

Message from the Principal

It's been another busy though quieter week at Rivers as our Year 12 students have been on their work experience placements which I hope they have enjoyed.

On Tuesday, our Sixth form team hosted a highly successful taster day for 80 students, including many of our current Year 11s and visitors from other schools. The event was a fantastic opportunity to showcase everything our Sixth Form has to offer. It was lovely to see some familiar faces back in the academy and we look forward to welcoming many of these students back next year.

On Thursday, Year 13 students Riley A and Keeaun J represented Rivers at the Ormiston's Got Talent Final, held at the Birmingham Rep Theatre. The talented duo performed an original song they wrote themselves and I have been told that they delivered an outstanding performance. We're incredibly proud of their achievement and congratulate them on reaching the final!

This week also saw 19 of our Year 10 students begin their second and final qualifying expedition for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. Over the next three days, they will navigate pre-planned routes through the stunning South Downs and spend two nights camping — an experience that will test their resilience, teamwork, and independence. As always, I would like to thank Mrs Coulson and her dedicated team of staff volunteers for training and supporting our students to enable them to take part in this challenging and rewarding programme.

Next week we will be trialling our new mobile Focus Pouch phone system and ahead of this we held our third Parents Online Forum yesterday with a focus on our new Mobile Device Management Policy. If you were not able to join the forum, you can view a recording by clicking here: [Ormiston Rivers Academy - YouTube](#). In case you have not yet had a chance to read it, a copy of the Mobile Device Management Policy can be found here: [ORA-Mobile-Device-Management-Policy-June-2025.pdf](#). If your child does not own a mobile phone or does not bring a mobile phone to school please email their Head of Year and Form Tutor to notify them of this.

Following some feedback from parents & carers, it has been agreed that tailored shorts which have been purchased from our school uniform supplier (Anglia Sports & Schoolwear) can be worn as optional by both boys and girls for the whole of the academic year as part of our whole school uniform. Please also note that on our return in September following the summer holiday, students will be expected to be wearing blazers and ties at all times whilst in the academy unless advised otherwise.

Our spectacular annual Gym & Dance Show 'Star Wars' returns next week, running on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Tickets are selling quickly, so don't miss your chance to enjoy this fantastic production and support our incredibly talented students. Tickets are just £5 and available from main reception—get yours before they're gone!

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

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)

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



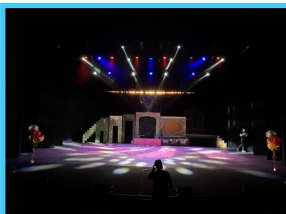
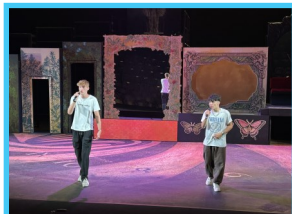
Signature

Performing Arts News



ORMISTON'S GOT TALENT

On Thursday this week our Year 13 students Riley and Keeaun performed at The Birmingham Repertory Theatre for the grand final of Ormiston's Got Talent. They competed against nine other schools and wowed audiences with songs written by themselves. The judges commented on their professionalism, along with excellent vocal skills. We are very proud of them and can't wait to enter next year!



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 **"symbolic"**.

Why not have a go? Send the definition and the word in a sentence to

rmay@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Exams News



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 using their Ormiston Rivers e-mail address 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. Former students may request that an alternative adult collects certificates for them by making a request by e-mail to the above address. To avoid delays, please await acknowledgement of the e-mail before coming to collect or bring a printed copy of the email or a letter with you.



Knitting & Crotchet lunch club will be changing to craft club next year.



If anyone can donate beads for bracelets, red fabric, fur fabric trim (ready for Christmas) and also thread for embroidery, it would be very much appreciated.

Thank you

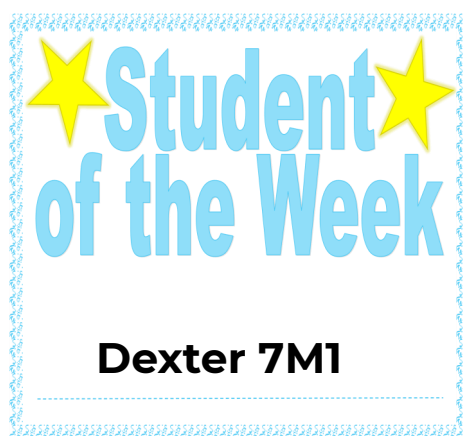
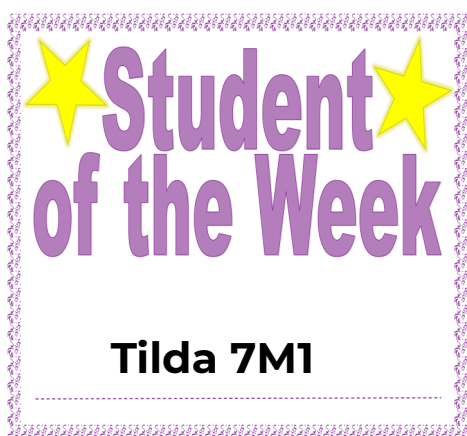
Year 7 - Mr Moon

With just under 2 weeks left, our first year at Rivers is coming to a close. I think it's safe to say that everyone is tired and the heat is having an impact.

Please make sure that your child has a refillable water bottle with them at school so that they can remain hydrated. We do not have spare water bottles or cups available at school, which is why it is vital that all student brings their own.

May I also remind you that wearing the correct uniform to school is also very important. Whilst blazers are currently optional, ties are not and must remain on throughout the day unless otherwise instructed. In accordance with our uniform policy, please can you also make sure that girls who wear skirts are aware that they need to be knee length and rolling them up is not permitted. As well as that, shirts are to be tucked in and should remain that way throughout the day. Your co-operation with this matter is most appreciated.

Miss Byford's Students of the week



Well done and keep up the great work!

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

Many thanks

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 8 - Ms Scott

Dear Year 8 Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of term, Year 8 students have been making the most of the hot weather this week while we countdown to the well-deserved summer break! Despite the heat, they've continued to show great focus and resilience as they complete their end-of-term assessments and begin preparing for their transition into Year 9.

This week's assembly was an exciting one, as students met with Mr Clay to select their sports teams ahead of our much-anticipated Sports Day. With lots of fun and engaging activities planned, we're sure it will be a memorable day for all involved!

I'm also very excited to see the students present their hard work and research to the First Give charities next week. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their efforts, and they'll be in with a chance to win £1,000 for their chosen charity – an achievement that would make a real difference to a great cause.

Looking ahead to next week, we'll also be trialling our new mobile phone policy. Please remind your child to come prepared – ideally, phones should be left at home. If your child does bring their phone to school, it must be placed in the designated phone pocket and locked away during morning line-up. We will be checking pockets each morning, and it's essential that all students follow this process to ensure a smooth trial period.

Finally, a big congratulations to our top 3 students for positive behaviour points this week – Charlie S, Liam H, and Emily LBO – who each received a chocolate muffin from Mr Marklew as a sweet reward!

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you and your families a restful weekend.

Warm regards,

Contact: hscott@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 9 – Mr Field

This week Year 9 have been choosing their sports day events ready for the competition on the last week of term and I look forward to seeing the students compete in the many different events.

During my lesson walks this week it was great to see everybody working hard and focussed on their learning. I saw John 19/20, Aliya 19/20, and Amelia 16/20 collectively receive good marks in their spelling tests. Some of the words were quite tricky such innocuous & boisterous. It was also lovely to see students explaining their knowledge of cliff erosion in Geography. Dan & Harry were very knowledgeable of the reasons cliffs are falling into the sea and where in the British Isles this is a common occurrence. Grace and Bradan explained reasons of ice reduction in Antarctica.

Top positive points earners this week are Jenson, Poppy, Danica, Tommy, Lily, Pippa, Amber, Daisy, Edward, George & Erin. Superb work and well done to you all!!

Good luck to Henry & Ryder, who will be playing in the Youth Essex Golf Competition for Burnham on Crouch GC versus Thorndon GC at Thorpe Hall Golf Course over the weekend.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 10 – Ms Taylor

Year 10 are approaching their final week of school, before they begin their week of work experience. They should have received many of their mock grades and should be starting to plan how to improve. Year 11 is not a year - in Year 11 there are only 29 school weeks. I am happy to work with any Year 10 who needs support with this.

Congratulations to the Year 10's who participated in the Young Musician competition:

Alissa J (D1), Amelie C (A1), Sam S (D1) and Bradley F (M1).

Also a massive shout out to the top merit earners of the week:

Max C (D1), Kayden D (D1), Hollie P (D1), Edward B (M1), Tylor E (D1), Bobby B (D1), Georgie C (D1), Tom N ((D1), Sam S (D1), Riley W (D1).

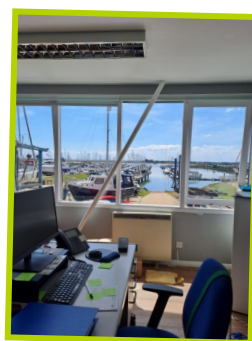
Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

It has been a quiet week in the Sixth Form and we have missed all of our Year 12 students who are out on work experience placements. It has been wonderful to hear from them and receive photos throughout the week. We look forward to seeing them all again on Monday.



Sixth Form in the Community

To improve our wellbeing offer, we have now included a wellbeing room in the Sixth Form. This provides a safe space for anyone to use for support, 1:1 sessions, revision, phone calls and to take some time out.

Dress Code

We are working with you all to look at tightening up the uniform. A new dress code with minor changes will 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.

Dates for your diary

Monday 14th July - Year 12 return
Wednesday 16th - Friday 18th July - Gym & Dance Show
Friday 18th July - Great Rivers Bake-off
Tuesday 22nd July - Laser Tag
Wednesday 23rd July - Sports Day
Thursday 24th July - Last Day, finish 1:20pm



RIVERS SIXTH DRESS CODE

At Rivers Sixth Form, we expect all students to maintain high standards of dress and appearance that reflect a purposeful, professional learning environment. Clothing should be clean, appropriate for study, and avoid extreme or distracting styles. Business attire is encouraged wherever possible, to promote a professional and purposeful learning environment.

For formal events such as Celebration Evenings, Open Evening, and similar occasions, students are expected to wear smart business attire.

Failure to meet dress code expectations may result in students being sent home to change.

All students must wear their **Sixth Form ID badge** visibly at all times. This is essential for:

- Gaining access to and from the building
- Supporting site-wide safeguarding procedures

If a student forgets their ID badge, they must report to the Sixth Form office immediately to be issued with a temporary one for the day. A £5 charge will apply for a permanent replacement.

Clothing must be clean, safe, and functional, suitable for the learning activities being undertaken.

Footwear should be sensible and appropriate for the school environment.

Final decisions regarding dress code compliance lie with the Sixth Form Team.

- No short skirts, dresses, or playsuits
- Smart jeans - no rips
- No flip-flops, crocs or beach footwear
- Tops that expose the stomach or reveal the chest are unacceptable as are strappy, strapless or backless tops
- No hoodies - smart sweatshirts are allowed
- Main tops, t-shirts and polo shirts are allowed - no profanity
- No loungewear including lounge shorts
- No joggng bottoms
- No sportswear unless taking part in a sporting activity
- No leggings or flared leggings
- No loose-fitting cargo trousers
- Tailored, clean, dress or smart shorts are allowed

Students who fail to meet the dress code will receive one formal warning. Any further breaches at any point during the academic year will result in the student being sent home to change. This will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, as the student arrived unprepared for learning.

Appropriate clothing images: ✓



Inappropriate clothing images: ✗





RIVERS SIXTH FORM

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.

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.

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



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.

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
1 x purple biro for assessment feedback
2 x pencils
1 x 30cm ruler
Coloured pencils (not felt tips)
Eraser
Pencil sharpener

Maths set (including a scientific calculator)
Student Planner (student organiser)
Reading book
Books / folders for the days lessons
Water bottle
Basic art equipment

The Academy Shop, located near the main hall, is open before school 8.30 - 8.50am and at breaktime 11.20 - 11.50am every day. The shop stocks all of the above equipment, as well as a wide selection of revision guides & workbooks, for all year groups. You can also purchase new ties from here. We can only accept cash for shop purchases on site, we are unable to use credit on a students catering card. Alternatively, you can complete an order form and return it to finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Year 10 & 11 - You will find an item on ParentPay - KS4 Revision Guides & Equipment- just overwrite the amount with the total to be paid, we will check it against your order and let you know when the items can be collected from the shop (or you can call in and collect from main reception if you would prefer).

Year 7, 8 & 9 (KS3) - Once we have received your completed order, we will add it to your ParentPay account. When payment has been confirmed we will let you know when the items can be collected from the shop (or you can call in and collect from main reception if you would prefer).

You can access the up to date [KS3 order form](#) and the [KS4 order form](#) here; these are also available on our website www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk. Please contact finance on 01621 787845 if you have any queries.



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.



Essex County Council

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'.

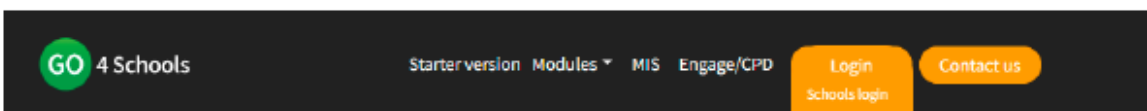
Parent / Carer Login

Go4Schools is an online platform providing parents and carers with live attainment, timetable, targets & attendance. This will also be where pupil reports are released.

1 – www.Go4schools.com through any web browser.



**Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy**



Welcome to GO 4 Schools

Your school can make better decisions with information that is accurate, up to date, complete,

- 2 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
- 9 Sign in



Overview

Attendance live percentage for the academic year (24hr update).



Attendance

Behaviour positive and negative points.



Behaviour

Homework see what homework has been set.



Homework

Inbox messages from the school will be displayed here.



Inbox

Progress grades for assessments taken over the academic year.



Progress

Reports Annual written communication including strengths and next steps.




Reports

Timetable full academic timetable.



Timetable


[Sign in with GO](#)
[First-time user?](#)
[Forgotten Password?](#)

If you have forgotten your password, you can reset it by entering your email address.

Email address

Send password reset link

Forgotten Password

If you have forgotten your password, click 'Forgotten your Password' which is located just below the sign in option.

Enter your school email address and a password reset will be emailed to your school account.



G4S App Login

1 – Download the app.



[Click here](#)

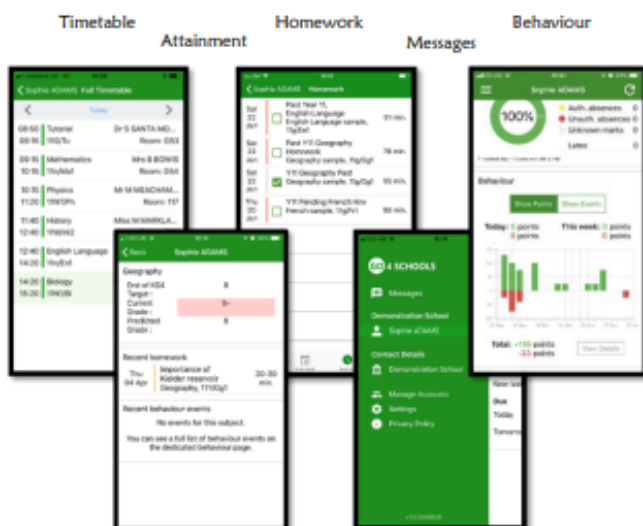


[Click here](#)

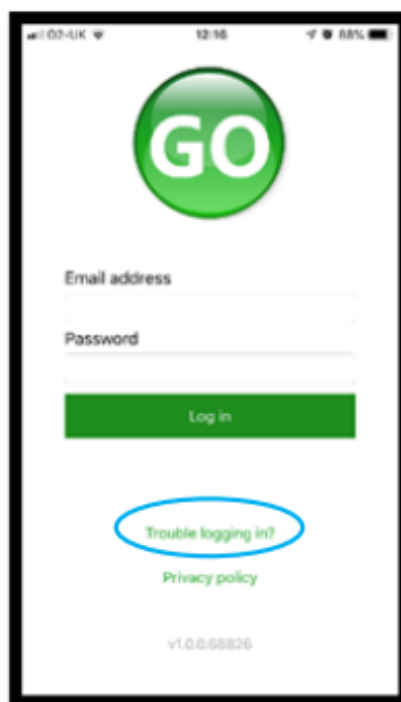
2 – Type in your school email address.

3 – Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.



Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy



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.



Message from the Safer Essex Roads Partnership regarding the use of e-scooters by children.

Use of privately owned e-scooters in public spaces (roads, cycle tracks, parks etc.) is against the law for anyone, but use by children is leading to serious injuries and children being killed. We want to support you in keeping your children safe.

On the approach to Summer break, those unaware of the law, or the risks to their children, may be considering buying one as a gift. Unfortunately it is not illegal to buy one and the shops and on-line outlets do not make it clear enough that they may only be used on privately owned land.

Please see our e-scooter brochure [e-Scooter-A5-leaflet-V3.pdf](#) which explains the legal difference between the trial e-scooters for hire and some of the risks associated with riding.

The key points are that:

- 1) Privately owned e-scooters (most of which are plain black) are illegal for anyone of any age to ride in any public place. E-scooters you can buy from shops like Halfords and Smyths or online can only be used on privately owned land, with the landowner's permission.
- 2) Parents providing an e-scooter for their child are putting them at risk on the roads. The children are unlikely to be aware of the Highway Code, are unlikely to wear a helmet or anything to make them visible to other road users, are unlikely to have the observation skills required, are likely to carry a passenger making the scooter unstable and, travelling at speeds of 15mph, are likely to be seriously injured if they fall off or are involved in a collision.

Further information can be found at: <https://saferessexroads.org/>

BBC's 'Clean It Fix It' with Mark Wright is back again!

The popular home makeover series is looking for hard working families and households whose busy lives have got in the way of doing those all important DIY, decorating, declutter and spring cleaning jobs.

If you or anyone you know is deserving of a home makeover and some much needed home improvements then please get in touch ASAP!

Email us at cificasting@curvemedia.com for an application form or click on the link below:
<https://tinyurl.com/2k2hjzef>

We're waiting to hear from you!



**BBC 1's
'CLEAN IT, FIX IT'
IS CASTING FOR A
5TH SERIES!**

Is your home in need of some cleaning and fixing?
Would a guiding hand help you take on the projects you don't have the confidence to attempt yourself?
Do you need help and creative ideas to make big changes on a limited budget?
Whether you rent or own your property, we'd love to help!
We're looking for households who want to fix up, de-clutter and clean their homes.

Please contact us at:
CIFICasting@curvemedia.com
or scan our QR code

curvemedia

one

Clean It, Fix It application 55

