has already had on teaching and learning in the classroom. I want to reassure parents of students with SEND that adaptations and support will be provided for those students, I will write to you separately early next week to reassure you of our inclusive principles.

I am delighted to inform you that in partnership with Felsted School, for a second year, we are able to offer our current Year 8 and 9 students the opportunity to apply for one of ten fully funded residential places at their International Summer School for two weeks running from Sunday 21st July to Sunday 4th August 2024. Those students selected to attend will take part in a fantastic Global Studies programme and will be able to choose one enhanced learning academy option from Art, Dance, Drama, Fashion, Music, Science, Sports and Recreation, Tennis or Young Leaders, alongside a fun and varied social programme and three excursions per week. The aim of the Felsted Summer School is to provide an incredibly beneficial experience for all those who take part, allowing students to grow, communicate, create and collaborate with others from all around the world. A letter will be sent on Monday to Year 8 & 9 parents and carers informing you of the application process.

I am continuing to meet with each tutor group to discuss our children's views on the academy's vision and values and I will be consulting further with parents and carers next week about the future of the academy and our vision and values.

We are currently reviewing the use of the late bus. Please could you complete [this form](#) to let us know if your child uses the late bus on a regular basis:

Please remember that you are always able to contact us. We welcome and encourage your comments and feedback and our staff will endeavour to act upon and respond to these. It will always be appreciated if any parents & carers have positive feedback about the academy. Please do feel free to share with staff or at: [sjames@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:sjames@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk). I wish you all a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing our students again on Monday.

**Jo Williams, Principal**

### Dates for your Diary

#### **Monday 15th January**

Rivers Sixth Form Parents Evening Years 12 & 13

#### **Tuesday 30th January**

Year 10 Parents Evening

#### **Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February**

Half Term

(Students return to school Monday 25th February)

### **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 **“Fortunate”**.

Why not have a go?

**Say it:** Faw-chuh-nuht

**Spell it:** For-tu-nate

**Root:** Fort: (Fortitude)

**Stem:** / fort / strength/keep

**Fortunate (adjective)**

**Understand it**  
Favoured by or involving good luck; lucky.

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

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect

### Booktalk and Craft Club

On Wednesday 10th January, our Booktalk and Craft Club students in Years 7 and 8 made these amazing pots from paper plates and wool. They also decorated the inside of the pots with colourful gems and beads. The wool was kindly donated to the club by Mrs Mahoney, Finance and Business Director.



We looked at the books that students are currently reading, including the Warrior Cat series by Erin Hunter, Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell, Terrible True Tales from the Tower of London by Sarah Kilby, and a variety of other titles and formats.

Well done to Pippa 8Z2, Evelyn 8A2, Emme 8D2, Penny 8A2 and Poppy 7D1.

### Library Champion Badges



Library Champion badges are awarded to students for outstanding book reviews or posters about authors and books in the Library; they can also be achieved by regularly volunteering to help in the LRC at break or lunchtimes, or for participating at the Booktalk and Craft Club at least 6 times after school on Wednesdays. Well done to Leo 7Z2 who submitted an excellent book review and received a Library Champion badge during his Library lesson on Tuesday

**Have you got a LIBRARY CHAMPION badge?**  
Here are some of the ways you could get one:

- Create an amazing poster about an author whose books are in this Library\*
- Attend the Year 7 Booktalk & Craft Club 6 or more times
- Write a brilliant review of a fiction or non-fiction book from this Library\*
- Volunteer to help in the Library at break or lunch- return books to shelves, organise laptops...

\* Book reviews and posters must be your own work

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect



## Edward Scissorhands - Mrs Wilkins

On Thursday 11th January, GCSE and A Level Dance students travelled to London to watch Matthew Bourne's 'Edward Scissorhands' at Sadler's Wells. The students were excellent representatives of the school and enjoyed a fantastic performance with an outstanding cast.



## 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:

- Shannon (SF2) for getting a Triple Distinction in Music Tech
- Fraser (10Z1) - Drumming progress
- 7r/Dr4 - Outstanding drama lesson this week
- Steve (9Z1) - Outstanding leadership in Drama



Well done to all!

## Tea with the Principal

On Friday 12th January, the following Year 11 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..

- Lily (11Z1)
- Libby (11Z1)
- Archie (11M1)
- Bonnie (11M1)
- Aiden (11A1)
- Yeushayne (11A1)
- Stanley (11A2)
- Felicity (11A2)
- Jess (11Z2)
- Katie (11Z2)



## Raising for Charity - Mrs Procter

Year 12 Health and Social students arranged a Christmas collection for Changing Pathways women's refuge. The donations were amazing and gratefully received by the charity. Thank you to the local community, parents and staff members that supported the students and charity with donations for this worthy cause.





## **Year 7 - Mr Shanahan**

Another week has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s and this week the year group had an assembly delivered by me talking about resilience and what it means to be resilient. I would also like to welcome Miss Corbett and Mr Simpson, our designated SSA's for Year 7 and 8 to the team, and it has been fantastic to see some of our students take advantage of the extra support offered. Both Miss Corbett and Mr Simpson have been at Rivers for some time and are welcome additions to the team and they will be a great asset to myself and Mr Willingham.

I am delighted to announce that the following students had the most positive behaviour logs in the year group this week;

Oliver 7A1, Ellie 7Z2, Freya 7A1, Jude 7D1, Jordan 7M1, Zahra 7Z1, Ivy 7M1, Kassa 7A1, Charlie 7M2, Adora 7M1, David 7M1, Charlotte 7D1, Ava 7A2, Ellie 7D1, Elacy-Raye 7A1.

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)

## **Year 8 - Mr Willingham**

Welcome back everyone. I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break and have come back ready to learn.

This week saw the start of our new behaviour policy, which we hope will help with the academic progress of students, as they will be able to focus more in lessons. In assembly we reminded students of the expectations of disruption free learning and the processes to be followed. We also had a focus on resilience, where they were shown a clip of Derek Redmond pulling his hamstring in the Olympics, and we explained to them that he refused to stop and continued to the end, with the support of his dad who ran onto the track to run with him. The students were reminded of the people they can go to who will support them when they have a challenge.

Have an enjoyable weekend and I look forward to seeing the students again next week.

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





## **Year 9 – Mrs. Turnnidge**

Welcome back Year 9. I hope you have all had a restful break. Just a reminder that students must have ties and equipment needed for school. The school shop is available to purchase items and ties can also be purchased at school.

I would like to welcome Ms Bennett to the Year 9 tutor team, who teaches maths and computer science. She is taking over Ms Harris' tutor group.

It was exciting to lead the first assembly before Christmas on the GCSE Options. All students received a booklet with information on all of the courses. Please contact your child's tutor if they did not receive a copy for any reason. The Options Hub on the main school website will go live on 19th January at 5pm. This will contain helpful advice and guidance about the Options process, as well as video introductions for all of the subjects to help students with their selection.

There will also be an Options Marketplace for students during break and lunchtime on 24th January in the Sports Hall to discuss their choices with teachers, as well as Year 11 and Sixth Form students. Then from the 25th January onwards there will be one to one sessions with senior members of staff to go through choices individually with students.

More dates will be shared after Parent's Evening on Thursday 15th February, but if you have any queries regarding the Options process, please contact Mr Madajczyk at [rmadajczyk@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:rmadajczyk@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk).

Have a great weekend.

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

## **Year 10 - Mr Field**

I hope the year group have had a pleasant rest and an enjoyable time over the Christmas break. The year have come back with a renewed focus and are working hard within their lessons.

Top positive points this week are:

Connie (A1) Liam (M2) Samuel (M1) Fraser (Z1) Oliver (Z1) Aimie (M1) Robert (M2) Amelia (M1) Emily (A1) Amelia (D2) and Chloe (D1)

Can the above pupils please see me Monday morning to receive their 'Jump the Queue' pass as a reward.

Have a great weekend

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



## **Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton**

A busy start for the new year.

This weeks assembly focussed on facing fears and also helped with revision techniques and tips on how to approach exams. Hopefully these can be used as we head to the next round of PPE's, which will take place the last week of this half term and the first week after. These will be done in a very formal manner to let students experience what will be happening for real in May and June.

Disruption free learning is working well across the academy and students are telling me of an improved atmosphere and better focus in lessons. This is vitally important for everyone in this final push.

Finally congratulations to the students who were invited for tea with the Principal as a result of their positive approach to school. Vincent and Libby 11Z1, Archie and Bonnie 11M1, Aiden and Yeushayne 11A1, Stanley and Felicity 11A2, and Jess and Katie 11Z2.

Well done to them all!!

As always, if there is anything I can do to help or support you, please contact me at the academy.

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

## RIVERS SIXTH FORM

### Welcome back Sixth Form!

It has been fantastic seeing our Sixth Form faces around the building the past few days. Students have settled in well despite a few tired faces. We have busy weeks ahead with real examinations over the next two weeks and Sixth Form Parent and Carer Evening on Monday 15 January 2023.

Parents and Carer Evening is very important to attend to look at where students are ahead of their next steps. Students should be attending with their parents/carers. In situations where parents/carers might not be able to attend, students should still come along to have clear targets set with their teachers.

The last day of term was a whirlwind of Christmas decor, Secret Santa, celebrations and saying goodbye for the holidays. Miss Welham's tutor group started off the day with free breakfast of baps, cake, and fruit for having the best attendance in the school with 99% attendance for the whole first term! Other students who had 100% attendance were also invited. For this term's rewards, we are starting fresh so students who might have had a bout of illness can still get rewarded for 100% attendance this term.

We just wanted to share some photos from our Sixth Form Honours Assembly. The big award winners were:

Year 12:  
Head of Sixth Form Award: Kieran  
Principal's Award: Harriet

Year 13:  
Head of Sixth Form Award: Lily  
Principal's Award: Daniel



We wish all students good luck on their upcoming examinations. Remember hard work pays off! Make sure you get a good night's sleep, a healthy dinner and breakfast and stay hydrated for optimum cognitive performance.

Lastly, we would like to welcome back Mrs Wilkins as Head of Sixth Form, Year 12. The team and students are very excited to have her smiling face back in the building.



# Catering



## Menu

We have pleasure of 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).





## 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).

## Academy Shop

All students are required to have sufficient equipment to allow them to learn and achieve their full potential. It is a students' responsibility to arrive at the Academy with the appropriate equipment for lessons:

Equipment:

2 x black pens	Maths set (including a scientific calculator)
1 x purple biro for assessment feedback	Student Planner (student organiser)
2 x pencils	Reading book
1 x 30cm ruler	Books / folders for the days lessons
Coloured pencils (not felt tips)	Water bottle
Eraser	Basic art equipment
Pencil sharpener	

The Academy Shop, located near the main hall, is open before school 8.30 - 8.50am and at breaktime 11.20 - 11.50am every day. The shop stocks all of the above equipment, as well as a wide selection of revision guides & workbooks, for all year groups. You can also purchase new ties from here. We can only accept cash for shop purchases on site, we are unable to use credit on a students catering card. Alternatively, you can complete an order form and return it to [finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk).

Year 10 & 11 - You will find an item on Parentpay - KS4 Revision Guides & Equipment- just overwrite the amount with the total to be paid, we will check it against your order and let you know when the items can be collected from the shop (or you can call in and collect from main reception if you would prefer).

Year 7, 8 & 9 (KS3) - Once we have received your completed order, we will add it to your Parentpay account. When payment has been confirmed we will let you know when the items can be collected from the shop (or you can call in and collect from main reception if you would prefer).

You can access the up to date [KS3 order form](#) and the [KS4 order form](#) here; these are also available on our website [www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](http://www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk). Please contact finance on 01621 787845 if you have any queries.