

Message from the Principal

It has been a busy week at Rivers in the run up to half term.

Interviews took place on Tuesday for our Year 8 & 9 students who applied for a place at the Felsted Summer School. I am delighted to announce that the following students have earned a place this year: Penny (8A2), Jenson (8A2), Logan (8D2), Emme (8D2), Haidyn (8M1), Scarlet (8A2), Chloe (8Z1), Alex (9M1), Freya (9D1), Jaya (9M2). Congratulations to you all! I know that it will be a fantastic experience and that you will be brilliant ambassadors for Rivers.

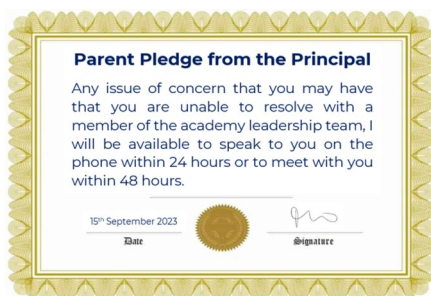
On Thursday we held our Year 9 Parents Evening and Options Clinic and it was really encouraging to see so many parents attending to gather the information needed to support our students when making the important choice of subjects that they will take for their GCSEs.

Today 46 students and 7 staff are travelling for a week's skiing trip to Zell am See in Austria. Each day students will have 5 hour lessons on the slopes. Other activities include Snowtubing, Ski races, the Alpine Coaster and an evening at a Pizza Restaurant. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Clay for all his hard work organising and leading this exciting trip and to Mr Rumary, Mr Marklew, Mr Moon, Ms Sametz, Ms Blogg and Ms Thurtle for volunteering their time during half term to accompany our students.

Our Year 11 students have been sitting their mock GCSE's this week and have been successfully navigating a revised system for entering and exiting the exam hall. I wish them all luck with their remaining exams during the week after half term.

I wish you all a restful and happy half term and look forward to seeing our students refreshed and ready to learn on our return on Monday 25th February.

**Jo Williams
Principal**



**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

Dates for your Diary

Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2024

Half Term

Students return on Monday 25th February)

Tuesday 5th March

Year 8 Parents Evening

20th March 2024

Year 11 Parents Information Evening

Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

Easter Holiday

Academy closes at 1.50 pm on Thursday 28th March

Students return on Monday 15th April

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Year 7 Parents Evening

Tea with the Principal

On Friday 16th February, 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..

Ava (9D1)	Tom (9D1)	Freddie (9M2)	Jaya (9M2)
Sam (9A1)	Elsa (9A1)	Meade (9A2)	Ben (9A2)
Maisie (9Z2)	Harry (9Z2)	Holly (9Z1)	Alex (9Z1)
Maria (9M1)	Sebastian (9M1)		



Late Bus

As advised in the newsletter last week, 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

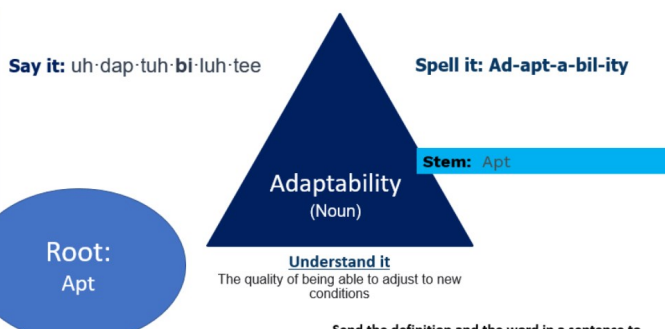
Literacy

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 **"Adaptability"**.

Why not have a go?

Say it: uh·dap·tuh·bi·luh·tee

Spell it: Ad-apt-a-bil-ity



Adaptability
(Noun)

Understand it
The quality of being able to adjust to new conditions

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

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge - Mrs Sams



Well done to all of the six finalists that performed to Year 8 in assembly on the 15th February. All six speeches were incredibly inspirational and well delivered. Well done to Poppy (10M1), Oliver (10Z1), Joe (10M2), Molly (10M2), Joslyn (10Z2) and Lenny (10M1).

The winner that will go through to the finals will be announced soon.

English Star of the Week



This week Henson (8A2) is our English star of the week for his excellent gothic story writing.

Well done Henson

Year 7 Recommends

In Library lessons last week, Year 7 students were asked to complete a book review of their favourite reads to guide other students in the Library to some interesting books. We have had some fantastic entries to display in the Library and recommendations have included a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books such as Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan, Ultimate Football Heroes by Matt and Tom Oldfield, and the Scarlet and Ivy books by Sophie Cleverly. The following students' work has been selected for display in the Library this term.

Abby (7D2) Olivia (7A2) Jessica (7D2) Lexi-Jaye (7Z1)
Thomas (7Z1) Oliver (7A1) Jamie (7M2) Destiny (7Z1)

As a result, they will all be awarded a book as a prize for their effort.



Year 7 and 8 BookTalk & Craft Club - Mrs Yerbury

Valentine's Day embroidery was the theme for Booktalk and Craft Club this week. Students made these amazing hearts from colourful felt shapes and threads, learning design skills and new embroidery stitches. Some of the finished hearts were then attached to bookmarks to use in their favourite books. 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. .

This week a shout out goes to:

- Hayden 11C/MT1 - for fantastic Music Technology coursework.
- Bethan 10C/MP1 - for improving her pitch and timing in Music Performance.
- Finley 8O/MU4 - for working hard to complete his music composition.
- Jamie 18O/DR3 - for her brilliant drama performance in assessment.



All students should be very proud of their achievements this week. Well done to all!

Year 7 - Mr Shanahan

The final week of half term has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s and the theme for this week's assembly was mental wellbeing and looking after yourself and others. Thank you Miss Corbett for a very informative assembly.

I am delighted to announce that the following students had the most positive merits this half term and as a result had a lovely rewards breakfast on Tuesday. Thank you to Mr Lawman for supervising; Jude 7D1, Henry 7A2, Scarlett 7A1, Jake 7M1, Grace 7A1, Annabelle 7Z2, Elacy-Raye 7A1, Grace 7A1, Abby 7D2, Ivy 7M1, Jamie 7M2, Jack 7M2, Eleanor 7Z2, .Oliver 7A1 and James 7D2.

Have a lovely week and I look forward to seeing the students when we return after half term.

Contact: pschanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 8 - Mr Willingham

Its been a very busy half term and students are definitely looking forward to a rest. We had students from year 10 speak to year 8 in assembly this week as part of the Jack Petchy speak out competition. Students listened intently as students gave their speeches. We also had a rewards breakfast this week for the top merit earners this half term.

And some really great news was how 2 of our students in year 8 took part in a dance competition.

On Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th February, Jess (8A2) competed at the All England Championships at the Blackpool Tower. It was an incredible weekend and Jess competed in both Latin and Ballroom against some of top dancers from multiple countries. It was a tough competition with over 90 girls in her category. Jess made semi finals in U16 Ballroom and U14 Latin which is a huge achievement. Her amazing dance teachers at E&E dance have done an amazing job of getting her to such a high standard in 2 years.

From Jess - Dancing at the Blackpool tower is always an incredible experience and so inspirational. I would like to thank the school for their support in my dance journey and my mum for diving me around the country. I would also like to thank the Dance and Drama teachers for their support.

Ethan (8A2) and his dance partner Sophia from Year 7 had an amazing weekend at the Blackpool tower also, taking part in an international competition. They competed in the under 16 and under 14 categories and they made the top 10 at only 11 years old!!! They had so much fun and wanted to thank the school for their support.

Its great to have such talented pupils in the school , well done on this amazing accomplishments. I would really like to hear more about our students achievements so please feel free to let me know so these can also be celebrated as well as being mentioned in the schools weekly newsletter.

We also want to celebrate this weeks top positive point earners who are:

Tegan (8Z2)	Lorna (8Z2)	Lully (8Z2)	Ben (8Z2)	Logan (8Z2)
Pippa (8Z2)	Daisy (8Z2)	Oscar (8A1)	Benjamin (8Z2)	Jack (8D1)
Violet (8D1)	Emme (8D2)	Louis (8Z2)	Ryan G (8Z2)	Raiff (8D2)

Have a Lovely half term.

Contact: pwillingham@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 – Mr Marklew

I just wanted to end this half term with a huge thank you to our Year 9 parents and carers for their support during the Options process. This culminated in the parents/carers evening on Thursday - a great opportunity to talk options, possibilities for success at GCSE, current progress scores and areas to develop moving forward. I know that you are taking time to talk through the choices - a reminder that we have given students the A4 Key Stage 4 Guided Options booklet and we have the Options Hub on the school website.

Options forms have gone out today Friday 16th Feb. The deadline is the 4th March - it is not a first come first serve basis so take as much time as you need. Once all the forms have been collected and collated we will look at group sizes and start to plan ahead for the Year 10 timetable. There will be time in May for students to amend their options choices so do not panic if there is a last-minute change.

We have ended the week on lots of successful stories - great news on our Felstead candidates, rewards breakfast for excellent behaviour, treats for 100% attendance, Tea with the Principal and lots of positive reward points! Enjoy the half term break and I look forward to continuing our progress to our GCSE standard of work!

Contact: dmarklew@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Valentines Bake Sale

Well done to AJ,AH,JM,AL,IW and JM for arranging the Valentine bake sale to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Also thank you to Mrs Dennis, Mrs Peterson, Mrs Flack, Mrs Procter, Mrs Hyde and Miss Brooks for their sweet contributions.

The event raised over £100! The exact amount is still to be confirmed, but overall it was a successful event and the students involved are very proud of themselves.

Year 10 - Mr Field

As it is the final week of the half term it is good to look back on a successes of the half term.

60+ pupils receiving queue jump passes for high positive points, rewards breakfast for pupils achieving well in school (over 60 pupils have been rewarded since September). Great teaching and learning from many lessons observed. A well-attended Parents Evening to ensure pupils are on track. Anglia Ruskin University sessions and Speak Aloud session enabling pupils to grow in confidence when speaking in front of people.

This Monday saw further pupils being rewarded for their work effort and focus in school. It was great to see the pupils having a breakfast and having time to chat with each other. Well done to you all and I hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Joslyn (Z2) Angelina (M1) James (D1) Izzy (D2) Leela (Z1) Sydni (Z1) Keira (A1) Jack (D2) Jack (D1) Aimie (M1), Ethan (M1) Ava (Z2) Will (M1)

As we break up for half term please may I ask you for a push on organising work experience placements. Deadline is March 28th which is the last day of term.

Secondly, please use half term to purchase or relace any school uniform/ties.

Thank you all and have a deserved break.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton

A challenging week for all our students in year 11 as the mock exams began on Monday.

These exams are run under the rules and guidelines from the examination boards, which are stringent about many things and it is important that all of year 11 understand these rules and what they are and are not allowed to do.

One thing I must stress to all students and parents/carers is that if a student misses a mock exam, then we can arrange some re-sits for them.

This will NOT be the case for the summer final exams!

If a student misses a paper, there is no re-sit and they will fail that qualification. This has always been the case, but some people still believe that there are re-sits available. THERE ARE NOT!

I hope everyone has a good half term break and that year 11 use their time to both relax a bit but also to consolidate their learning for the mock exams which continue the week after half term break.

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

Year 12 - Mrs Wilkins / Year 13 - Miss Sametz

Well done to all our students who achieved 100% attendance this half term. They were rewarded with breakfast in the Sixth Form area. Keep up the good work!!

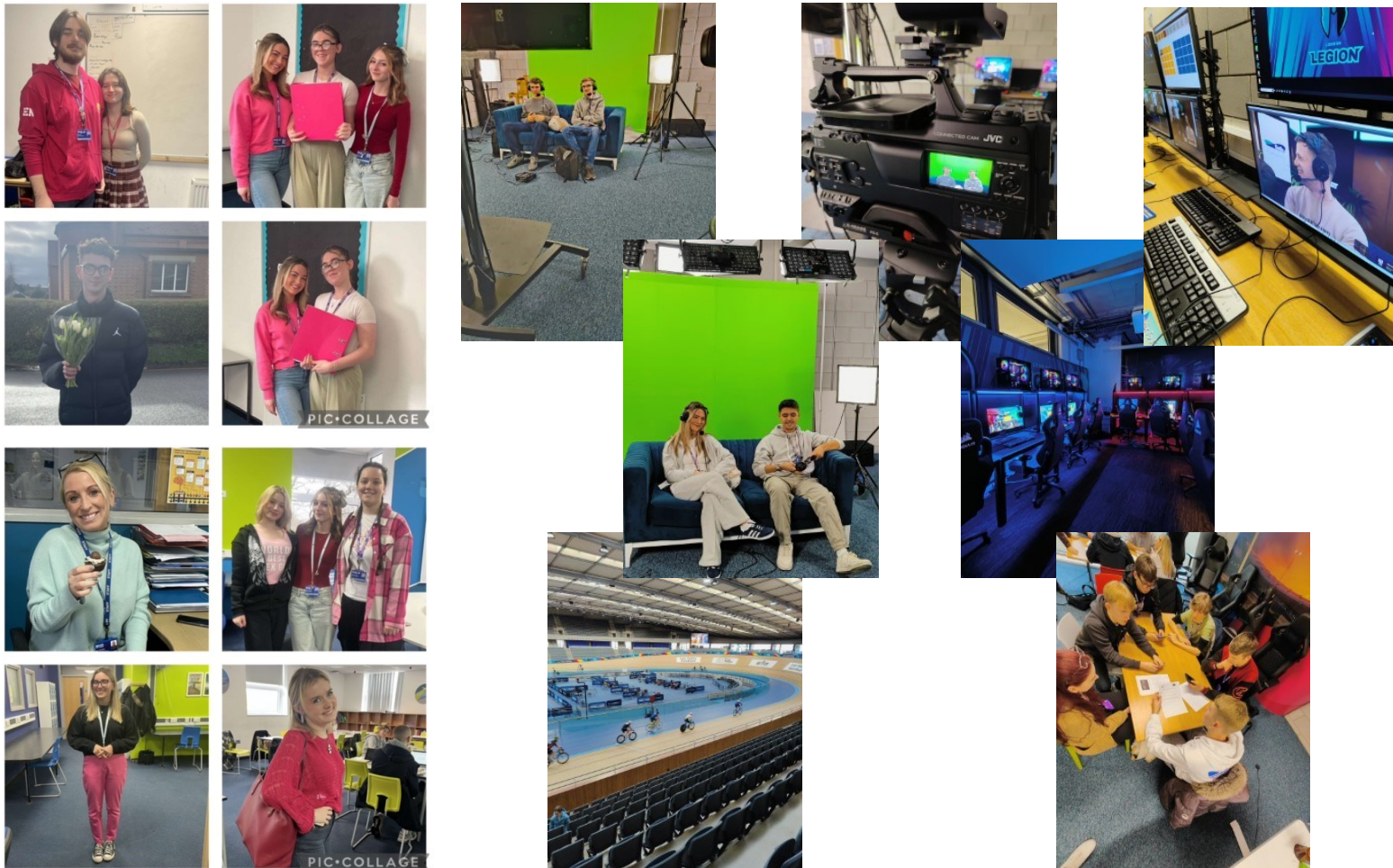
Our Year 12's attended an Oxbridge session this week with their Head of Years. Please, look out for further sessions happening next term.

Sixth Form enjoyed Valentines day dressed in red and pink and Mrs P enjoyed her cupcake.

It's been a fantastic term having the full team back together again!

Have a fantastic half term from The Sixth Form Team!

Contact: mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk / dsametz@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk





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	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.

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.



COMMUNITY HUB

Maldon Town Hall (CM9 4RL)

Join us for a cuppa, a chat, and a chance to access support and information from a range of local services and community groups.



More information

maldon.gov.uk/onemaldondistrict



Get involved

alexandra.card@maldon.gov.uk

FREE ENTRY

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024

10AM TO 1PM