



Message from the Principal

Our staff and students have been working hard in the run up to the last week of this half term. On Thursday, a group of our Governors visited the academy to review the impact that our Disruption Free Learning policy is having around the school. They also had a Student Voice session with a group of our students from Year 7 to 11 so they could collect feedback directly from our students about their experience at Rivers. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, the vast majority of classrooms are far more focused on learning. We know there are areas where we need to continue to support staff to teach without disruption and we will continue to keep this as a key priority. Please continue to support us to challenge our children to do the same. I will send out a survey after half term to obtain your feedback as to our next steps to embed the system.

We know that corridor behaviour remains an area for development. We have some further suggestions as to how we support our children to navigate very narrow corridors and pinch points. In the first instance, we would like to resume our early lunch for Year 7 and to consider the logistical implications of implementing a one-way system after half term. More to follow on this.....

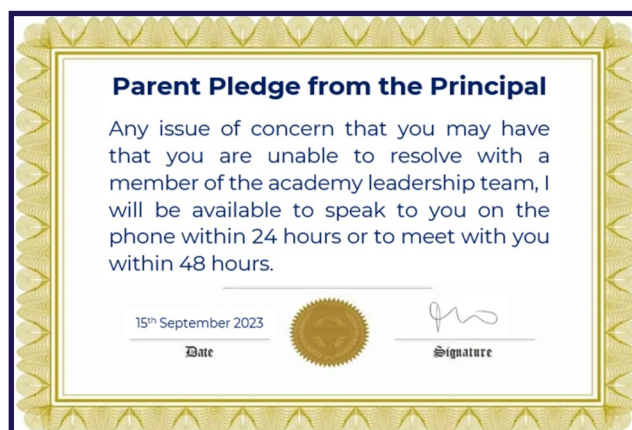
I am really pleased to report that we have received lots of applications from our Year 8 and 9 students for the Felsted residential Summer School experience. Interviews will be held next week, so good luck to all those who applied.

To ensure our student's safety, please can I ask you to remind your children that they should not be crossing the road directly outside the academy main entrance but should use the zebra crossing.

I would also like to wish a final good luck to our Year 11 students who are sitting their mock GCSE exams next week.

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 15th February 2024

Year 9 Parents Evening

Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2024

Half Term (Students return on Monday 25th February)

Tuesday 5th March

Year 8 Parents Evening

Please can parents and carers continue to support our students to remember the 3 Rs of the academy's Code of Conduct:

Be Ready to Learn

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Late Bus

As advised in the newsletter last week, our recent consultation with parents & carers regarding the use of the late bus has indicated that there is very limited use of this service by our students on a Monday and a Friday. Therefore, after half term, the late bus service will only run after school on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If this has a significant impact on any of our students, please do let us know by emailing Ms James at sjames@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Thank you

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 "**Adequate**".

Why not have a go?

Say it: A-duh-kwuht

Spell it: Ad-equ-ate

Stem: / Equ / Equal

Root:
Equ
Equal

Adequate
(Adjective)

Understand it
satisfactory or acceptable in quality or quantity.

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

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect



English Star of the Week

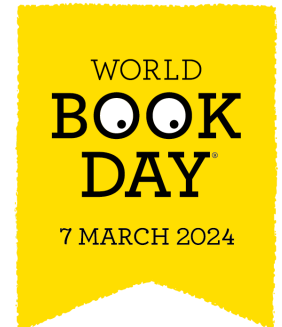
The English stars of the week for continuous hard work in English lessons are:

- Kacye 11D1
- Paige 11A2
- Hayden 11A1

Well done all of you!!

World Book Day- 7th March

World Book Day tokens will be handed out for Years 7-9 on Monday during tutor time. These will allow students to purchase the £1 World Book Day titles in selected bookshops and some supermarkets. Please see the link attached for more information regarding the titles and adapted prints: [2024s-1-books \(worldbookday.com\)](https://www.worldbookday.com). These tokens are valid from 15th February 2024 until 31st March 2024.



Library Champion Badges



Congratulations to Lila 7A1 and Radley 8A2 who have been awarded Library Champion badges this week for writing brilliant book reviews. All students can work towards a Library Champion badge, either by completing a brilliant book review, designing an outstanding poster about an author, or by regularly volunteering to help in the library at break and lunchtimes. Posters with full details are on display in the Library.



Library News

Year 7 Recommends

As part of their Library lessons, Year 7 students are taking part in a competition to recommend library books for other Year 7s to read. Merits will be awarded for effort and quality of work in completing this task, and the best entries will be selected for prizes. Good luck to those taking part!

Year 7 Book Recommendation	Best Books for Year 7 rated by Year 7 students!	Year 7 My Favourite Book
Title: _____ Author: _____ Setting: ☆☆☆☆☆ 3 reasons why I recommend this book: ★ _____ ★ _____ ★ _____	Title: _____ Author: _____ You should read this book because: _____ _____ _____ Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆	Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆ 4 words to describe this book: _____ _____ My favourite character is: _____ What's the story about? _____ _____ Title: _____ Author: _____ Genre: _____

Year 7 and 8 Booktalk & Craft Club

Our Booktalk and Craft Club continues to meet afterschool on Wednesdays and students have created some outstanding bookmarks and heart-shaped decorations for Valentine's Day. This photo shows some of the amazing 3D decorations made by Emme 8D2, Evelyn 8A2, Poppy 7D1, Penny 8A2 and Pippa 8Z2.



Cookery club



Students enjoyed making pancakes this week in preparation for Shrove Tuesday next week. Congratulations to Harley (7M2) who achieved the most impressive flip! Next week they will be making dishes of their own choice so I'm sure we will see lots of variety!





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:

- James 7D2 and Eleanor 7Z2 - amazing attitude to music every week and always achieving high grades.
- Jack 7M2 and Tyson 7A2 - for outstanding attitude in drama and enthusiasm for the subject.
- Flynn 8Z2 - for excellent concentration and attitude in drama.

Well done to you all!

Tea with the Principal

On , the following Year 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..

Ronnie (8Z1)	Maisie (8Z1)
Henry (8Z2)	Aiden (8Z2)
Lily (8A1)	Oscar (8A1)
Penny (8A2)	Jenson (8A2)
Fred (8D1)	Sylwia (8D1)
Henry (8D2)	



Year 8/9 Girls Football - Miss Blogg

Our Year 8 and 9 girls football team had a fixture Thursday night, where we hosted Chelmer Valley High School. The game saw us playing some good football with our passing and taking all the chances we had. The opposition goalkeeper was amazing and made some really good saves, however we were lucky to get 2 goals to take us into the end with a 2-0 lead.



Thank you to the girls who took part in the match, and to those who continue to come to training on a Tuesday after school.

Player of the match was Isabelle (8M1)!! Well done!

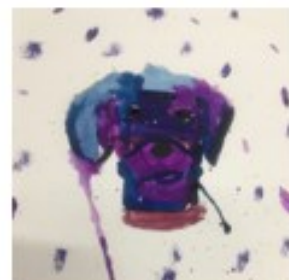
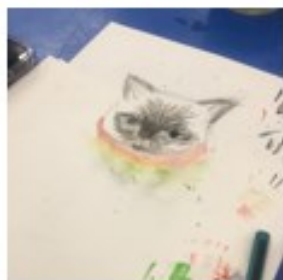


Art News

Art Club News

Art Club now runs on a Wednesday in DO2 from 3.20pm to 4.20pm.
This week in Art Club our budding artists using watercolour to create these dripping paintings bursting with colour and creativity. Well done!!

REMINDER: Supersix is held on a Wednesday 3.20-4.20pm in DO2
All GCSE and A level students welcome!!



Artist of the Week
Katie E

Special mention to Jack M Yr10
for these excellent prints



Have you seen the work of Peter Clark?



Peter uses a comprehensive collection of found papers as his palette which are coloured, patterned or textured by their printed, written or worn surfaces, with this media he 'paints' his collages. He shades with density of print and creates substance and movement with lines plucked from old maps or manuscripts.



This month's challenge is inspired by the RSPB's Big School's Birdwatch. Using Peter Clark as your inspiration and create a collage of your British bird using newspaper, magazines, wrapping paper and packaging. Collage the colours to create your image of the bird.

Submit your response to Miss Nice for merits!



February Art Challenge

Why not complete the February Art Challenge to achieve merits and rewards? Submit to Ms Nice



Year 7 - Mr Shanahan

Another week has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s and the theme for this week's assembly was internet safety and taking ownership of what you put on social media.

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

Jake 7M1, Scarlett 7A1, Lara 7Z1, Jude 7D1, Teddy 7M1, Beau 7M1, Freya 7A1, Jenna 7M1, Grace 7A1, Kasey 7Z1, Charlie 7A2, Lexi-Jaye 7Z1, Zack 7M1, Liam 7D2 and Jack 7M2

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

Contact: pshanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

100% Attendance Incentive - This week only!

To celebrate the last week of the spring half term any students who attend every day next week will get a free cake on the afternoon of Friday 16th.



Year 8 - Mr Willingham

This week Year 8 had an assembly on e-safety. This is still a major thing for students to be aware of and it's important that they know to keep their personal details safe and report any concerns. Students also completed a survey this week regarding safeguarding in school. This will help us to get their thoughts and opinions around the subject, as well as highlighting any areas we may need to work on.

This week we had a lot of students receiving positive points from their teachers, but our top 10 positive point earners were:

Joe 8D1	Emme 8D2	Eilena 8Z1	Owen 8D1
Samuel 8Z1	Jenson 8A2	Adele 8D2	Mollie 8D1
Isabelle 8M1	Oscar 8A1		

Well done everyone and keep up the good work!!

Contact: pwillingham@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

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Year 9 – Mr Marklew

Next week I am looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into school for the Y9 Parents evening. It is a fantastic opportunity for us all to connect and share the positive progress that our students have made this year. It is also a useful step in the preparation for the Option process - you can ask those vital questions and get some further clarity on the best choice for your child. We will continue to use assemblies to discuss the new subjects for next year like Business studies, Computer science, Health and Social Care.

We will also be holding rewards events across the week for students with positive attitudes, merits and attendance. Form tutors will be selecting students for a reward treat with Mrs Williams, I have selected students with lots of merits and 0 negative points to have breakfast with me, and Ms Parry will treat all students with 100% attendance for next week - good luck!

I want to wish all those students who have applied to be part of the Felstead Summer school all the best in their applications. It is such a wonderful event and I know that students have tried their hardest writing their application forms, and will be preparing with eagerness for their interviews and presentations.

Contact: dmarklew@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

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Valentines Bake Sale - Mrs Procter

A group of Year 9 students have arranged a bake sale on Valentines Day, where all proceeds will be donated to the British Heart Foundation. Please join us!

**VALENTINE
DAY BAKE
SALE!**

JOIN US ON:
**WEDNESDAY 14TH
FEBRUARY @
STUDENT RECEPTION.
BREAK AND LUNCH**
ALL CAKES 50P OR £1
(CASH ONLY)

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE
DONATED TO BRITISH
HEART FOUNDATION



Year 10 - Mr Field

A great week with for the year group, with the assembly informing the pupils of continual internet safety to ARU sessions with some of our pupils to sporting fixtures.

It was again a pleasure to walk into a variety of lessons this week to witness some great learning from our pupils. None more so than Mr Tompkin's GCSE Physics class where they were experimenting with static electricity and the effects that different properties had on specific objects. Aimie used the Van Der Graff to witness the effect of static electricity on her hair. I believe this was a great hair-raising experience!! Pupils in the class were great at explaining what they were doing and why the outcomes were occurring. Well done all.

Top positive points earner this week is: Sam (M1). Please come and see me Monday morning for a 'Jump the Queue' pass.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

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Year 10 Rugby - Mr Field

On Wednesday 7th February the year 10 boys travelled to Anglo European for a rugby match. This was a tough game for the boys who played out of their skin with a great team performance. A very wet pitch from the rain made it a great game to play and watch. There were fantastic passages of play from Jordan running aggressively down the wing to a great defensive display from Oliver who tackled anything that moved. Mylo made fantastic inroads into the opposition's defence with windy runs.



Top tackler of the day was Kaison who was fearsome at bringing the opposition down. Big shame to Robert who's try at the end of game was disallowed for a double movement.

It was a pleasure to watch you play folks and I look forward to the next game.

Enjoy the Six Nations this weekend.



Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton

This weeks assembly was led by Mr Priddle and focussed on the upcoming mock exams and the processes that students will undertake when completing these exams. This will of course give them vital practise for the when the exams properly begin in May. The pressure is well and truly on and it is important that everyone has their individual revision programmes in place. This will actually help to alleviate the pressures that students will undoubtedly be feeling. If anyone needs assistance with working out their timetable for revision, I am happy to help with that process.

Disruption free learning continues to work well across the academy and although one or two students have fallen foul of the new system, in general 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 gaining the most positive points this week for their hard work and attitude to learning. Oliver Lois and Aidan, 11A1, Hayden, 11A2, Jasmine, 11M1, Connor, 11M2 and Annie and Luke 11Z1. 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

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Prom Open Evening

Prom Open Evening @ Ormiston Rivers Academy on Tuesday 13th February 5-7pm
Hosted by Formally Suited & The Bridal Rack

Repayment Plans

Suits - New / Nearly New / Hire
(Get in touch if you wish to sell one)

No dresses the same

Suits / Dresses
Make up / Hair / Nails / Tanning / Accessories
Decorations / Memorabilia / DJ / Cakes



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

We are excited to announce we have over 1000 followers on @RiversSixthForm Instagram page. Check out our newest reel which shows a quick tour of our area filmed by Poppy and Lily – thanks girls!

Sixth Formers with 100% attendance for this half term will receive their reward next week. Thank you for the feedback on what treats you wanted.

Just a reminder of our mentor activities:

On Mondays both Year 12 and 13 must be in for tutor time. Year 12s have assembly, while Year 13s have Careers.

On Tuesdays, Year 12s must be in for tutor time for their Careers session.

On Fridays, Year 13s must be in tutor time for their Assembly slot.

Students need to be on site, tapped in, and in their tutor time for 8:50am. On rainy days and poor weather, students who drive in need to take this into account and leave a few minutes earlier.

We have been very lucky to have so many guest speakers and support this term, especially with Miss Dix who has offered and given lots of personalised feedback on CVs and Cover letters helping prepare our students for their next steps. They have been learning a lot about social media such as LinkedIn and the impact their profiles can have but also how easy it can be to learn about a company using it as a research tool.

Last Friday, 20 Sixth Formers went to the University of Esports located at the Velodrome in London. We thank Myles, a former St Peter's student for offering us the tour and visit. Students got to learn about the growing industry of Esports, the courses they offer and tour their facilities, including playing in their studio making 'vlogs' in front of a green screen. Students also made and pitched proposals to look at the Business aspect of Esports. It was a great day and it is important for students to realise some of the great educational facilities which are living distance from home as well as opportunities further afield.

We have one more week to go before February half term. For Year 13s this means one more full half term before their examinations start and one week until many of us go on the Ski Trip.

We are still waiting for a few work experience forms to come in. Please speak with Mrs Penberthy if you are having trouble finding a placement and to hand in forms.

Happy Birthday to Mrs Wilkins who celebrates tomorrow and Mr Magic on Sunday. We hope you two have a fantastic weekend of celebrations.



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 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.



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.

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
1 x purple biro for assessment feedback
2 x pencils
1 x 30cm ruler
Coloured pencils (not felt tips)
Eraser
Pencil sharpener

Maths set (including a scientific calculator)
Student Planner (student organiser)
Reading book
Books / folders for the days lessons
Water bottle
Basic art equipment

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.

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. Please contact finance on 01621 787845 if you have any queries.