

Message from the Principal

It's been another busy week at Rivers, starting with two very warm days during which our students demonstrated great resilience. Please can you remind your child that whilst allowances were made on those extremely warm days, all students should be wearing a tie to school unless advised otherwise. The wearing of blazers will remain optional until the end of term.

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

On Wednesday evening I had the pleasure of attending the annual Year 11 Prom at Hyland House. It was so lovely to see our students again looking so smart and happy and the event was a great success. We wish them all the best in the next exciting chapter of their lives whether that be returning to join our Rivers Sixth Form or moving on somewhere new and look forward to seeing them when they come in to collect their GCSF results.

On the sporting front, on Tuesday our Year 8 boys cricket team played in a home fixture against The Beaulieu Park School and on Wednesday our Year 7 girls Rounders team played in an away fixture against St John Payne School.

Ahead of the trial week to get students used to the new focus pouch system starting on 14th July 2025, our third Parents Online Forum taking place at 5pm on Thursday 10th July will focus on our new Mobile Device Management Policy. Please do join us to ask any questions you may have about the new system by clicking here: Ormiston Rivers Academy - YouTube. A copy of the Mobile Device Management Policy can be found here: ORA-Mobile-Device-Management-Policy-June-2025.pdf

Finally, I would like to inform parents & carers that, due to budget constraints, unfortunately the late bus service will no longer be running from September. Therefore, following our return to school after the summer holidays, if your child takes part in an after-school club or activity, alternative arrangements will need to be made for their journey home. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

I wish you all a lovely warm and sunny weekend and look forward to seeing our students on their return on Monday.

Jo Williams, Principal



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 10th July 2025 @ 5pm

Online Parents Forum 3

Click here to join: Ormiston Rivers Academy - YouTube

Wednesday 16, Thursday 17, Friday 18 July 2025 @ 7pm

ORA Gym & Dance Show



Monday 21 - Friday 25 July 2025

Year 10 Work Experience

Tuesday 22 July 2025

Year 7, 8 & 9 Trips/Activities Day

Wednesday 23 July 2025

Academy Sports Day

Thursday 24 July 2025

End of Summer term (academy closes at 1.50pm)

ce Lolles with the Principal

On Friday 4th July, the following Year 10 students, who had been nominated by their Head of Year and Tutors, were invited to have ice lollies with the Principal to celebrate their outstanding demonstration of the academy's CARE values..

Alex W (10Z1) Samuel H (10Z1) Cooper P (10A2) Meade M (10A2) Sol P (10M2) Max H (10M2)

Tom N (10D1) Evan M (10D1) Isobel S (10Z2) Chloe D (10Z2)

Year 10 Further Maths

This week, 27 of our most talented mathematicians in year 10 started studying for their extra GCSE in Further Maths. This will see them explore branches of algebra, calculus, and co-ordinate geometry that they would not normally come across at GCSE and will support their transition to A Level Maths. The buzz in the room was incredible and it was amazing to see them getting stuck into some really difficult maths and not being afraid to struggle and ask questions.



I can't wait to see what they can achieve and am immensely proud of them for choosing to further their mathematical knowledge.







Weekly Newsletter Issue # 36 - 4th July 202<u>5</u>

SIGN UP TODAY

TO JAMIE OLIVER'S RECORD BREAKING

COOKERY CLASS!

AS PART OF THE GUINNESS WORLD

OFFICIAL



Jamie's Pasta Champions!

35 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 took part in a Guiness World Record Attempt for the largest cooking lesson across multiple venues on Tuesday.

It was challenging on such a hot day but our students did themselves and us proud by mixing, kneading and hand shaping their lovely fresh pasta into pici (pronounced pee-chee) and gnochetti (knock-etti) shapes, which looked really professional!

They then chopped fresh tomatoes, garlic and grated parmesan to make a lovely fresh "no cook" sauce under the instruction and guidance of Jamie Oliver and his team at the Jamie Oliver Cookery School, before cooking the pasta, combining and serving their dishes.

This was a really great experience particularly as Year 9 have been learning how to make fresh pasta and sauces in food this year. They especially enjoyed getting to sit down and tuck into their dish afterwards!

Thank you to everyone who made it happen and took part in particular Mrs Etherton for leading the organisation, Ms Slade and Mr Argent for acting as Stewards for each room and to Mr Crawford for providing technical support to ensure we could see and hear what we needed to do!

We will hear in due course if the record has been broken, so watch this space for news! Mrs Hyde and Mrs Etherton

























Young Chef's club have been busy again for the last couple of weeks working on their cookery and presentation skills. We have been lucky enough to have Ken Smith from the Rotary Club visit the club to support and encourage students for the last few weeks and he has been impressed at their progress and ability. Last week they made profiteroles which was quite technical but they all rose to the challenge and even stayed a little longer to ensure they were filled and decorated tastefully.

This week our Young Chef's were able to show their own skill and creativity with something of their choice. We had a range of dishes made including cheese scones, cheese and marmite straws, lemon and blueberry muffins, duffins (a cross between doughnuts and a muffin) churros, millionaires shortbread and tiffin! Most were able to work with a high degree of independence.

I was lucky enough to be offered quite a few tasters and I must say they were all delicious.

Next week we are trying our hand at fresh pasta which will be our last practical session of the academic year.

Well done everyone!









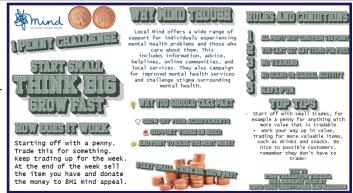
One of the literacy challenges we run weekly is "Word of the Week" where students are invited to use the word in a sentence and submit it in order to receive merit points. The WOTW for next week is "manipulate".

Why not have a go? Send the definition and the word in a sentence to rmay@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Fund-Raising

8M1 are raising money and awareness of the charity Local Mind based in Maldon. They would really like it if people could get involved with their challenge of trying to turn a penny into more than a penny in a week.

Attached is the flyer with the details.







Students - How To Make LinkedIn Work For You... and get your profile sorted.

60 minutes of really practical advice to help you get started on LinkedIn....and have a plan for what you want to achieve.

WEDNESDAY JULY 9TH - 6.30PM - 7.30PM

We will be covering:



What should be in your profile



Tools to help you create a really professional profile



Ideas for things to post



How to make LinkedIn a brilliant Personal Branding tool for you



How to use LinkedIn to find contacts that can help you....and how not to put them off!



How to use LinkedIn to research and plan your first (and next) career move.

Lots of young people don't think about adding LinkedIn to their social platforms.....but you already have the skills to make the platform really work for you. So let's get started! On a recent Degree Apprenticeships ** webinar the advice of all the young degree apprentices was - **Get On LinkedIn!** You'll leave the session knowing how LinkedIn can be a brilliant tool for you, and how to get your profile sorted!

Click the link to book your FREE ticket: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/linkedin-why-students-need-a-linkedin-profile-and-how-to-use-it-tickets-1372161966379?aff=oddtdtcreator

Work Experience Year 12 Monday 7th - Friday 11th July

We wish our Year 12 students a fantastic week out on work experience and look forward to hearing all about your placements when you return





Exams News

Formal exams have now come to an end for this academic year. The exams team would like to thank everyone who supported our students through their exams this year. The students have shown a positive attitude and great respect to all of our staff and we look forward to receiving their results for mock exams by the end of term and for their real exams in August.

Results Days

A-Level and Level 3 courses. Thursday 14th August. Results will be available to collect from the Sixth Form area between 8 am and 11:30 am. Staff will be ready to speak with students about their next steps and assist with the UCAS clearing process if it is needed.

GCSE and Level 2 courses. Thursday 21st August. Results will be available to collect between 9 am and 11:30 am, please enter the school building via the Foyer doors. Support will be available for careers discussions and our Sixth Form team will be ready for students to confirm their places in Sixth Form for next year.

If students are unable to collect their results in person at the times indicated, they may provide a stamped addressed envelope to main reception before we break up for the summer holiday, results will be posted on the dates indicated above. Alternatively students may nominate an adult to collect results on their behalf. They can do this by confirming by email to Exams@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk or by providing a signed letter for their nominated adult to bring with them on results day. Results not collected on the day will be available for collection when the school reopens to students on 2nd September.

Certificates will be ready for collection during December 2025, we will confirm the dates that these will be available in students' results packs. In the meantime, please encourage anyone with uncollected certificates from the last two years to collect them before the end of term to make space in our secure store for this summer's certificates when they start to arrive.

Good Luck to all of our exams students for their results this summer.

Knitting & Crochet Club

Calling all Year 7's. Don't forget that Knitting and Crotchet club runs every Friday lunchtime in D05 with Mrs Procter and Daisy in Year 12 as the club leader. Everyone is welcome!!





Golf - Essex Schools Handicap Championships

On Monday the 30th June, five students attended the County Golf Championships held at Colne Valley Golf Club. The tournament is for players with a handicap between 11 and 36.



A huge congratulations goes to Henry K (left) and Thomas O (right) for winning the U16 and U14 age categories respectively. Henry scored 41 points and Thomas scored 40.

Dan P from Year 12 (centre) also had an incredible day and finished in 3rd place overall while scoring 41 points, just 3 points behind the winner



Special mentions to:

Ryder I and Jack G who also represented the school in this high-level competition.

Finally, a big thank you to the parents who entered and transported the students so they could have this opportunity - we'll look forward to next year!

Year 7 Girls Rounders

On Wednesday 2nd July our Year 7 girls travelled to St John Payne School in Chelmsford for a rounder's tournament against other schools in the district. They played 6 different schools in total and played extremely well against some very tough teams. The girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves and represented the school extremely well. Two of the standout players for the tournament were Emily R 7A2 for her superb batting skills and Rebecca R 7D1 for her all round effort and attitude.







Year 7 - Mr Moon

We've had this week lots of things happening this week from a rounder's competition on Wednesday to our assembly on the new phone policy which will be coming into effect very soon.

Miss Byford's Students of the week



Attendance

Attendance for Year 7 is 93.53%. We haven't got long left in this school year, so please make sure you get into school so that we can achieve our goal of being the best year group.

Top Merit Earners

Top merit earners for the week are Isaac 7a2, Grace 7A2 and Florence 7M2. Well don guys!

Helpful Reminders

Mobile Phones: Please make sure you familiarise yourself with the new mobile phone policy. There are some major changes and you need to be aware of the expectations of both yourself and your chid.

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

Library Books: Remember to return any overdue books and borrow something new to read during the week. The library is open during lunch for you to explore new books!

I hope you all have a restful weekend and look forward to seeing you all on next week.

Many thanks

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 8 - Ms Scott

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a really positive week for Year 8, with lots to celebrate!

We've seen many students being rewarded during our daily line-ups for their consistent effort, positive attitude, and kindness towards others. It's fantastic to see so many of them shining as role models within the year group.

In this week's assembly, we introduced students to our new mobile phone policy, which will be coming into effect soon. We talked them through the new procedure: each student will place their phone into a magnetically locked pouch at the start of the day. They will keep this pouch on their person throughout the school day and unlock it at the end of the day. We believe this change will significantly reduce distractions in lessons and contribute positively to student wellbeing, particularly in terms of limiting screen time and its link to mental health concerns.

In form time, students are fully engaged in the First Give Challenge, a fantastic project that encourages them to explore social issues and compete for a £1,000 donation to a charity of their choice. The ideas so far have been thoughtful and inspiring—I'm incredibly proud of their commitment to making a difference in their communities. I can't wait to see their final presentations!

We also want to give a special shout-out to the following students who have successfully completed their behaviour reports and are now off report. They've worked hard to turn things around and were treated to a well-earned sweet treat this morning:

Harriet O

Tyson K-S

Zahra M

Millie J

Scarlett H



A big congratulations to Ms. Corbett's Heroes of the Week – your dedication and spirit have not gone unnoticed!

Daisy G

Thomas O'B

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to share some personal news: I will be leaving Ormiston Rivers at the end of this year. This has not been an easy decision to make, but one that I feel is right as I take a step closer to my friends and family. It has been a genuine privilege to be part of your children's journey and to watch them grow, develop, and shine. I have every confidence that they will continue to be the wonderful, bright, and thoughtful young leaders they have shown me they can be.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It has meant so much.

Contact: hscott@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 9 - Mr Field

A very hot early start to the week and we are glad it has cooled down in the school.

It was great to see the students working hard in the Jamie Oliver cooking classes early this week with all of them making super pasta dishes. Smells form the kitchens were superb when I looked around.

Well done to both Henry and Ryder when they competed in the Essex Schools Golf competition recently. Both boys finished 2nd and 9th respectively in their age groups. Superb achievement boys.

Top positive points this week were:

Danica, Erin, Brodie, Lily, Mollie, George, Lully, Adele, Daniel, Emily, Isabelle, Evelyn, Scarlett and Grace.

Well done to you and keep working hard!

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 10 – Ms Taylor

This week the students had an assembly on the link between mobile phones and mental health - and the statistics are staggering. This is in preparation for the launch of the new mobile phone policy coming in effect on 14th July. The students listened respectfully. I am sure that many will find it challenging, as mobile phone addiction is recognised - but the payoff in terms of their learning I am sure will be huge. One statistic I found really interesting is that it takes around 20 minutes for a student to regain full concentration after receiving a notification on their phone - even if they do not respond to it. That equates to 1/3 of a lesson. The impact on grades is doubtless - as I am certain that they receive notifications throughout the day. I would like to reassure you that any message you need to get to your child during the day will be passed on by reception and they will be able to use school phones in emergencies.

Year 10 now only have 2 weeks before their work experience. If anyone still needs support, please see me, Ms Makwana or Ms Compton. There are now only a handful of students without placements.

Detentions have been painstakingly unpicked by Ms James this week - so that any escalated during the mock exams have been de-escalated. This should now be reflected on

Go4Schools.

Shout out to the top merit earners this week:

Contact:

staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk





RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

It has been a wonderful warm week in Sixth Form with Year 12 students completing their last week of PPE's. We received excellent feedback from the exams team on how well prepared students were with exemplary behaviour.

Summer Ball 2025

Last Friday we celebrated for the last time with the Year 13 students at their Summer Ball. It was a fantastic evening celebrating an unforgettable group of students. They all looked incredible and absolutely shone from start to finish. We are so proud of everything you've achieved and the people you've become. Wishing you all the best was you step into your next chapter. We can't wait to see you all on Results Day, Thursday 14th August 2025.



Sixth Form in the Community

Today, Sixth Form Leadership Team member, Hannae ran a dance workshop with primary school students. She confidently organised the day in preparation for the schools Gym & Dance Show. Sonny took on the role of Sixth Form tutor for a year 7 student and Evie is tutoring Year 7 students with Mathematics. We are very proud of how our students support the school community.









RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Dress Code

We are working with you all to look at tightening up the uniform. A new dress code with minor changes will be launched on Monday to begin from September 2025. 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. We are noticing a few lanyards not being worn again. This is a requirement of a Sixth Form student.

Careers

If any Year 12 or 13 students would like a careers appointment or support for the final few months, please speak to Mrs Penberthy to arrange this.

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.

WEX - Year 12

Work Experience is week commencing 7^{th} July - Please speak to the Sixth Form Team if you need any support.

Housekeeping

We have noticed a few students taking holidays during term time. Attendance is important to prevent you from falling behind. Research has proven that students with high attendance are more likely to achieve higher grades as well as build good habit for the future. Sixth Form is a community - when you're absent, you miss chances to connect, contribute, and grow with your peers.

Please follow our Instagram account for regular updates @riverssixthform Remember to call Mrs Penberthy to report absences 01621 787882 Contact: mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Weekly Newsletter

Issue # 36 - 4th July 2025



Catering



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 lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk or Angela Mahoney, Finance & Business Director amahoney@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 <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.



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.

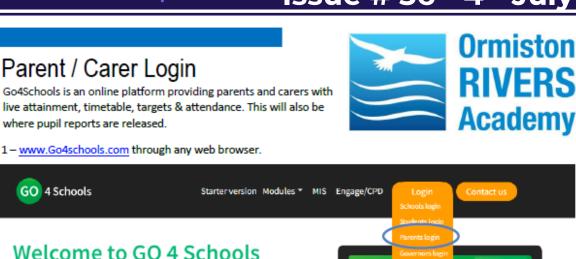
Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

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'.



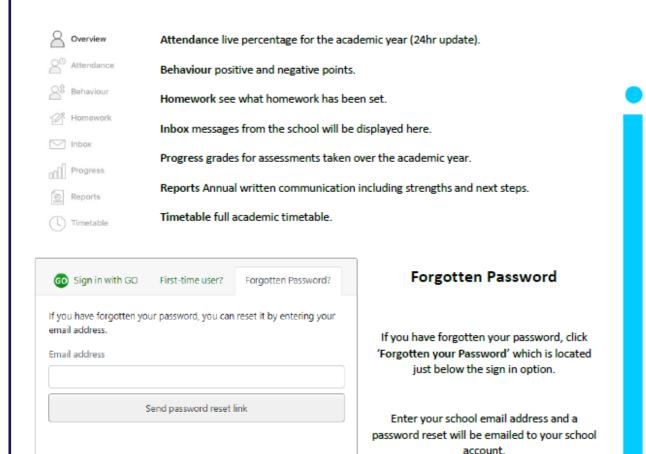


- information that is accurate, up to date, complete,

 Select Parents Login
- 3 Click First-time user
- 4 Enter email address registered with Ormiston Rivers
- 5 Click New password
- 6 Select Sign in to Parent Site
- 7 Open link sent to personal email address entered and activate account
- 8 Set your Go4Schools password

Your school can make better decisions with

9 Sign in





G4S App Login

1 – Download the app.





Click here

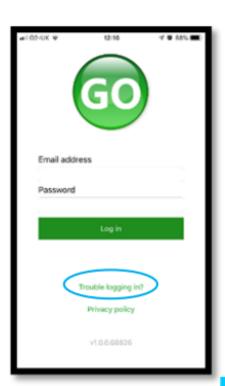


- 2 Type in your school email address.
- 3 Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.

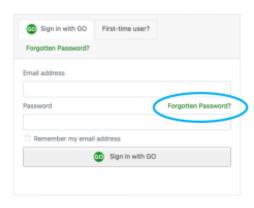


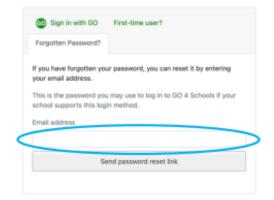




FORGOTTEN YOUR PASSWORD?

If you have forgotten your password, click 'Trouble logging in?'
This will open the web browser where you will click forgotten password.





Type in your school email address and click 'Send password reset link.

Open Outlook from Office 365 (your school email) and you will have received an email from Go4schools that include instructions on how to reset your password.