

#### Message from the Principal

It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back for the new academic year. They have arrived looking smart, enthusiastic, and ready to learn. We're excited to work in partnership with you to ensure that every student feels a true sense of belonging and enjoys a happy and successful year ahead.

As mentioned in my recent welcome letter, your child's form tutor will play a key role in their school life, seeing them daily, building strong relationships, and serving as your first point of contact for any questions or concerns you may have. Those morning conversations play a vital role in setting the tone for the day and strengthening relationships one conversation at a time.

In addition to a focus on learning, we expect the highest standards of behaviour, manners, and respect from our students. Our CARE values of Community, Ambition, Respect, Resilience and Excellence guide everything we do and help create a safe and supportive environment.

I am delighted to welcome our new staff who have joined us for this academic year: They are a fantastic addition to our team and, together with our dedicated existing staff, are eager to work with our students and support you as parents and carers. Our shared goal is to ensure every Rivers student achieves their very best this academic year. I'm sure you'll join me in giving them a warm welcome to the Ormiston Rivers community.

Ms Booker, Art/DT Teacher Mr Higgins, Maths Teacher Ms Milton, English Teacher Mr Ogbuagu, Cover Supervisor

Ms Dare, Head of SEMH Provision Ms Cooke, LSA SEMH Provision Ms Alleeson, LSA SEMH Provision Ms Harman, LSA SEMH Provision

Over the summer, we had the pleasure of celebrating with our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they collected their GCSE and A Level results. It was a proud moment to see them rewarded with the qualifications they worked so hard to achieve. Congratulations to each and every one of them!

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

#### Dijana Piralic, Principal (interim)





Thursday 25 September 2025 @ 6pm

ORA Open Evening – academy closes at 1.40pm for students

**Tuesday 30 September 2025** 

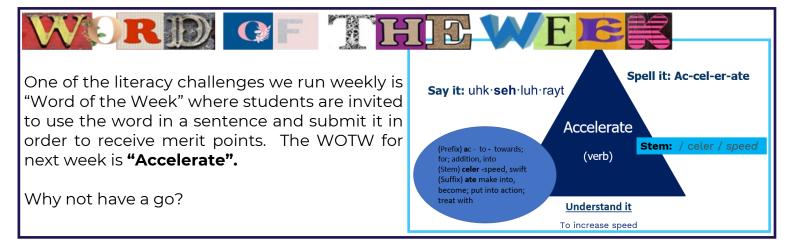
Rivers Sixth Form Open Evening

**Thursday 2 October 2025 @ 3.45pm**Year 7 Parents meeting with Form Tutors

Friday 17th October 2025

Staff INSET Day – academy closed to students





#### **English Department**

#### **Year 10 Students**

A reminder to please purchase your child's copies of An Inspector Calls and A Christmas Carol for their English Literature GCSE. Details available on parentpay.

#### **Year 11 Students**

A reminder to please purchase your child's copy of Romeo and Juliet for their English Literature GCSE. Details available on parentpay.



### Weekly Newsletter Issue #1 - 5th September 2025



#### **New 6th Form Library**

Students in Years 12 and 13 have been making excellent use of their new dedicated space within the school Library.

Library News LRC6 offers comfortable seating and desks, use of library laptops and printer, resources such as curriculum texts and fiction. It's a quiet space to build confidence in independent or small group study and is

open most of the school day.

There are also opportunities for 6th Form students to volunteer for whole-school literacy initiatives such as Reading Buddies with Year 7s, or library themed events such as BookFairs and World Book Day - contact Mrs Yerbury, Librarian for more information.

#### Book of the Month: Sci-Fi September

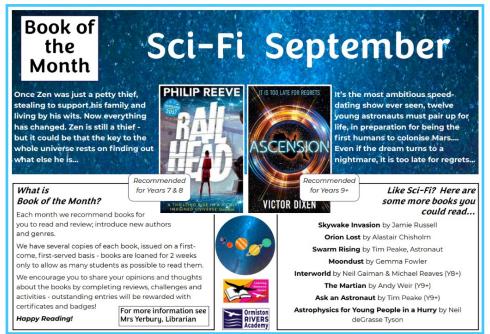
Book of the Month introduces students to new authors and genres to widen their reading and develop literacy skills. Read the book and complete a challenge worksheet - the best entries will be rewarded with a Reader of the Month badge and merits.

The theme for September is Science Fiction and the recommended books are:

- Years 7 to 9 Rail Head by Philip Reeve. In this story, Zen, a petty thief, travels the universe on the Great Network of trains that can commute from one planet to another.
- Years 9 to 13 Ascension by Victor Dixen. Twelve young astronauts prepare to be the first humans to colonise Mars, but the dream is not all that it seems.

Also check out the Library shelves for lots of other Sci-Fi titles including Swarm Rising by Tim Peake and Skywake Invasion by Jamie Russell for Years 7 to 9; and The Martian by Andy Weir

(LRC6).





## Weekly Newsletter Issue #1 - 5th September 2025



# BRITISH



#### **ASHRAF'S STORY**

ing and working in sales, he fel ne wanted more from life - and more of a challenge. This led him to look at joining the Army. Learn about how, as a British born Gujarati Indian, he has found that he fits in to life as an Army

LISTEN TO HIS STORY







**Teachers** - encourage your students to attend an exciting opportunity to learn about becoming an Army Officer. This event offers valuable insights into the application process, the Army Officer Selection procedure, and the prestigious training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Students will gain a real understanding of Army life and have the chance to interact with current

REGISTER NOW





Are your students interested in becoming Officers in the British Army? Join us for the next Army Officer Insight Day at Sandhurst! You will participate in various activities, Academy, and opportunities to speak with current Officer Cadets and Staff. Secure your place here.

**REGISTER NOW** 



#### ARMY WORK EXPERIENCE (YEARS' 9+)

Students can join a four-day residential Army work experience to enhance skills in teamwork, leadership, confidence, and resilience.

APPLY NOW



To book Work Experience or an Elite Skills Academy session

Please email: rg-nrcoutreachadmin@mod.gov.uk or phone: 0345 600 8080 and ask for 'Outreach'





#### Year 7 - Mr Adair

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our new Year 7s into the school community, and I'm delighted to share just how positively they have begun their secondary school adventure. The transition from primary to secondary can be a big step, but our Year 7 students have shown maturity, enthusiasm, and a real sense of excitement as they've settled into life at Ormiston Rivers Academy.

Over these first few days, I've been so impressed by the way our students have adapted to their new surroundings. Navigating a larger school site can feel daunting at first, but it's been fantastic to see them gaining confidence in finding their way between lessons and around the school building. Their resilience and independence are already beginning to shine through.

Making new friends is such an important part of starting secondary school, and it's been heart-warming to see so many smiling faces and new friendships forming across the year group. Whether in tutor groups or during break times, our students have embraced the opportunity to meet others and build strong, positive relationships.

Academically, our Year 7 are engaging with a wide range of new subjects and getting to know the many teachers who will guide them through the next phase of their education. We know that adapting to different teaching styles and expectations can take time, but already we are seeing great curiosity, effort and a willingness to learn, qualities that will serve them well in the months ahead.

This truly is an exciting new chapter in their lives. Secondary school offers so many opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom, and it's clear that this group is ready to make the most of them. We look forward to supporting them every step of the way as they continue to grow in confidence and build the foundations for a successful and rewarding school journey.

Finally, I would like to say a sincere thank you to all our Year 7 parents and carers. Your support over the summer and in the first few weeks of term has been invaluable. From ensuring uniforms are ready, to helping with timetables and providing those all important words of encouragement each morning, you have played a key role in helping your child feel ready and prepared for this new stage.

We're proud of every single member of Year 7 and are excited for all that lies ahead.

Contact: cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



#### Year 8 - Mr Moon

We're so excited to welcome you back for another fantastic year . Year 8 is an exciting time to build on everything you achieved last year and give you even more opportunities to learn, grow, and shine.

This term, we'll be focusing on settling back into routines, setting high expectations, and working together as a team. You'll have new subjects to explore, new challenges to take on, and plenty of chances to get involved in school life, whether that's in the classroom, through clubs, or in upcoming events.

#### Remember:

- Aim high and put your best effort into everything you do.
- Be kind and supportive to one another—our Year 8 community is strongest when we work together.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help—your teachers and tutors are always here to support you.

#### Top five merit earners:

1st Jahnu 8A1 2nd Jacob 8A1 3rd Arthur 8A1 4th Lacey - Mai 8A1 5th Logan Russell 8A1

Year 8 this week had the top 11 places for merits which is an amazing achievement.

#### Mrs Byford's Students of the Week



Jaxen - 8A1



Bellamarie 8Z1



James 8Z1

Well done for having an amazing start to the new academic year!

We're looking forward to seeing all the amazing things you'll achieve this year. Let's make Year 8 your best year yet!



#### Year 9 - Mr Chapman

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful summer and are ready for the exciting year ahead. Year 9 is an important stage as students start to take more ownership of their learning and look ahead to future choices.

This year we'll focus on both academic progress and building up our CARE values. I encourage students to make the most of the opportunities on offer—whether through lessons, clubs, or leadership roles.

I'm really looking forward to supporting and celebrating the successes of Year 9 this year, and to working together to help every student achieve their best.

Contact: rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

#### Year 10 - Mr Field

Welcome to a brand-new school year! This is an exciting stage in your journey — Year 10 is all about building confidence, taking on new challenges, and setting strong foundations for your future.

This year, you'll grow not only in knowledge but also in resilience, independence, and leadership. Remember: every small step you take now helps shape the big goals you want to achieve later.

Stay curious, work hard, support one another, and don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. Together, let's make this year one of growth, achievement, and great memories.

Here's to a fantastic Year 10 — let's make it your best one yet!

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



#### Year 11 - Ms Taylor

It was so lovely to welcome Year 11 back - and I am so impressed with the start that they have made.

I had some lovely feedback from staff about the prefects who came into school on Tuesday to support with the Year 7s. Staff were so grateful for their support of the new Year 7 students. They have made a very impressive start.

#### The prefects are:

Tobi B - A2, Emily B — A1, Hayden B - Z1, Freya C - D1, George C - M1, Matthew C - M2, Charlie D - A2, Keira E - A1, Rishi H - A2, Ash H - M1, Skye H - M1, Paris H - Z1, Eve M - M2, Jaya N - M2, Cooper P - A2, Poppy R - A2, Ben S - A2, Freddie S - M2, Amelia T - Z1, Isabelle T - Z1, Faith W - Z2, Sebastian W - M1, Neala W - Z2, Bella W - M2.

Year 11 this year will also have access to a dedicated study space and I would like to commend the following students who have used it every day so far:

Ella C - Z2, Florence F - M2, Ash H - M1, Kyla L - D1, Tia O - D1, Eleanor G - A1, Bella W - M2.

When I have been in lessons I have been impressed with the manner in which the students have conducted themselves. Staff are praising them - and many have shown much more maturity. Over the coming week, mentors will work on revision timetables and target setting before interventions start the week beginning 15/09/25. Until then, students are in the same mentor groups, with Ms Smith replacing Ms Nice and Mr Higgins replacing Ms Bennett.

#### The top merit earners this week are:

Matthew C - M2, Amelia T - Z1, Sebastian W - M1, Neala W - Z2, Tobi B - A2, Emily B - A1, George C - M1, Charlie D - A2, Rishi H - A2, Paris H - Z1, Ben S - A2, Freddie S - M2, Bobby A - A2, Bobby B - D1, Sienna B - D1, Bobby H - M2, Teddy K - Z2, Kourtney S - Z1, Albert S - M2.

There are few weeks where I can remember being this proud of the **WHOLE** year group. I hope their positivity continues, and thank you to parents and carers who have supported them in starting the year so well.

Contact: <a href="mailto:staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk">staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</a>



## RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

#### A Fantastic Start to the Year at Rivers Sixth Form

On Tuesday we were delighted to welcome our new Year 12 students into Rivers Sixth Form. They hit the ground running with tutor sessions, learning about Sixth Form life and expectations, and finishing the day with team-building activities designed to build new friendships, boost confidence, and create a strong sense

of community. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and positivity shown by all our students, and we look forward to seeing them thrive over the coming year. A special thank you also goes to our Year 13 Sixth Form Leadership Team, who played such an important role in supporting the day's events.

On Wednesday we welcomed back our Year 13 students, who have settled seamlessly into Sixth Form life alongside our new cohort. For them, this year is about pursuing future careers and working hard to achieve the grades that will open the next chapter of their journeys.





#### Sixth Form in the Community

Sixth Form Dress Code - We would like to take a moment to recognise our students who have gone above and beyond in following the new Sixth Form dress code – we are very proud of how smart and professional they all look. Thank you for setting such a positive example. Please continue to follow the dress code carefully, and if you are ever unsure about what is appropriate, don't hesitate to check with the Sixth Form team.

#### **Student Shoutout**

A huge congratulations to Year 13 student Theo, who was selected for the STEM SMART (Subject Mastery and Attainment Raising Tuition) Programme. Since January 2025, Theo has been attending weekly online lectures, and this summer he was invited to a residential at Cambridge University

(14th-18th August).

During his stay at Fitzwilliam College, Theo attended lectures and classes in Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry, and even had the opportunity to carry out practicals at the brand-new Ray Dolby Centre Cavendish Laboratory.

Theo thoroughly enjoyed the experience and meeting like-minded students who share his passion for STEM. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and look forward to following his journey as he applies to Cambridge University.









#### Sixth Form Dress Code Update - September 2025

The new Sixth Form dress code has come into effect, with only minor changes to the current expectations. As the weather continues to be warm, 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.

#### **Careers**

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

#### **Bursary**

If anyone needs any financial support for the Bursary, please contact Mrs Penberthy ASAP.

#### 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, Year 13 Careers Wednesday - Yr 12 Skills Friday - Yr 12 Careers, Year 13 Assembly

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. The focus is on future careers, and Academic Tutoring can help students identify and achieve career goals and improve professional relationships.

#### Sixth Form Reminders - Attendance, Lanyards & Wellbeing

Apologies to the new Year 12 students, lanyards will be with you ASAP. Year 13 - 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 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.

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

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 <a href="mailto:lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk">lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</a> 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 <a href="mailto:lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk">lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</a> or Angela Mahoney, Finance & Business Director <a href="mailto:amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk">amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</a>.





#### **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.



## Weekly **Newsletter**

Issue #1 - 5th September 2025











## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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'.

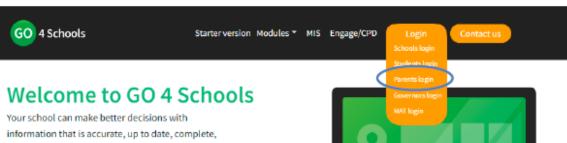


#### Parent / Carer Login

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.



- 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.		
A Behaviour	Homework see what homework has been set.  Inbox messages from the school will be displayed here.  Progress grades for assessments taken over the academic year.  Reports Annual written communication including strengths and next steps.  Timetable full academic timetable.		
12 Homework			
Inbox			
Progress  Reports			
Timetable			
60 Sign in with GO	First-time user?	Forgotten Password?	Forgotten Password
email address.	ur password, you car	n reset it by entering your	If you have forgotten your password, click
Email address			'Forgotten your Password' which is located just below the sign in option.
Send password reset link			Enter your school email address and a
			nassword reset will be emailed to your school

account.



### G4S App Login

1 – Download the app.



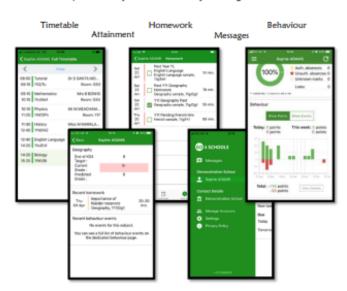


Click here

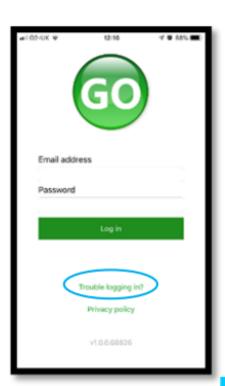


- 2 Type in your school email address.
- 3 Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.

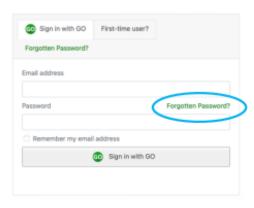


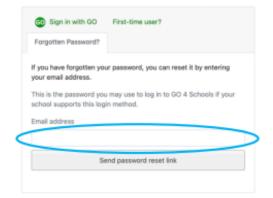




#### FORGOTTEN YOUR PASSWORD?

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.