

Message from the Principal

I am pleased to announce that next half term we are launching a new Student Achievement Tracker reward so that we can celebrate those students who demonstrate our school values and meet our high expectations. This will focus on rewarding attendance to school, positive behaviour and punctuality to lessons. Each student can build up their score in each category during the term. Students will then



achieve a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze standard in recognition of their efforts with Platinum winners being entered into a Prize draw at the end of the term.

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

Our annual Year 13 Leavers Celebration took place on Friday with an awards assembly, buffet lunch and comedy awards. We wish our Year 13 students the best of luck with the rest of their exams, hope they enjoy a fantastic summer and send our best wishes for whatever exciting path the future holds for them!

Please be assured that the staff at Rivers continue to be on hand to support our Year 11 and Year 13 students with anything that they need during the exam season.

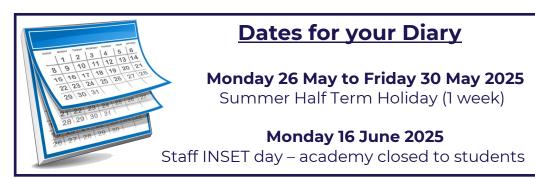
We held our second Online Parents Forum on Thursday to highlight the importance of attendance to school and the impact that low attendance can have on student outcomes. You can view the recorded video here: <u>Ormiston Rivers Academy - YouTube</u>.

As always, our PE department have been busy arranging various sporting fixtures for our students. On Tuesday this week Year 7 had a cricket fixture against Plume Academy and on Wednesday Year 9 had a cricket fixture against Anglo European School.

During half term, our MFL Department are accompanying a group of our Year 8 & 9 students who are studying Modern Foreign Languages on a trip to Paris. Students will be taking part in the Paris Adventure Trail, taking in some of the iconic Paris sights; Bateaux Mouches Seine River cruise; Tour of Montparnasse; Tour of Stade de France and spending a day in Disneyland. I want to say a huge thank you to the Rivers staff and volunteers who are giving up their half term holiday to accompany our students on this fantastic trip: Mrs Compton, Mr Madajczyk, Miss Welham, Mr Compton and Miss Bethell.

I wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to seeing our students on their return on Monday 2nd June for the second half of the Summer Term.

Jo Williams, Principal





super 6

Health & Social Care Super Six sessions are running every Monday from 3:20 to 4:20 in D05 with Mrs Procter.







Free Careers Online Webinars

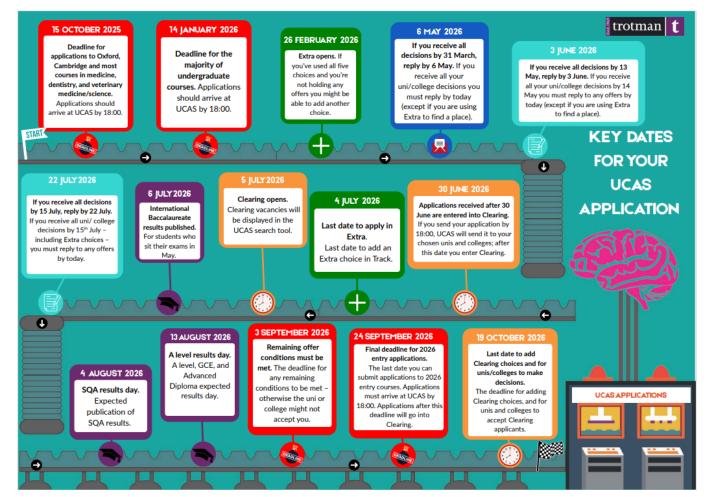
<u>Career Webinars - Summer 2025 by Dale Willis - Founder - My Great First Job CIC - |</u> <u>Eventbrite</u>

Webinars are back for the Summer!

We've got 4 free webinars coming up for you and your students

3rd June - How To Find Great Work Experience Opportunities
10th June - Degree Apprenticeships
25th June - Personal Branding
9th July - LinkedIn For Students

Year 12 Students looking to apply for University in Year 13, here are some key dates to keep in mind.



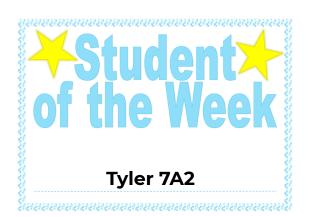


Year 7 - Mr Moon

What an eventful week we have had lots of things happening this week from our first cricket fixture, to our assembly today on bullying and looking at our CARE value of Respect.

Miss Byford's Students of the week are:





Attendance for year 7 is currently sitting at 94%, which is again an improvement. The tutor group with the best attendance this week is 7A1 with 96%. Well-done again to Mr Chapman's group.

Top merit earners this week are Lexi and Daniel 7A2 with 220 merits, Harlie 7Z1 with 210 merits and Zac 7A2 with 190 merits. Great work from everyone this week and so many merits to show for it!

Contacting school: Please contact form tutors in the first instance. If your do not get a response from the tutor, please then contact me in the second instance. This ensures that your query can be dealt with quickly and efficiently. When e-mailing the school, could you also please copy in Miss Byford so we are kept in the loop.

Uniform: Please make sure you're wearing the correct uniform each day. Check the school's guidelines if you're unsure about the details.

Mobile Phones: Phones should be off and out of sight during school hours. If you need to contact a parent or guardian, please ask at student reception.

CARE Cards: Parents, please ask your children if they have received any CARE cards. This is an achievement and it would be wonderful for students to share this with their family.

I hope you all have a restful bank holiday weekend and I look forward to seeing you all after the half term holiday.

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 8 - Ms Scott

Dear Year 8 Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of a short but busy term, it's been a great end of term as this week has been full of positive moments and student success in Year 8.

On Tuesday we held our termly Rewards Breakfast to recognise those students who have gone above and beyond—showing politeness, helping out with line-up, and consistently demonstrating outstanding behaviour. It was a lovely way to start the day and show our appreciation.



We also held a powerful Anti-Bullying Assembly, led by Miss Corbett. The session was both engaging and thought-provoking, helping students reflect on their behaviour, the impact of their words, and how to be an upstander in our school community.

We were thrilled to announce in assembly that Year 8 has achieved over 500,000 positive points — the highest of any year group! This is a huge testament to your efforts, and we're incredibly proud.



Our Heroes of the Week were celebrated too:

Will A (8D2) for most improved positive behaviour.

Leo F (8A2) for positive behaviour and excellent progress in English.

We also want to say a huge congratulations to the students who were

successful in auditioning for the Shakespeare production—we can't wait to support you and see the performance next term!

Finally, we're looking forward to the upcoming Stubbers reward trip—a fantastic opportunity to celebrate your hard work this term.



A huge well done to the most positive students in the year group this term:

James B	Lexi J-D	Sophia S	Charlie S	George R
Katelynn C	Olly S	Izabelle Q	Sam A	Liam H

Let's keep up the momentum, Year 8. You've had a great term so far —keep being brilliant.

Contact: <u>hscott@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</u>



Year 9 – Mr Marklew

As we enter the last week of this half term, I wanted to thank all of those students who continue to show excellence in their work. Their attitude in lessons, effort with homework and politeness have been a credit. They have received over 500,000 positive rewards points as a year group this year - a huge total - representing so many occasions when teachers have rewarded them for going above their expectations in lesson.

Our assembly this week focused on the work of the Anti-bullying Alliance. Their focus for this month was on "Power for Good". How their actions and being good would be contagious. How those acts of goodness can make them feel better about themselves and help others. We have to support each other as a year group.

I want to wish those students on the French trip a fantastic week away. As I mentioned last week, these trips and events create so many fond memories for our students. I also have some spaces left on the Thorpe Park trip - a reward trip for being successful in Year 9. If you wish to attend please let Mr Jones or I know so that we can fill this trip!

And finally I want to say well done to one of our students in particular - Erin. Erin attended the Essex Police Conference today at Colchester United Football Stadium, as part of her work with the Young Essex Assembly - a fantastic student voice initiative. It was hosted by Lucy Morris, Assistant Chief Constable for Crime and Public Protection and Criminal Justice. Erin took part in workshops about policing in the community how the police could become more trusted by young people. These career driven opportunities are great to hear about really setting out to be ambitious and giving back to the local community. Well done Erin.

If you have any news or nominations for mentions, please let me know as we need to encourage our Year 9s to be proud and celebrate success together.

Contact: dmarklew@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk





Year 10 – Ms Taylor

This week year 10 have had an assembly on mental health as part of World Mental Health Week. I have seen some excellent work in Business Studies and Science this week.

The year group have also been shown a new document we will be using to track their achievements and positive aspects of their school life to achieve awards - bronze, silver, platinum and gold. I hope they will use this as a mechanism to achieve as many positive conduct points as possible.

A shout out to Max C (D1) and Madison P (M1) for their success at the Mid Essex Athletics Trials. Max broke the year 10 1500m record with a sensational time of 4 minutes 20 seconds and Madison set a new Year 10 javelin record, throwing 27.34 metres.

The top merit achievers this week are:



On Wednesday, we also enjoyed breakfast with the students who were voted most helpful by their tutors. Congratulations to:

Tylor E, Kayden D, Tom N (D1) Elsa L, Madison P, Ash H (M1) Paris H, Holly B, Luke W (Z1) Callum G, Chloe G, Eleanor G (A1) Karsten M, Ben S, Tobi B (A2) Alana L, Kyle S, Bella W (M2) Alfie L, Maisie B, Avril H (Z2)

A reminder that the first set of mocks are coming up at the end of June.

Wishing you all a restful half term.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 11 - Mr Field

The year group has had two weeks of exams and are now halfway through. The students have faced the experience head on with focus and determination on both revision and to sitting the exams. Whilst it is a stressful time, the students have not shied away from the experience. The stories I hear from students about their revision and the chat after each exam is extremely positive.

Apologies for sounding like a broken record but over the half term break I hope the students get plenty of sleep to recharge their batteries, exercise to clear the mind and relax to help them with the last block of revision before their last two weeks of school.

Something for the students to focus on is they will have a long summer with no school or worries about homework, revision or exams!

On Tuesday we held our last rewards breakfast for students. It was great to see the students being rewarded for their hard work and focus in school. All students enjoyed their pancakes and delicious fruit. Well done to everyone who has attended a rewards breakfast this academic year.





Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

This is our last week in the Sixth Form with our Year 13 students and it has been a busy one. We have had exams, Year 13 social media takeover, Sixth Form Leadership Team handovers and the Year 13 Leavers Celebration.

We are very proud of how much the Year 13's have achieved and contributed to the Sixth Form community and look forward to celebrating with them at the Summer Ball.

Sixth Form Student Leadership Team 2025-2026

We were blown away by the incredible candidates who interviewed for our new leadership team. Each student spoke with passion, maturity, and a genuine commitment to making a positive impact on our school community. Their ideas were



inspiring, their leadership potential clear - they all made the decision extremely tough. A huge thank you to everyone who applied, you should be so proud of yourselves. We're excited for the next chapter and can't wait for the new team to begin their roles.

Here is the new team and their responsibilities:

Teaching & Learning	Social Media	Wellbeing	E&D KGO	Community & Enrichment	Environment Study Area AMA
Lead: Theo J	Lead: Hannae	Lead: Evie D	Lead: George H	Lead: Dan P	Lead: Stanley A
Deputy: Jamie H		Deputy: Daisy C	Deputy: Tegan S	Deputy: Finley A	Deputy: Marli W
YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 7

Study Leave

Year 13 students will begin their study leave on Monday 2nd June. Students studying vocational subjects will be required to attend Sixth Form as normal until they are signed off by their teacher and Mrs Wilkins.

Careers

If any Year13 students would like a careers appointment or support for the final few months, please speak to Mrs Penberthy to arrange this.

WEX - Year 12

Work Experience deadline is fast approaching. Please speak to the Sixth Form Team if you need any support.



Sixth Form in the Community

Year 13 Anna is rowing across the Atlantic Ocean in December to inspire the next generation, whilst raising money for Teenage Cancer Trust. Her team are hosting an event outside the White Hart Hotel and the Anchor in Burnham on Crouch on Saturday 31st May to celebrate the campaign and show off the boat.



Dress Code

As the weather is starting to warm up, can we please be mindful and follow the correct

uniform policy. Please see Mrs Wilkins or Mrs Penberthy if you are unsure but following a first warning, students will be sent to the reflection room or expected to go home to change and then return to lessons.

Exams/Study

Mrs Penberthy will continue to host an optional revision session in the Sixth Form area titled "Pemboodle's Revision". She provided snacks and light background music to create a warm and inviting environment. This session will run every Wednesday 3:20 - 4:20pm.

Tutor Sessions

A reminder that you need to attend all mandatory tutor sessions

- Monday Yr 12 Assembly
- Wednesday Yr 12 Skills
- Friday Yr 12 Careers

Please make sure you are all checking your emails daily and attend your academic tutoring session on time. These 1:1 sessions are aimed at helping students develop critical thinking and independent learning skills and ultimately improve confidence. As discussed with Year 12's, we are focussing on their future careers, and Academic Tutoring can help students identify and achieve career goals and improve professional relationships.

Housekeeping

We are noticing a few lanyards not being worn again. This is a requirement of a Sixth Form student.

We understand that this time of year is very stressful, and students may start feeling the pressure of exams. Please do speak to Mrs Penberthy or Mrs Wilkins if you have any concerns.

Contact: <u>mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</u>



Menu

We have pleasure of enclosing a link to next weeks <u>menu</u>. 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 <u>lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</u> 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 <u>lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</u> or Angela Mahoney, Finance & Business Director <u>amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</u>.



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 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 <u>KS3 order form</u> and the <u>KS4 order form</u> here; these are also available on our website www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk. Please contact finance on 01621 787845 if you have any queries.



Red Nose Day 2025 - 21st March

We are now selling red noses in the Academy Shop. They are £1, all monies received will be sent to the charity. Please help us raise as much as we can.



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.

Lost Property

We have several items in lost property, mainly coats, PE kits, blazers and drinking bottles. Any student can check in Student Reception for lost items. Please note that items not collected before the end of each half-term may be donated to charity or disposed of accordingly, therefore, please remind your children to check for anything they have misplaced before this time. Thank you.





Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools after 19th August 2024.

Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including the U code (late after registers have closed).

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Second Offence

(within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.



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