

Message from the Principal

It has been lovely to welcome our students back this week refreshed, full of energy and ready to learn and meet the challenges of the second half of this academic year following the half term holiday.

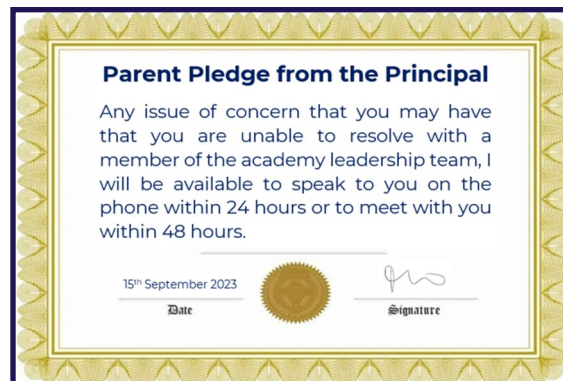
Our Year 11 students have completed their mock exams this week. They adapted brilliantly to the changes to the exam entrance and exit procedures and I really look forward to hearing about their achievements when they receive their results during assembly on Monday 18th March.

On Tuesday Rivers held a Youth Speaks Debate hosted by The Rotary Foundation with a group of six students from various year groups debating on different topics. The Youth Speaks competition is designed to give students the opportunity to voice their opinions on topics that they care about and to develop valuable skills in public speaking. The winning team from this round will be asked to compete against schools within the district.

A group of our Year 12 students visited the 'UK University and Apprenticeship Fair' today at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The event is designed provide students with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of universities and apprenticeship providers. I really hope this trip will have inspired and motivated our Year 12 students for when they make their decisions regarding their further education and career choices once they leave Rivers.

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

Jo Williams, Principal



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 5th March 2024

Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 7th March 2024 – 3.30pm to 5.30pm

ORA Careers Fair in the Sports Hall

Wednesday 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

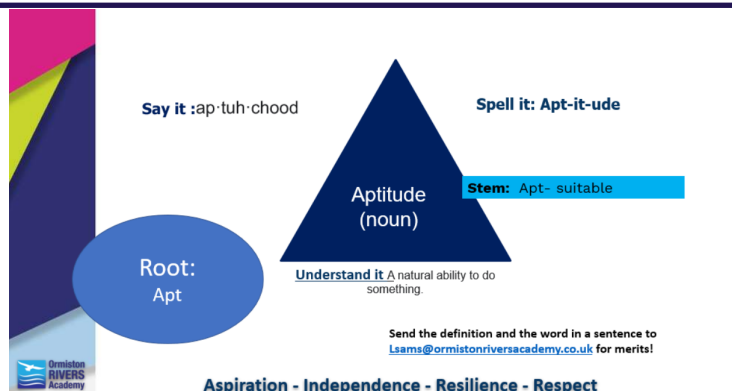
Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Year 7 Parents Evening

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 **"Aptitude"**.

Why not have a go?



Say it : ap-tuh-chood

Spell it: Apt-it-ude

Root: Apt

Aptitude (noun)

Stem: Apt- suitable

Understand it A natural ability to do something.

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

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect

Jack Petchey and Youth Speaks Debate - Miss Sams

On Tuesday evening, three of our Year 10 pupils (Joseph 10M2, Poppy 10M1 and Oscar 10Z1) and our Intermediate Youth Speaks Debate Team showcased their speeches to parents. It was a great opportunity for all of the pupils to show their progress and skill in public speaking. Joseph 10M2 will be going through to the Jack Petchey Regional Finals in April with a speech on toxic friendships and the Intermediate Debate Team, consisting of Alice 7Z1, Lara 7Z1 and Evie 7A1, will be going through to the Regional Debate Finals in March with their debate on Homework.



Well done to all involved!

English Star of the Week

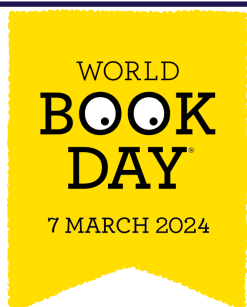


This week writing badges have been awarded to Harry 7D1 and Eoin 7D1.

Well done both of you!

World Book Day

As mentioned in assemblies this week, World Book Day will take place on Thursday 7th March. All students from Years 7-9 have been given their £1 Book Token. If any students were absent and did not receive one, please collect from the Library next week.



On Thursday Lunchtime there will be activities happening in the Library to celebrate World Book Day. We will have a library scavenger hunt and bookmark making. If you want to take part, please sign up on Monday lunchtime using the sign up sheet in the Library.

There will also be a book celebration focus next week, as well as your form group's Read Aloud sessions you will be working with your form group to design and 'dress' your form room door to celebrate your favourite books! Judging will take place on Friday 8th March with the best form door winning a prize!

Best of luck!

New books for the Library!

Students can now borrow books from our new selection of graphic novels across a wide range of genres. Graphic novels combine words and vibrant illustrations that appeal to all age groups and reading abilities.

Choose from well-known classics including *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald, or Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Favourite series such as *Alex Rider*, *Artemis Fowl*, and *Percy Jackson* are recommended if you like action and adventure stories. We have a selection of shorter adaptations of popular stories including *Frankenstein*, *War of the Worlds*, *Treasure Island*, *Robin Hood*, and many more. Modern fiction such as Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*, *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and *White Bird* by R J Palacio, are also available.



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 Harriet 12SF1, Daisy 8Z2, Ethan 8A2 and Jessica 8A2 for their amazing entries for Ormiston's Got Talent. There were an astonishing 222 entries! Ethan and Jessica have also made it through to the semi-finals at Ormiston Victory on March 12th. We wish them the best of luck and are proud of all that entered.

Well done to all!

STARS OF THE WEEK



Tea with the Principal

On Friday 1st March, 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..

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Lisa (10D2) | Charlie (10D2) | Darcie (10M1) |
| Aimie (10M1) | Jax (10D1) | Chloe (10D1) |
| Amy (10Z2) | Thomas (10Z2) | Joe (10M2) |
| Mikie (10M2) | Brenan (10Z1) | Sydni (10Z1) |
| Geroge (10A1) | Ben S (10A1) | |



Cross Country - Miss Blogg

On Tuesday we took 5 students to the Cross Country Competition held at Writtle University College. We had Jenna (7M1) run our Year 7 girls race, who finished with an amazing time. We also had Beau (7M1), Sonny (7Z1) and Henry (7A2) run in the boys 3000m race, with Henry placing very well for the category. We also had Lorna (8Z2) who managed to come 22nd out of over 150 runners in her race. We are extremely proud of the students who took part and want to congratulate them on their success!



Year 7 - Mr Shanahan

The first week back has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s and the theme for this week's assembly was world book day and the joy of reading. Thank you Miss Sams for a very informative assembly.

Students were reminded in assembly about being ready to learn, so can parents/carers please ensure that their son/daughter has the necessary equipment for all lessons please. The school shop is available should students require equipment. Students should not be chewing gum at any time on the school site especially during lessons. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

I am delighted to announce that the following students had the most positive merits this week; Annabelle 7M1, Reece 7A1, Freddie 7Z1, Megan 7Z1, Liam 7D2, Katie 7A1, Millie 7Z1, Rose 7M1, Liam 7D1, Lara 7Z1, Abby 7D2, Georgie 7Z1, Tuleeah 7M1, Kayden 7M1 and Lila 7A1. Well done all and it is great to recognise some new students making the top 15!

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing the students next week.

Contact: pshanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 7 Girls Futsal - Miss Blogg

On Wednesday our Year 7 girls had a Futsal competition where we had to travel away to The Sandon School. The 5-a-side game saw us playing some great football and showing amazing teamwork by supporting one another. The girls drew their first game to Sandon 1-1. We were then able to get a win against Brentwood County High School. This saw us progress into the semi-finals, where we faced Great Baddow. We managed to place 4th due to goal difference. The girls showed great determination and teamwork during the event.

We are very proud of the girls who took part and especially those who stepped up when we were in need of players. Jenna (7M1), Anais (7Z1), Annabelle (7Z2), Abby (7D2), Gracie (7D2) and Lila (7A1).



Year 8 - Mr Willingham

We welcomed students back this week and had an extended tutor time where year groups had a short assembly from the Principal, reminding them of the expectations around behaviour and uniform in school.

We then had our usual assembly on Thursday this week focusing on the importance of reading and world book day and students received a voucher to get a free book.

It's been nice to see the effort students are making in class and the efforts are being shown with the positive points they received. Well done to this week's top 10 positive point earners listed below. As a new incentive I will also be issuing these students with a queue jump pass for the canteen as a reward.

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Lully - 8Z2 | Pippa - 8Z2 | Oscar - 8A1 | Daisy - 8Z2 | Taylon - 8A1 |
| Logan - 8Z2 | Benjamin - 8Z2 | Chloe - 8Z1 | Jack - 8D1 | Louis - 8Z2 |

Well done to you all. Please see me on Monday for your pass.

Have a lovely weekend.

Contact: pwillingham@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 – Mr Marklew

Our Year 9s have had a positive first week in school after the half term - we have amassed over 12,000 positive behaviour points as well as receiving very few negative ones.

As I join in their form time and their lessons, I am really pleased by their attitude towards each other - and they know that my focus is now attitude towards working hard in class. We were pleased to announce the successful Felstead candidates in assembly as well as focusing on our role models with reading for World Book week.

We have one final push for the Year 9 Options process - the deadline is Monday 4th March and I will be going into form time on Monday asking for any outstanding forms. I have been pleased to hear that students have been discussing their choices in form time and with our SLT in their 1-2-1 catch ups. Once all of the forms have been collected, we can start to plan ahead for the Y10 curriculum plan. Only after this will I be able to have 1-2-1 meetings with students who may wish to change their mind. Then the process will be complete!!

And finally, I wish to thank the Y9 Form tutors for their support at this time - they have been really supportive of their form and continue to be the first port of contact for you as parents/carers if you have any questions.

Contact: dmarklew@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 10 – Mr Field

It was good to see the return of the year group on Monday with pupils straight into their studies.

During my learning walks this week I have again witnessed some great learning and thinking from the pupils.

- Mylo correctly identified how blood pressure is affected by the effects of exercise.
- Imogen, Oscar and Annie on their viewpoints of the effects of violence in Religious studies.
- It was great to see how pupils were developing their answers in History, with Max, Jess and Kaison all reflecting on how Roosevelt won the 1932 American Election.

A reminder that it is 4 weeks till the deadline for the organisation of the work experience placements. If completed, please pass the forms onto Mis Compton as soon as possible.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton

Another challenging week for all our students in Year 11 as the mock exams continued on Monday. This being the case I am repeating the message from my last post at the end of the half term.

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 students 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 will arrange a re-sit exam 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!**

As the mock exam period comes to a close, students have been returning to their usual studies. The students who have performed exceptionally well this week with their attitude to work and performance are;

Oliver 11A1, Kieran 11A2, Toby, Joseph and Olivia 11D1, Mia 11D2, and Freddie and Charlie 11M1.

Well done to them and to all the students who have tried so hard over the exam period.

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: rswinerton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 - Mrs Wilkins / Year 13 - Miss Sametz

Many of the Sixth Form students attended the annual ski trip during February half-term and were complimented on their outstanding behaviour and support of the younger students.

Exams are already on the way. Year 13 have their Engineering exam on Monday and have been working hard studying in the Sixth Form area. Good luck to all involved.

After school revision classes will be starting up again in the Sixth Form area with Mrs Penberthy. Tuesday and Thursday from 3.20-4.20. There will be snacks and a relaxing environment to suit all.

The whole of year 12 are attending a University & Apprenticeship Fair in London on Friday 1st March where they will have the opportunity to speak to over 120 exhibiting universities and apprenticeship providers. They will also have the opportunity to attend seminars including how to choose a course, student finance and how to write a personal statement. Look out for photos and more information next week.

REMINDER: If a student has a laptop at home, they must bring it in with the charger every day. Laptops are essential as they are used in lessons and during tutor time. We have a limited amount available for those that do not have access to their own device.

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

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.

ORMISTON RIVERS ACADEMY ANNUAL CAREERS FAIR



**Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy**

Come along and have a chat with local colleges, universities, employers and training providers, we have over 30 stands to have a look at including;

Essex Police, GXO, KPMG, RAF, Ford Motor Company

Location:

Sports Hall

Entry via PE corridor

Thursday 7th March 3.30pm -5.30pm

For all Parents and Students in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13

Marie Curie Day of Reflection 2024

Marie Curie's Day of Reflection is taking place on Sunday 3 March. The Day of Reflection a special moment in the calendar to remember everyone who died during the pandemic, to support people who are grieving, and to take time to recognise and reflect on the sorrow, collective loss and unresolved grief that emerged from such unusual times.

As the UK's leading end of life charity, Marie Curie know just how important it is to acknowledge and reflect on our grief. That's why they are encouraging everyone to take a moment to reflect, such as a minute's silence, to honour those who've died and to share the name of a loved one you are remembering on the day. You can do this on social media; at a local event; or in any way that feels right to you.

For more information please click here:

[Day of Reflection 2024 | Marie Curie](#)



We're supporting

**Day of
Reflection
2024**

3 March



Thinking of a Career in Teaching



Recruiting
for primary and
secondary trainees
from October 2023

NESTT seeks to train highly effective teachers for our local schools.

We focus on developing professional expertise, supporting trainees to realise their potential and empowering them to engage critically with evidence-informed practice and subject strategies.

We provide new teachers with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to enjoy a life-long career in teaching.

We'd love you to join us!

Norfolk • Essex • Suffolk

Why choose NESTT?

We treat you as an individual, and support your journey by working closely with schools and partner organisations to bring you the best possible experience.



Proven track record

The organisations who have formed NESTT collectively have more than 45 years of experience in delivering high quality teacher training in our localities.

Approachable & responsive

Our locally-based teams will continue to build on existing relationships with schools to meet individual trainee needs and personalise the training journey.

Retention & employment

Our programmes have high retention and employment rates. Our course fully supports trainees to achieve, ensuring they are ready for their first teaching post.

Ambitious curriculum

Our curriculum is rich, ambitious and evidence-informed. It aligns seamlessly with the Early Career Framework - supporting the journey from trainee to Early Career Teacher.

Supportive partnerships

We have strong and constructive relationships with a wide range of local schools. We work closely with our schools to ensure they are fully supported with delivering the requirements for high quality initial teacher training.

Face to face

Our training will be predominantly face to face securing better engagement from trainees and mentors.

Whether you're thinking about getting into teaching, or you're interested in developing partnerships, we'd love to hear from you.

enquiries@nestt.org.uk



www.nestt.org.uk

