

Message from the Principal

It has been another busy week at Rivers. It was National Thank a Teacher day on Wednesday and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every teacher and member of staff here at Rivers for the dedication and hard work they put into teaching, nurturing and supporting our students. If you would like to do the same, please do drop an email to any member of staff and share your appreciation.

Please note that blazers will be optional for students next week as the weather gets warmer. This will be reviewed over the coming weeks and communicated to you via the newsletter. Students should make sure that they bring their catering card, planners and equipment for learning to school along with a water bottle to keep them hydrated during the warmer weather.

As Parents & Carers will be aware, we are focusing on making sure that our students are properly equipped, ready to learn and on time when attending their lessons. This allows teachers to provide uninterrupted quality lessons and our students to focus on their learning and get the most out of every lesson.

To that end, we have put in place break and lunchtime department detentions as a sanction for the following breaches of our Behaviour Policy:

- **Any student that is late to lesson (after the 5 minute transfer time)**
- **Students without appropriate equipment/sports kit**
- **Students who do not complete an appropriate amount of work during a lesson**

Please can we ask that you check your child's Go4Schools account regularly so that you are aware if your child has been issued a departmental detention. Your support with this addition to our behaviour system is greatly appreciated.

Richard Dolding, our OAT Education Director, visited the academy this week and was pleased with the progress the school is making. He shared with me the Trust's plans and support being put in place for the development of the academy over the next year and I look forward to working with him on these over the coming months.

On Monday, our Sixth Form Sports Leaders and some Year 10 sports students attended the St Marys Primary School Sports Day where they worked with the youngest children assisting with various activities.

On Tuesday, a group of Rivers students represented the academy at the 2024 District Sports which took place at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre.

Continued on page 2....

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 26 June 2024

Year 11 Prom

Friday 28 June 2024

ORA Sports Day

Monday 8 July to Friday 12 July 2024

Year 12 Work Experience

Monday 15 July to Friday 19 July 2024

Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 24 July 2024

Last day of Summer Term
(Academy closes at 1.50 pm)

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

On Wednesday, a group of our Year 7 students attended the Big Bang Fair which took place at the NEC Birmingham Arena. The Big Bang Fair is the UK's biggest celebration of STEM for young people, inspiring the next generation with hands-on activities, experiments and workshops.

On Friday a group of our Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students will be heading off for an expedition walking from Southminster to the Essex Outdoors Activity Centre in Bradwell where they will be camping overnight. The students will then be walking back to Southminster the next day following the routes they have planned in DofE club. We wish them luck and fair weather.

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

Jo Williams, Principal



National Thank a Teacher Day

This year's National Thank a Teacher Day took place on 19 June 2024. It's a special day dedicated to celebrating and appreciating the incredible work of teachers, support staff, and educational professionals across the country.

The National Thank a Teacher campaign is all about recognising the hard work and dedication of every single member of staff in early years, schools, and colleges across the UK. This is a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the significant

impact the education community has in shaping the minds and futures of children and young people.

All of our students were given the opportunity to write a thank you card for their teachers but if you or your child would like to send an e-card to any of our teachers or support staff, please click on the link below:

[Thank a Teacher Form - Thank a Teacher](#)



with the Principal

On Friday the following Year 12 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:

Poppy N (12SF1)
Amelia W (12SF1)

Charlie W (12SF2)
Abi W (12SF2)

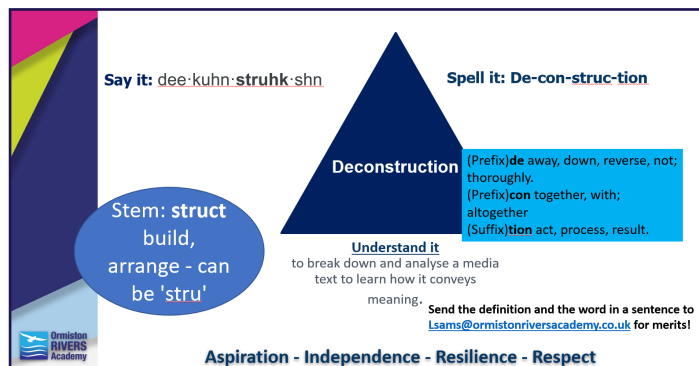
Dani R (12SF3)
Calum D (12SF3)

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 **"Deconstruction"**.

Why not have a go?



Say it: dee:kuhn:struk:shn

Spell it: De-con-struct-ion

Deconstruction (Prefix)de away, down, reverse, not; thoroughly. (Prefix)con together, with; altogether (Suffix)tion act, process, result.

Stem: struct build, arrange - can be 'stru'

Understand it to break down and analyse a media text to learn how it conveys meaning.

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

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect



Congratulations to Zahra in 7Z1 who has been awarded a Library Badge for completing an excellent book review. Well done Zahra!



The Performing Arts Team would like to recognise and celebrate the fantastic work that happens in the department each week. The shout out this week goes to:

All of the fantastic students that auditioned for our whole school show at Christmas. All students were brilliant and the standard this year for singing and acting was extremely high. It was wonderful to see so many Key Stage 3 students involved also. Well done to all!

There will be a meeting on Thursday 5th September 3.20-4.20pm to find out parts and songs, along with sharing the rehearsal schedule.

All students that auditioned will be included in the show. Thank you to parents for your support.

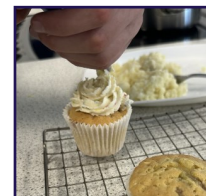
Food Tech Stars Of The Week

Our Food Tech Team would like to shout out to:

Alisha Y10 for a fantastic effort with her practice Hospitality and Catering coursework and sustained hard work throughout - demonstrating fantastic aspiration and resilience!

Kaitlin Y8 for regular attendance and a fantastic effort at Cookery Cub this week, making cupcakes and icing from scratch, practicing piping first (with mashed potato!) and icing them in order to present Mr Simpson with his very own birthday cupcake!

All the Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students for (finally!) sitting their written exam which was days after most of their friends had finished GCSEs and remaining calm, collected and confident! Well done!



THE BIG BANG FAIR 2024

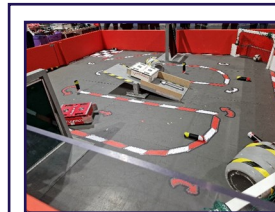
On Wednesday 44 year 7 ORA students went to the NEC Birmingham for the Big Bang STEM event.

The trip was to inspire students to believe that they if they try, they can achieve anything!

Students were able to discover some of the exciting possibilities and connect to inspiring role models in STEM at the Big Bang. Future young inventors and experimenters, game-changers and lifesavers all have the opportunity to see what these possibilities look like. The Big Bang showcased surprising ways to build a brighter, greener world and students were able to take part in many interactive activities which they thoroughly enjoyed such as:



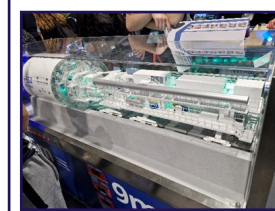
BBC- Students reporting and then seeing themselves as BBC Broadcasters to see the engineering behind broadcasting



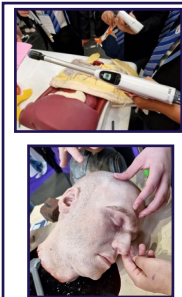
Robot wars - students loved this!



EasyJet Flight Zone - Paper Plane Throw Down



Rolls Royce PLC - Everyday skills of nuclear scientists and engineers



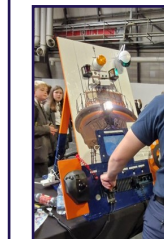
Johnson and Johnson - looking at joint replacements and how surgeons do keyhole surgery on intestines



Lego, VR headsets, Building structures and lots more.



Designing a pattern using Scratch and then watching a sewing machine produce it on material



Build a valve and quiz

Supercomputing & Science



Mobile Planetarium

Maths in Action



Codes4Drones - Controlling drones through obstacles

Young Writer's Rotary Competition

Alisha in 10Z1 has been announced as the 2024 winner of the Young Writer's National Rotary Competition.

Alisha's poem, 'Do I make a Pretty Boy?' has won each stage of the competition, first at school level, district and now national!

We would like to congratulate Alisha on this huge achievement!



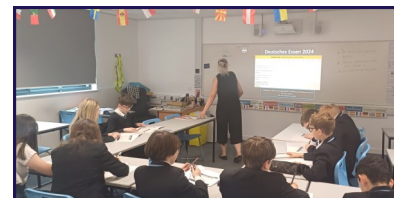
Alisha receiving her district prize from Mr Harris, the Burnham Rotary President

ORA German Club

The ORA German Club is for Year 7 & 8 students on Tuesday after school to learn about the German culture and language. We now have 12 students attending so a big thank you to form tutors for promoting the club to students in form time!

The club is open to all students in Year 7 & 8 so please come along and join in!

Ms Dennis



Crochet and Knitting Club

A Crochet & Knitting Club for Year 7 students will start every Friday lunchtime in D05.

Mrs Proctor will be assisted by Mia L, Lacey H and Millie J who are all really passionate about their craft and will welcome students to the club, advise on what equipment they will need to bring and share their ideas for crochet and knitting projects.



We look forward to seeing lots of keen Year 7 crafters on Friday!

Mrs Proctor


Join the Adventure at Science Club!


Next Week: Chasing the Elements!


 **Calling all aspiring scientists, curious minds, and daring adventurers!** 


Scenario Alert: Disaster has struck! Poor Mr. Williams has accidentally dropped Miss Welham's prized collection of elements all over the lab floor. Chaos reigns, and he desperately needs YOUR help to save the day before Miss Welham finds out!  


Are you up for the challenge? Do you have what it takes to:

 Hunt down the elusive elements

 Solve intricate puzzles to identify each one

 Learn fascinating facts about the building blocks of our universe

 **When:** Next Tuesday (June 25), after school

 **Where:** S09 - The Science Lab


 **Time:** 3:20 PM - 4:20 PM

This is your chance to:

- Work as a team
- Show off your science smarts
- Have loads of fun while learning

Join us for a thrilling, hands-on experience that will make you feel like a real-life scientist!

 **Science Club: Where Curiosity Meets Adventure!** 

***P.S.** There might just be a sweet reward for those who successfully restore the collection! *

 **Join Our Exciting New Science Club Series:** 

Science Personalities!

Get ready for an adventure in science like never before!

Starting Tuesday, July 2, 2024, the Science Club presents a thrilling new series:

1. **Experiment with a Chemist** - You'll love the reaction!
2. **Explore with a Physicist** - You'll love the energy!
3. **Dissect with a Biologist** - You'll love the insight!


Each session will feature:

- **Fascinating stories** from our scientists about their journey and passion for their field.
- **Hands-on experiments** that will spark your curiosity and excitement.

Don't miss out! This is a unique opportunity to dive into the world of science with experts guiding the way.

Sign Up Now! Spaces are limited, so be sure to register in advance.

 **When:** Every Tuesday from 3:20 to 4:20 PM

 **Where:** Room S09

 **Start Date:** July 2, 2023

Secure your spot today!

Sign up with using link below or by scanning the QR Code

<https://forms.office.com/e/J379saFEjh>

Let's make science fun and unforgettable together!



District Sports 2024

On Tuesday our PE Department and Year 12 Sports Leaders, travelled with over 60 students to Chelmsford Athletics Centre for District Sports Day. We would like to say a massive well done and thank you to all students who were selected to represent the school. They had an amazing attitude and put in maximum efforts for the events, so thank you.

Also, a massive thank you to the Year 11 students who agreed to come back and join us on the trip. The sports leaders also took on an extra responsibility as they helped lead the Discus event with Mr Field.

The team had some amazing results and achievements with 30 students placing between 1st - 8th in the final of their event. Below we have highlighted some of our achievements:

Year 7 Girls

100m - Gracie W - 3rd
High Jump - Gracie W - 3rd
Shotput - Em J-G - 4th

Year 8 Girls

800m - Lorna L - 3rd
Discus - Elsie W - 3rd

Year 9 Girls

200m - Madison P - 3rd
Javelin - Madison P - 1st
Shotput - Daisy S - 6th

Year 10 Girls

Discus - Olivia H - 2nd
200m - Ella S - 4th

Year 7 Boys

100m - Sonny F - 5th
Discus - Kasey R - 6th

Year 8 Boys

Discus - Mason L - 4th
High Jump - Flynn B - 7th

Year 9 Boys

1500m - Max C - 4th

Year 10 Boys

Long Jump - George J - 5th
Javelin - Jordan B - 5th



Thank you too all students, parents and carers who came to support, it is greatly appreciated.

Miss Blogg, Mrs Dos Santos, Mr Moon, Mr Field, Mr Marklew and Mr Jones.



RA Sports Day - Friday 28th June 2024

Our annual sports day will be held on Friday 28th of June. The day will provide opportunities for students to take part in athletic events as well as alternative activities such as netball, cricket and cornhole.

Students have been asked to arrive to school in their PE kits on the day. As ever, we do ask that students only wear Ormiston branded kit. The one exception on this day, is that students are allowed to wear a coloured top to match their house colour (short or cropped tops are not permitted). This would be green for Amazon, blue for Danube, red for Mekong and yellow for Zambezi. Please don't worry if they don't have anything, we will provide a coloured bib for students to wear when they are competing in their events.



Team selection for the day will be completed during assembly time next week. All students will have an activity to take part in at some point. At other times, they will be watching and supporting, or taking part in further activities.

Whilst it's too soon to know what the weather might be like, if it is a warm day, we highly recommend students wear sun cream and even bring a hat on the day. Plenty of drinks are also recommended.

Sadly, parents are not allowed on site to watch.

We wish everyone the best of luck and we are looking forward to an enjoyable day!

The PE Department

Sports Leaders

A massive thank you to the Sports Leaders who have been very busy this week helping out with sports days at St Marys and Burnham on Crouch primary school as well as helping out with District Sports.

We are very proud of how our sports leaders are developing. They are really making their presence known around the community.

Many thanks for your hard work!

The PE Department

Year 7 - Mr Shanahan

Another week has been and gone at ORA for our Year 7s and this week and students went to their relevant house assembly to hear about upcoming events and the importance of being associated with a house in school.

Students were allowed to bring footballs in this week to play at break and lunchtime in the safe areas we have here at school. They were reminded that any incidents of foul play or behaviour that could injure a fellow peer would not be tolerated and another ban would come into place, should this message be ignored. Your support in reinforcing this would be greatly appreciated.

An email has been sent to parents/carers about the cinema celebration trip and this can be paid for via parent pay. We have had a good number sign up so far and we look forward to the trip on Thursday 18th July.

Well done to the following students who achieved the most amount of positive behaviour points this week at ORA; Ingrid B 7D2, Sophia S 7D2, Megan R 7D2, Brianna B 7D2 (Well done 7D2 top four this week), Seeley E-D 7Z2, George R 7D2, April F 7A2, Riley N 7M2, Jamie T 7M2, Ryan S 7A2, Grace A 7A1, Lila N 7A1, Georgia R 7M2, Elacy-Raye R 7A1 and Reuben B 7A1.

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

Contact: pshanahan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 8 - Miss Thurtle

Year 8 have had an exceptional week and uniform standards have raised considerably.

Students have been in House assemblies this week in preparation for Sports Day and in forms, deciding who will be representing each event for the year group.

I would like to thank the students who wrote me a card for Thank a Teacher Day. I felt genuinely moved and will cherish them dearly.

Well done to Oliver P and Mason K from 8Z2, who both exceeded 200 merits before Wednesday!

Contact: cthurtle@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



This week, Year 8 took place in a First Give Workshop, warming up for the finals next Thursday. These student groups, with some amazing charities, got top marks in their classes voted by their peers:

The Young Minds

Save Maldon Medical Services

Cancer research

Farleigh Hospice

Trussell Trust

Trust Links

MacMillan

Soccer Aid



First Give supports students to learn about social issues in their community and donates £1,000 to the winning group for their charity. Good luck for the final next Thursday!

Year 9 – Ms Taylor

Year 9 this week have been looking at mind maps as a study skill. It is hoped that they will try a range of revision strategies for their end of year exams. Another Year 9 group have embarked on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition today and I wish them every success and look forward to congratulating them on their achievement.

Some Year 9s will be supporting with the upcoming Year 6 induction days and I am hugely proud of the contribution they will be making to our newest additions, and hope that they enjoy this leadership experience.

There have been some outstanding achievements for merits this week. In particular, Alex J - 9M1 who has achieved the most merits in the whole school this week.

A special mention also to Karsten M - 9A2, Amelia T - 9A2, Meade M - 9A2, Sol P - 9M2, Lillie W - 9M1 and Bobby A - 9A2 for their superb week.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 10 – Mr Field

At the start of the week it was pleasing to see many Year 10 students competing in the District Athletics event in Chelmsford. The performances from the year group were superb including Jordan in Javelin, George in High jump and Ella in the 200m. Well done to all who competed!

During my lesson walks this week it was great to see so many students working hard and focusing on their work. In Maths, Robert & Ethan explained linear scales to me very well. In English, Vikram, Amy, Leela & Alisha all gave me clear and informative explanations on the evidence of Scrooge and his redemption in The Christmas Carol.

Top positive points this week are:

Annie, Sofia, Tommy, Holly, Alisha, Amelia, Oscar, Chloe, Olivia, Ella, Josh, Harry.

Please see me on Monday for your jump the queue pass.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

RIVERS SIXTH FORM



Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

We have now finished interviewing for the new Sixth Form Leadership Team. The team will be made up of a group of Sixth Form students who will be a fundamental part of developing Student Voice and bringing about positive change within the Academy. Each student went through a rigorous interview process and those chosen will work with the Sixth Form Team to represent and improve the school. We will be announcing the new team week commencing 1st July – Good luck!

As the weather is warming up, please remember to follow the dress code policy. Sixth Form students are role models for the school therefore they need to lead by example.

Year 12 PPE's will start on Monday, please make sure you have your timetable and know where you need to be. Remember, PPE's are to help students to understand and get used to the procedures, rules and expectations of external examinations. The results will also act as a guide to support 'predicted grades' which we will be able to use for UCAS applications and other forms of references.

Sports Day will be on Friday 28th June and although we still have 3 PPE exams on this day we would like the Sixth Form students to be involved in rounders, tug of war and the relay races P5 – more information to follow.

We are incredibly proud of our Sports Leadership students for helping with the local primary school sports day. We have received excellent feedback on their professionalism and leadership skills.

Sixth Form Induction Day will be taking place on Tuesday 9th July. Letters have been sent out and we look forward to welcoming back the Year 11 students to experience taster lessons, meeting the tutors and having their professional photos taken for their lanyards.

Finally, Congratulations to Year 12 student Anna who has been promoted to Flight Sergeant and Nicole who has been promoted to Sergeant in Cadets.

Contact: mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk





Catering



Menu

We have pleasure in 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.

Nut Allergies

Any form of nut or products that contain nuts should not be brought into school. We do have students with severe nut allergies, which can be life threatening, and we would appreciate your support in keeping them safe.

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.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Dear Parent & Carers,

Do you have any old/spare/ grown out of waterproof jackets or trousers that we can have for spare equipment for our DofE expeditions?

All sizes welcome. These items are really useful for Bronze to Gold level.

If you do please send/bring them in to me at school.

Thank you!

Mrs Coulson DofE Lead

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.

Term dates can be found on the academy website:

[Ormiston Rivers Academy - Term Dates](#)



ACL

COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING

**FREE! ONLINE
COURSES**



- Starting School & Nursery
- Getting Your Children School Ready
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- Sibling Rivalry
- Surviving The Summer For Parents
- The Teen Brain
- Understanding Children's Anxieties
- Understanding Neurodiverse Children
- Zones of Regulation



call our friendly team on
03330 321 017



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gov.uk**

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