

Message from the Principal

It's been another busy week at Rivers in the run up to the final week of the Summer Term. Our termly Honours Assemblies took place this week for our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students and I would like to congratulate all students whose representation of our CARRE values throughout this year has been recognised by their teachers and their peers.

We have also been trialling our new Focus Pouch mobile phone system and it has been fantastic to see our students embracing the change with such maturity and resilience. Their engagement and adaptability have been truly commendable.

If you haven't yet had a chance to review it, a copy of our Mobile Device Management Policy is available here: [ORA-Mobile-Device-Management-Policy-June-2025.pdf](#). We truly believe this system will make a meaningful difference in the classroom and around the academy by increasing attention, reducing distractions, and helping students get the most out of their education. As we gear up to roll out the use of the Focus Pouches permanently from September, we ask all parents and carers to continue supporting the initiative by discussing and reinforcing the policy at home. Thank you for being part of this important step forward. Together, we are creating an environment where students are focused, present, and ready to learn.

I hope you have had the pleasure of attending our spectacular annual Gym & Dance Show: "Star Wars" — and what a show it was! As always, we have been so impressed by the energy, creativity, and talent on display from our students. A huge thank you to Ms Wilkins and the entire Performing Arts Department for their incredible hard work behind the scenes allowing the students involved the opportunity to shine.

This week our future Criminology and Psychology students were given the opportunity to tour the Royal Courts of Justice led by a former crime reporter with over 25 years of inside knowledge. Students learned about the roles of barristers and why they wear wigs; they also wandered through the secret alleys and courtyards of the nearby Inns of Court. The tour then moved on to the Old Bailey, the country's leading criminal court, for a talk about its fascinating history and the trials that shocked the nation.

Next week we have our year group trips day on Tuesday and the Academy Sports Day on Wednesday. **If your child is attending a year group trip, please can we ask you to ensure that your child is dressed in official ORA branded PE Kit (i.e. no Nike Pro shorts, leggings or similar) otherwise your child will not be allowed to attend.** If your child is not attending a year group trip on Tuesday, they should come to school wearing normal school uniform, including ties.

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



For Sports Day on Thursday, please can you ensure your child arrives at school in official ORA branded PE Kit with the exception that they are allowed to wear a coloured top which matches their house colour. Your child can also bring a hat with them if the forecast is for warm weather.

On Monday, our Year 10 students will be heading out into the local community for their work experience placements. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop new skills and gain valuable insights to help shape their future career choices. We wish them the best of luck as they take on this exciting challenge.

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

Jo Williams, Principal

Dates for your Diary



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)

Community Support

I wrote recently about the support that the school is providing during our Community walks each morning. We have seen many benefits of this and welcome the response from students and the local shopkeepers.

I have been contacted to ask for parent/carer support now too. The local shopkeepers and our neighbours would like to remind our school community about being polite. There have been recent reports about students' behaviour in the local shops - rudeness to staff - this usually happens after school hours and in the evening, but we do take this behaviour seriously and want to remind students about their reputation and the reputation of the school community.

Many thanks for your support with this matter and I wish you all a safe summer break when it arrives next week.

Mr Marklew

Pupil Achievement Tracker!!

This term we launched our Pupil Achievement Tracker to reward students for their efforts in 4 key areas: having good attendance, punctuality, positive merits points and overall merit scores.

Each week our Form tutors have been sharing students' progress towards a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze award. They discuss how scores can move up or down and how to improve these scores towards the Platinum award.

I am pleased to share that we have had 40 students across years 7 - 10 who have achieved the top Platinum award. These were entered into a prize draw for each year group and 1 winner has been randomly selected to win the prize voucher!!

A huge well done to these top earners and the 150 students who have received the Gold standard.



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 **"synthesise"**.

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

Rotary Young Chef's Club

The club members were presented by lovely certificates from the Rotary Club as well as "Masterchef" subject badges this week for their participation and progress in developing their cookery skills this term.

I am very grateful for the Rotary Club member Ken Smith (who has prior experience owning restaurants and working in Hospitality) who has kindly dedicated his time observing and encouraging the students with lots of useful feedback for the last few weeks in club.

We all hope that they continue to enjoy cooking over the summer break thinking about what they might make for the competition and we hope to see them back to participate next year as well as anyone else who is interested in entering the Rotary Young Chef competition in the Autumn term. It is a fantastic experience and opportunity to gain feedback from industry professionals too.



Performing Arts News



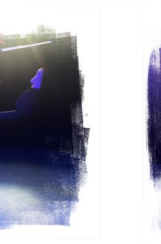
Gym and Dance Show 2025 - Star Wars: A Galactic Journey

This week, our students transported audiences to a galaxy far, far away in this year's spectacular Gym and Dance Show: Star Wars: A Galactic Journey. Across three sell-out evenings, the Sports Hall was transformed into an intergalactic stage where Lightsabres clashed, droids danced, and the Force flowed through every performance.

From the opening moments on Tatooine to the climactic battles aboard the Death Star, the show combined high-energy gymnastics, expressive contemporary dance, and theatrical storytelling. With stunning choreography, clever narration, and striking costumes, the show brought new life to the iconic story with a creative twist: three modern-day children joined the classic characters, journeying through the saga and discovering the power of courage, friendship and hope.

A huge well done to all of the students involved, both on stage and behind the scenes. Their dedication, talent and teamwork shone through. Special thanks also go to the Performing Arts team and all of the staff for their incredible support and hard work in bringing this ambitious project to life.

The Force was truly strong at Rivers this year.



Year 7 - Mr Moon

Only four more school days left until we break up for the summer and the year has just flown by. I'm sure we're all more than ready for the year to be over and to enjoy some well deserved time off.

Again, please make sure that your child has a refillable water bottle with them at school so that they can remain hydrated whilst the weather is so hot. We do not have spare water bottles or cups available at school, which is why it is vital that all students bring 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. Getting this right will allow more time for learning, as less time will need to be spent on correcting uniform. Your co-operation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

This week saw the trial period of our new mobile device policy for students. After a few hiccups on the first day, everything ran smoothly and students started to be more receptive to the idea. Just judging from this week, I can already see that the new pouches will be a great asset from September. Please make sure your children bring their phone pouches to school with them on Monday, as they will be collected in for the summer.

We had our final award assembly for the year today and so many certificates were handed out in recognition of our CARE values and various other achievements within our school community such as:

Attainment Award
Ronnie M 7z1

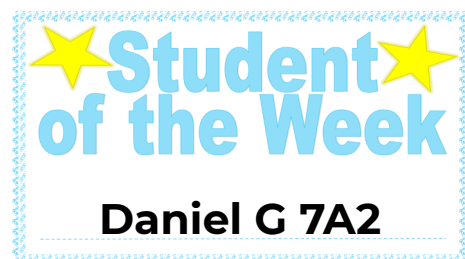
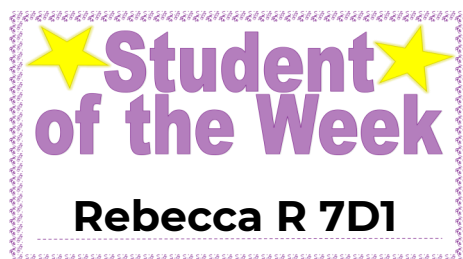
Attitude to Learning Award
Esme M 7A2

Principle Award
Rebecca R 7D1

Platinum Achievement Tracker Award
Grace F 7A2

Well-done to all the award winners!

Mrs Byford's students of the week are:



I look forward to next week with lots of things happening from trips to sports day.

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 8 - Ms Scott

It was wonderful to celebrate student achievements in our final Year 8 honours assembly on Thursday. Congratulations to all the winners, including:

Attainment Award
Bobby P - 8Z2

Attitude to Learning Award
Lara M - 8Z1

Principle Award
Paige S - 8A1

Enrichment Award
Abby S - 8D2

I look forward to the last week of the summer term next week, with lots of activities planned, including our end of year reward trip to Stubbers on Tuesday and Sports Day on Wednesday.

Contact: hscott@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 - Mr Field

This week we had our termly honours assembly to reward students on their hard work. Many students were rewarded with a certificate and a corresponding badge to wear on their uniform for demonstrating the schools CARE values towards Community, Aspiration, Resilience, Respect and Excellence. Students also received certificates for a collection of other positive attributes towards their school life, including attendance and positive points awarded.

The following students received gold certificates for their for their efforts in 4 key areas of school life which include having good attendance, punctuality, positive merits points and overall merit scores.



(A1)	(A2)	(D1)	(D2)	(M1)		(Z1)	(Z2)
Mirella Immie Oscar	Evelyn John Radley Henson Jess Alexia	Mollie Jack Evie Owen Sywia	Henry Arran Mason Daisy	Bradan Scarlett Archie Freya Kieran Dennis	George Brayde n Daniel Jack Haidyn Isabelle	Oliver Ronnie Poppy Archie Isla	Tegan Henry Ben Lorna Louis Aiden Maisie



The following pupils received a platinum award and were entered into draw for a £20 amazon voucher. The voucher which was won by Lily (A1).

(A1)	(A2)	(D2)	(M1)	(Z1)	(Z2)
Lily	Edward Jensen	Erin	Dannica	George Samuel	Chloe Pippa

Well done to all the students in excelling in school and being rewarded with recognition for their hard work. I hope you all maintain the effort and focus into Year 10 .

I hope everyone on the school trip to Thorpe Park on Tuesday has a wonderful time and enjoy the rides.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 10 – Ms Taylor

As year 10 complete their final week at school, I write to congratulate the following students for achieving the highest number of merits this year:

Suzie P - D1, Freya C - D1, Tom N - D1, Tylor E - D1, Alex J - M1, Bobby H - M2, Kayden D - D1, Thomas Y - Z1, Matthew C - M2, Neala WD - Z2, Bella W - M2, Hollie P - D1, Sebastian W - M1, Ronnie M1, Bobby B - D1, Faith W - Z2, Hazel W - Z1, Jack C - A2 and Max C - D1.

On Tuesday we had our Honours assembly, and I would like to give a shut out to our winners this term.

10A1 - Sam T, Keira E, Callum G, Samuel S, Chloe GT

10A2 - Karsten M, Tobi B, Jayden W, Ben S, Blake V

10D1, Sam S, Hollie P, Tom N, Evan M, Max C

10M1 - Bradley F, Elsa L, Edward B, Madison P, Ash H

10M2 - Freddie J, Fearne C, Max H, Freddie SH, Leo A

10Z1 - Samuel H, Hayden B, Holly B, Niamh O, Holly D, Hazel W

10Z2 - Ella C, Neala WD, Isobel S, Harry G, Faith W

Today we also celebrated students at the Rewards breakfast where mentors nominated students who have just got on with the job all year:

A1 - Sam T, Keira E

A2 - Sid L, Poppy R

D1 - Kayden D, Bobby B

M1 - Bradley F, Aaron H

M2 - George C, Harry L

Z1 - Amelia T, Isabelle T

Z2 - Max H, Skye H

As the year group head out on their work experience, I would like to wish them and you a wonderful summer. Year 11 will be busy - with many open evenings for post 16 choices happening in the autumn term. There are 30 school weeks before the GCSEs start, and we will start as we mean to go on.

I would also like to thank Ms Makwana for her amazing support of the year group this year. Both I and the students will miss her enormously.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

Sixth Form in the Community

It has been a pleasure to welcome our Year 12 students back from their Work Experience week. They have had a fantastic time, gaining valuable insights into the world of work and developing a wide range of new skills and personal qualities that will support them in their future careers. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented themselves and our school.



Sixth Form Dress Code Update – September 2025

A revised Sixth Form dress code will come into effect from September 2025, with only minor changes to the current expectations. As the weather begins to warm up, we kindly ask all students to continue to adhere to the uniform policy. If you are unsure about any aspect of the dress code, please speak to Mrs Wilkins or Mrs Penberthy for clarification. Please note: Following a first warning, students who do not meet the dress code expectations will be asked to return home to change before re-joining lessons. Thank you for your cooperation and continued high standards.

Lesson Shoutout

In this brilliant student-led practical, our Sixth Form physicists designed and developed their own experiment from scratch over three weeks! They investigated magnetic friction using magnets, a copper pipe, and a pulley system — refining their method through multiple stages to minimise errors and ensure accurate results. Impressive scientific thinking, teamwork and resilience on display!



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

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 extremes or distracting styles. Students are encouraged to be responsible and to present 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 Rivers 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 £25 charge will apply for a permanent replacement.

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 will not be present for learning.

Appropriate clothing images: ✓

Inappropriate clothing images: ✗





RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 22nd July - Laser Tag

Wednesday 23rd July - Sports Day

Thursday 24th July - Last Day, finish 1:20pm (please bring in a buffet style item of food to all have a celebration in the 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.

Sixth Form Reminders – Attendance, Lanyards & Wellbeing

We are noticing that some students are not wearing their lanyards. Please remember this is a requirement for all Sixth Form students and an important part of our safeguarding policy. Lanyards must be worn at all times while on site. We also recognise that this time of year can be particularly stressful as exams approach. If you are feeling under pressure or have any concerns, please don't hesitate to speak with Mrs Penberthy or Mrs Wilkins — we are here to support you. Additionally, we've seen an increase in students taking holidays during term time. Please be reminded that consistent attendance is vital to your academic progress. Research shows that students with high attendance are more likely to achieve stronger outcomes, as well as develop habits that prepare them for future success. Sixth Form is a community — when you're absent, you miss valuable opportunities to connect, contribute, and grow alongside your peers. Thank you for your continued commitment.

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'.

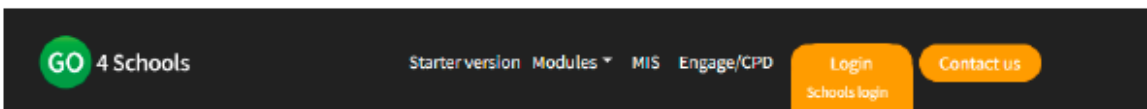
Parent / Carer Login

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.



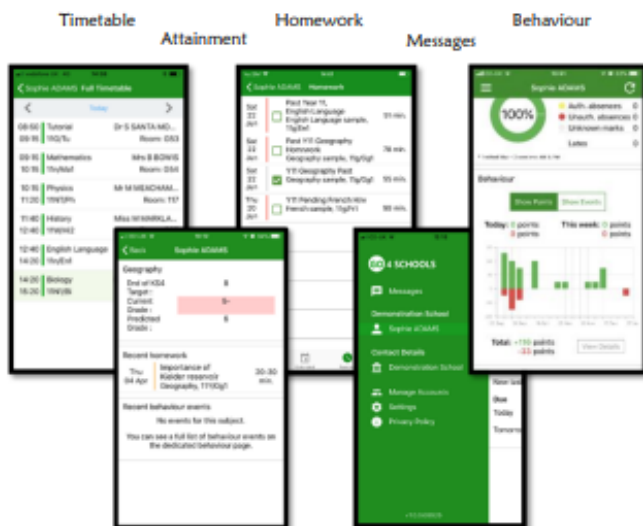
[Click here](#)

[Click here](#)

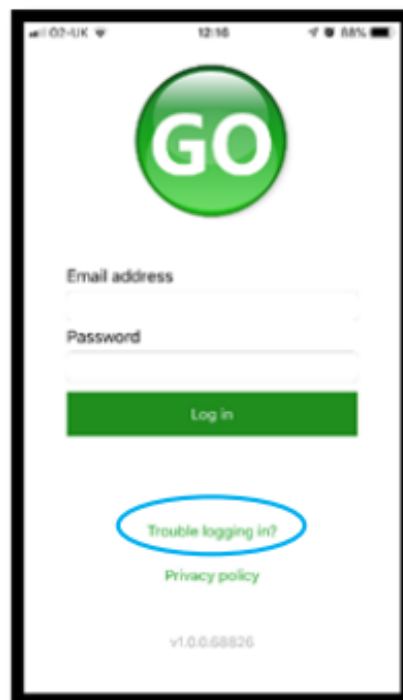
2 – Type in your school email address.

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.