

Message from the Principal

Following the Monday bank holiday, it has been a shorter yet still productive week at Rivers as we move into GCSE and A-Level exam season. Our Year 11 & 13 students have really been knuckling down for the final push towards their exams displaying our AIRR values with hard work, resilience and determination. As always, we are here to support them with anything they need over the next few weeks.

This week, a group of Rivers students attended the final session of the Year 9 "Cook up your Maths" and Year 10 "Finance your Future" projects which involved a day trip to Anglia Ruskin University. During the course of the day, students participated in various seminars and were taken on a tour around the campus. We are really proud to report that our students behaved impeccably whilst representing the academy on this trip.

On Wednesday, a group of our A-Level Drama Sixth Form students went to the Old Vic Theatre in London to see 'Machinal' by Sophie Treadwell. These students are studying Machinal as one of their set text and will need to answer questions on this play in their Component 3 written exam.

Finally, please note that it has been necessary to make a change to the school calendar for the 2024/25 academic year. Monday 2nd September 2024 will now be a staff INSET day, Tuesday 3rd September 2024 will be registration day for Year 7 & 12 students only and on Wednesday 4th September 2024 all year groups will return. This will impact the 2025 Summer Term and the last day of the school year will now be Thursday 24th July 2025. These term dates have been updated on the ORA website and can be viewed here [Ormiston Rivers Academy - Term Dates](#). If this amendment is likely to cause any difficulties can I please ask that you contact us directly by emailing sjames@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

I wish you all an enjoyable weekend and look forward to seeing our students back at the academy on Monday.

Jo Williams, Principal

Dates for your Diary

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May
Summer half term holiday

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

WORD OF THE WEEK

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 **“Analytical”**.

Why not have a go?

Say it: a-nuh-lee-tuh-ki

Spell it: Ana-lyt-ic-al

Analytical (Adjective)

Ana: Again, thoroughly.

Understand it
Using logical thinking to break down a problem down into smaller elements in order to complete the task.

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

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect

DEBATE

Debate club covers a variety of topics ranging from worldwide issues to fun light-hearted topics. Come along on Tuesday afterschool in E07.

Debate club aims to boost oracy skills in school and allows students to step out of their comfort zones. Whether you are a confident speaker or have stage fright, debate club is a perfect environment to allow yourself to grow as a person and in confidence. In the past, we have attended debate competitions with a range of year groups and are hoping to attend more in the future. All year groups are welcome so join debate club today! By Molly, Year 10.

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:

 7R/MU3 - Fantastic attitude to learning and independence in music. A particular recognition goes to Paige, Mia, Georgia, James and Theo.

 7O/DR2 - Great understanding of Commedia Dell’Arte. Well done to Jude, Izabelle, Freddie and Megan.

Keep up the good work!

Y7 Maths Circle Club

For the first time this year, we ran the MESME Maths Circle club with Year 7. The aim of this club is to encourage young mathematicians to be adventurous, articulate and collaborative, and exposes them to university style problem solving.



It has been more popular and rewarding than we ever imagined, and to thank our most dedicated students, we gave out special badges to those who have attended more than 10 of these sessions. A huge well done to these fantastic Year 7 students - it is so exciting to have such incredible mathematicians at Rivers!

Campus Trip to ARU Chelmsford - Mrs Compton

24 students from Year 9 and 10 spent a day on campus at Anglia Ruskin University as part of their raising aspirations programme, they had a tour around campus visiting different faculties, as well as sitting in on a university lecture in finance and business.



Next week there will be a celebration evening for students and parents to attend to complete this programme, we look forward to celebrating students' achievements together on 15th May.



Over the Bank Holiday our silver DofE students went off to the wilds for a practice expedition of the North Downs to conquer Box Hill and the surrounding area.



Despite the weather (which was rather wet!) the students were brilliant. Two nights under canvas, cooking on little stoves in the rain, they remained a happy and cheerful fun bunch of students. They really were a pleasure to be with, and it was great to watch most of them learning expedition skills for the first time. The staff that accompanied them were very proud of all of them, it was a pleasure to watch them helping each other and working as a group.



Well done to all, now looking forward to the Qualifying expedition in the South Downs.



with the Principal

On Friday 10th May, the following Year 13 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..

Sydney S (SF6)
Will C (SF4)

Oliver L (SF6)
Ellen M (SF4)

Lewis R (SF6)

Amelia B (SF5)

Elliott C (SF5)



Year 7 - Mr Shanahan

Another week has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s and today we had an excellent assembly delivered by Miss Corbett on mental health and wellbeing. Following this, I passed on some behaviour expectations, as well as some more information messages with regards to upcoming events in and out of school.

I am delighted to announce that the following students had the most positive merits this week; Alice M7Z1, Daisy G 7Z1, Beau Y 7M1, Zach S 7M1, Riley N 7A2, Lara M 7Z1, Joshua R 7A1, Thomas F 7Z1, Henry J 7A2, Ella B 7A1, April F 7A2, Lexi-Jaye D 7Z1, Ingrid B 7D2, Teddy C 7M1 and Annabelle L 7M1.

I look forward to meeting the form reps next week.

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

Contact: pschanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 8 - Miss Thurtle

Year 8 students are beginning the First Give project, in hopes to win £1000 for their chosen charity. I look forward to seeing their presentations and fund-raising ideas.

PLAY NICE
WORK HARD
Stay Kind

This week we had our assembly on Mental Health and the importance of routine and kindness.

125 students had 100% attendance last week, with Wesley K. S 8Z1 winning the prize draw. Cheri P 8Z2 received the most merits in the whole school on Tuesday! Oscar R (8A1) also won the award for reaching over 230 merits.

Thank you for a lovely week, Year 8!

Contact: cthurtle@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 9 – Ms Taylor

In this week's assembly, Year 9 were focusing on mental health, in particular how powerful kindness is to both our own and others' mental health. It is always worth remembering the impact of our words and actions on others.

This week has seen several Year 9 students achieve a huge number of positive points. Our highest scorers in the year are:

Over 300 points

Alex - 9M1

Over 100 points

Kayden - 9D1

Meade - 9A2

Over 90 points

Jack - 9A2

Jaya - 9M2

Poppy - 9A2

Ben - 9A2



Please do contact me with any concerns or queries.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 10 – Mr Field

It was great to hear all about the two trips this week which involved Year 10. The first trip being the silver DofE practice excursion in the Surrey hills. I hope you have all dried off from walking in the constant rain. Thank you to Mrs Coulson for running and organising the trip.

The second trip took students to Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford, where they were able to experience and get a clear insight of what higher education has to offer.

During my learning walks I had the pleasure of seeing Mr Moon's class learning about the different forms of Fitness testing in Health and Fitness. Mr Chapman's History class were revising for their test on American History and I was able to hear from Thomas and Ella in their Art class, who informed me of what is negative space within their artwork. The last lesson I observed was Biology, and it was fantastic to see lots of positive marking in Oliver and Max's work on genetics and genes.



The top positive point earners this week are: Oliver, Amelia, Amelia, Ella, Oscar, Fraser, Isabella, Mia, Emily, Katie, Mickayla and Ava. Well done all and please collect your jump the queue pass on Monday.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 - Mr Swinnerton

Today marks the start of the exams where every student sits the papers at the same time, starting with Science.

Everyone arrived on time, ready to work and it was an excellent start to the 'exam season'.

I must take this opportunity to let you know that the Academy trust has an expectation that all year 11 students will remain in lessons until 14th June. Statistically it is shown that students achieve better results if they stay in class rather than going on study leave. The expectation from the school is that students will attend lessons after their examinations.

The majority of students continue to work well and special mention this week must go to Beauden, 11M1 who will receive the chocolate for most merits towards exam studies. Well done Beauden.

As always if I can help in any way, please contact me by email at the Academy.

Contact: rswinnerton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 Football

As the exam season starts, the PE Department would like to express a huge thank you to the commitment of the Year 11 Boys football team.

The team has experienced great success this year making it to the final of the District Cup - A first District Final from any team since the school was renamed.

Their success has been hard-fought though. The team experienced indifferent results for many years but the team remained constant, and the performances got better each year.

In Year 10, results started to change and the defence in particular, were hard to break down. With 3 forward players, we were also deadly on the break.

Despite losing to an impressive Great Baddow team in the final, they should all be very proud of how they worked this year and every year since they first started. We're very proud of what they've achieved and wish them all a successful exam season and, many more years of enjoying their football.

Well done and good luck!!



RIVERS SIXTH FORM



Years 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

We have had a fantastic start to exam season with students proactively revising in the Sixth Form area and our new outdoor areas enjoying this lovely weather.

This week our A Level Drama students attended a trip to The Old Vic Theatre, London to watch 'Machinal' - a play by Sophie Treadwell. What a fantastic experience supported by Miss Goodfellow and Mrs Penberthy.



Careers sessions have been taking place in the Sixth Form. We offer a dedicated careers service to help students map their future ambitions. Our careers advisor can help with researching universities, work and apprenticeship opportunities. While in Rivers Sixth Form, students have the chance to engage in careers, higher education and employability sessions and events to research their options and develop career management skills.



Year 13 students need to pay for their Summer Ball tickets to secure a place. This is a fantastic event to celebrate their time in Rivers Sixth Form.

UCAS Finance - The deadline for the new university students to apply for funding from Student Finance England is 17th May 2024.

Thank you to those who remember their lanyards every day, there are still a few who are forgetting. Please speak to Mrs Penberthy if you need a new one.

As the weather is improving, we want our students to feel comfortable, but you need to be dressed appropriately following the dress code policy.

Have a lovely weekend.

Contact: mwilkins@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.



Rivers Academy Shop

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.

Absence Reporting

Students should attend school unless they are very unwell. On every day of absence please contact the school with the reason why your son/daughter is not attending. Please contact us as early as possible and at the latest by 8am on the first day of absence. This can be via the following methods:

MyEd Messaging App

ConnectED absence line: 0845 355 8104

Attendance line: 01621 787855

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.



Join us to launch Beat the Street Maldon District

Day: Wednesday 15 May

Time: 4pm

Venue: Riverside Park (beside the skatepark),
Burnham-on-Crouch,
CM0 8HS



Invitation

to the launch of Beat the Street

You are invited to the launch of Beat the Street Maldon District:
a free, fun game that will get the whole community moving!

There will be a short welcome by Councillor Kevin Lagan, Chairman of Maldon District Council, along with an introduction on how to play.

We'll also be holding a warm-up, and then a led walk around some of the nearby Beat Boxes to demonstrate the game. Don't forget your card!



Scavenger Hunt

Head off for a scavenger hunt around Promenade Park. Use your senses to explore and then join us to decorate your own medal. Free event! Perfect for families.



Tuesday 28th May
10am - 12pm



Promenade Park - between the Amphitheatre and Maldon Museum in the Park.

Come along anytime between 10am - 12pm

Justine@maldoncvcs.org.uk

01621 851891





Scavenger Hunt

Head off for a scavenger hunt around Riverside Park. Use your senses to explore and then join us to decorate your own medal. Free event! Perfect for families.



Wednesday 29th May
10am - 12pm



Riverside Park - opposite the sports centre.

Come along anytime between 10am - 12pm

Justine@maldoncvcs.org.uk

01621 851891





Sunflower Trail

Come and join our Sunflower Trail. Find out some sunflower facts. Plant your own sunflower. Free event! Perfect for families.



Tuesday 28th May
1.30pm - 3.30pm



On the field at Plantation Hall

Come along anytime between 1.30pm and 3.30pm

Justine@maldoncvcs.org.uk

01621 851891

