

Message from the Principal

As we finish our first full week back after the summer break, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on some of the positives experienced so far.

Focus Phone Pouches

At Rivers, we remain committed to creating the best possible environment for both academic learning and personal growth. I am really pleased to share the positive impact we're already seeing from the introduction of the Focus phone pouches. By removing the distraction of mobile phones during the school day, students are becoming noticeably more present both in and out of the classroom, more engaged in their learning, and more connected with their peers and our staff especially during break times. It has been fantastic to witness this shift in focus and interaction around the school. As always, your support in helping us embed this new policy is greatly appreciated and I am proud to be part of a school community that has made the decision to free our students from the distraction of their phone during school hours.

Academy Site Improvements

Over the summer, significant work was carried out to replace the façade of the three-storey block, and I'm sure you'll agree that it has greatly enhanced the appearance of the academy. As part of this upgrade, new windows were installed so that classrooms in the block remain warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer which creates a more comfortable learning environment for our students all year round. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our fantastic site team for their dedication and hard work throughout the summer to ensure that all improvements were completed on time, ready to welcome our students back last week.

OAT/Oxbridge Scholars Programme

Today a group of our Year 13 students were invited to take part in the OAT/Oxbridge Scholars Programme and to attend the Cambridge Universities Open Day. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience an Oxbridge university environment first-hand, explore a Cambridge college campus, and take part in talks and tours as part of the university's official Open Day. The visit aims to inspire and inform students who may be considering an application to the University of Cambridge in the future, and will provide valuable insight into the expectations, opportunities, and experiences of Oxbridge study.

Go4Schools

We continue to use Go4Schools to show your child's timetable and attendance, to record positive and negative behaviour points and to show student progress. Year 7 students will be able to access their Go 4 Schools accounts after their first two Computer Science lessons. If there are still any issues regarding logging in, please ask your child to attend a Go4Schools help session in IT04 any break time except for Tuesdays. For Students and Parents there are guides for how to log in on the school website: Ormiston Rivers Academy - Go4Schools. Please email dgibson@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk if any more guidance is required.

Year 6 Open Evening

We are excited to be hosting our Academy Open Evening on Thursday 25th September, when we'll be welcoming prospective students and their families to explore everything Rivers has to offer as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. The evening will begin at 6:00pm and to allow staff time to prepare, the academy will close early for students at 1:40pm on that day. As always, our current students play a key role in making the evening a success. We would love to see as many of them as possible volunteering as tour guides, helping to showcase the vibrant and welcoming community we're so proud of. If your child is interested in taking part, they can collect a permission letter from Student Reception.

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

Dijana Piralic, Principal (interim)



Dates for your Diary

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

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 **"Cooperate"**.

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

wotw@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Say it: kow·o·puh·rayt

Spell it: Co-op-er- ate

Cooperate
(verb)

(Prefix) co - together,
with; altogether
(Stem) oper -work
(Suffix) ate - make into,
become; put into
action; treat with

Stem: / oper:- work

Understand it

To work together

Performing Arts News



Some of our amazing students are performing at a concert to mark the 250th year of St Mary's Church opening. It would be lovely see support from our local community. The concert is from 4-6pm on Saturday 20th September and will be hosted by Terry Saunders, who will also be performing. Tickets are available on the door for £10. We hope to see you there!



Sports News

This week we held our first Football and Netball Club of the term. We have had a great number of students attending and showing their enthusiasm for extracurricular sports.

In football club, we had the opportunity to play some 5-a-side matches, getting the Year 7 into the swing of the clubs and giving them an opportunity to showcase their skills.

In netball club, we had loads of students from a variety of year groups attend. We had the opportunity to place the older students into some gameplay and spend some time with the new Year 7 students. We were so impressed with their enthusiasm levels and hope to see many more of you next week!!

A massive thank you and shoutout to Daisy S and Halle D in Year 11 for supporting running a session for our Year 7 netball students!!



Clubs

Monday

Girls Football
Boys Rugby

Wednesday

Girls Netball
Boys Football

Year 7 - Mr Adair

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it has been for Year 7! As we settle into the term, I continue to be incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, kindness, and commitment shown by our students. Their energy and positivity are a real credit to them and to you.

This week, I'd like to celebrate our top merit earners, who have gone above and beyond in their attitude and effort across all areas of school life:

Amelia 7M2, Morgan 7D2, Keira 7A2, Ethan 7M2, Tom 7Z2, and Harrison 7M2

Well done to each of you, your hard work has not gone unnoticed!

During my recent learning walks, I have been amazed by the work our Year 7 students are completing in all lessons around the school, I have been especially impressed by the fantastic effort in English where I have seen more hands raised in the air, showing eager participation than I could have ever hoped for! In Music lessons I have seen students demonstrating a love of learning on the keyboard that every teacher dreams of seeing in their classroom. Students have been engaging thoughtfully with their learning, showing creativity, focus, and a real desire to improve. It's been a pleasure to see such high standards in action.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with:

- Attendance,
- Helping students be prepared for the school day
- Your understanding and communication with us as we work together to support your child's journey

Your partnership makes a huge difference, and we are grateful for it.

As always, your child's form tutor is the first point of contact for any day-to-day queries or concerns: 7A1 - hheales@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

7A2 - adennis@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

7M1 - dmecurius@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

7M2 - kcoulson@ormistonriveracademy.co.uk

7D1 - eh Heath@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk/

rball@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

7D2 - amorgan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

7Z1 - krumary@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

7Z2 - lbennet@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

For any serious incidents or concerns, please contact myself as Head of Year or our Year 7 SSA Miss Makwanajmakwana@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Warm regards,

Contact: cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

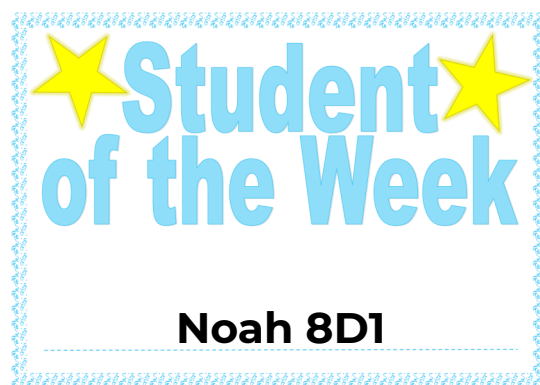
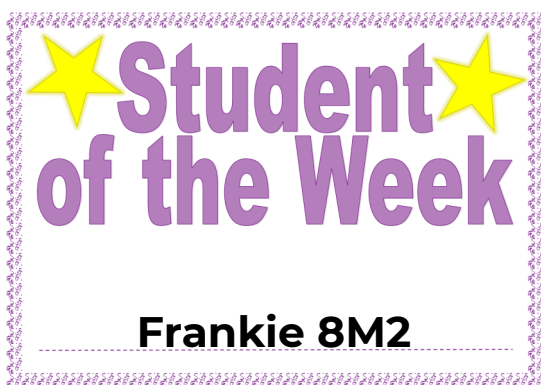


Year 8 - Mr Moon

It has been wonderful to see Year 8 settling quickly into routines and approaching their classes with enthusiasm. Teachers have been very impressed with the positive attitude and respectful behaviour shown so far.

This week, Year 8 attended their first assembly of the year, which focused on the importance of good attendance and setting personal goals for the year ahead. Students were encouraged to think about how consistent effort and resilience can help them achieve success both inside and outside the classroom.

Students of the week



In English lessons, Year 8 have begun reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. They have been exploring the themes of community, individuality, and choice, and have already shown thoughtful engagement with the text.

A reminder that students should be arriving to school on time, in the correct uniform, and prepared with the necessary equipment for each lesson. Consistency in these areas sets them up for success each day.



We are looking forward to seeing Year 8 continue to grow in confidence, responsibility, and independence throughout the term. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 9 – Mr Chapman

It has been another strong week for Year 9 as we settle back into routines.

- **Top 5 Merit Earners:** Congratulations to Ava B, Riley N, Ruby W, Bella D, and Alfred H for leading the way with positive points this week.
- **155 students** are still on a perfect record with zero negatives so far, which is an excellent start to the term.
- From our culture walks, I have heard particular praise for Year 9 in Art, DT, and Geography. Your effort and focus in these subjects is really standing out.

Well done on another positive week – let's keep building on this momentum.

Contact: rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 10 - Mr Field

This week's assembly focussed on the importance of attendance to school.

I think that you'll agree, that if a student achieved 90% in a test or an exam, they would be extremely happy with their success. I think you'll also agree that 90% attendance to school also sounds equally good, however, 90% attendance actually equates to missing 82 lessons over an academic year or just less than one month off school.

As GCSE subjects have just started, missing lessons at this stage would really not be beneficial to a student's final grades. By missing so many lessons it becomes very difficult to catch up with the outstanding work required and makes lessons seem that much harder. In fact, data from last year's Year 11 GCSE results showed that students with less than 90% attendance fell by at least one grade when their final results came in.

Please ensure all students attend every day so that collectively we can give them the best possible start on their chosen path after Year 11.

Thank you

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 – Ms Taylor

Year 11 continue to work hard, although some are starting to slip in terms of punctuality. Many of the negative behaviour points are for lateness to lessons - and that time all adds up. Detentions will be taken into account when invites to prom are issued, and I urge all Year 11 students to take their punctuality seriously.

Morning interventions will start next week to support students with a key area of study that requires attention. I very much hope that they will use these to their full effect.

All of the year will be involved in an Army Career Day on either Thursday or Friday next week. I am looking forward to seeing them involved in something different.

A huge number of merits have been awarded this week and congratulations to the following who have topped the list.

**Edward B - M1
Maisie B - Z2
Connor S - Z2
Faith W - Z2
Halle D - A1**

**Kayden D - D1
Maisie S - Z2
Evie S - Z2
Sienna B - D1
Tylor E - D1**

**Alex G - Z1
Isla G - Z1
Teddy K - Z2
Blake V - A2
Maria W - M1**

Have a wonderful weekend

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

It's been another fantastic week in the Sixth Form as our Year 12 students continue to settle into their new routines with enthusiasm and maturity. They have already embraced the academic challenge, completing MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), writing insightful book reviews, and beginning their Academic Tutoring sessions — all of which support their personal development and future career ambitions.

In today's assembly, we focused on the importance of supporting charitable causes, with a spotlight on Stand Up to Cancer. Students took the lead in encouraging staff and peers alike to show their support, highlighting the importance of standing together against this devastating disease.

Meanwhile, our Year 13 students on the OAT Oxbridge Programme had an exciting opportunity to visit Cambridge University for their Open Day. They attended a range of academic talks, explored colleges, and got a taste of life on campus. We're looking forward to hearing about their experiences and reflections when they return.

This Monday, the Sixth Form will be supporting Jeans for Genes, a charity that raises vital funds for families affected by genetic conditions. We encourage all Sixth Form students to wear jeans and make a donation to help support this fantastic cause. It's a simple way to show solidarity and make a real difference in the lives of children and families across the UK. Let's come together, dress down, and give generously!

It's been an inspiring week full of aspiration, compassion, and academic ambition — a true reflection of the values we promote in the Sixth Form.

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.

If any of our students would like to help with Open Evening or the Sixth Form Open Evening, please speak to Mrs Penberthy. We will also be announcing our new subject leads next week.

Bursary

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



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Student Shoutout

Year 12 - Joseph N for supporting with our social media "Day in the life"

Year 13 - Theo J for supporting with the prospectus

Students on the Sports Academy Programme have made an excellent start to the year and have been praised for their outstanding behaviour and commitment during both football training sessions and theory lessons with Mr Hill.

Their focus, discipline, and teamwork are setting the tone for what promises to be a successful year for football at Rivers Sport Academy. With strong foundations already in place, there's a real buzz of excitement around upcoming fixtures and new training opportunities. Watch this space for regular updates on matches, squad highlights, and player achievements as the season progresses.

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 rejoining 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.

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



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**Weekly
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RIVERS SIXTH FORM

careers, and Academic Tutoring can help students identify and achieve career goals and improve professional relationships.

Sixth Form Reminders – Attendance, Lanyards & Wellbeing

Apologise 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. 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.

Please follow our Instagram account for regular updates @riverssixthform

Remember to call Mrs Penberthy to report absences 01621 787882

Contact: mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Community - Ambition - Resilience - Respect - Excellence



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 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.



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GO 4 Schools

Starter version Modules MIS Engage/CPD

Login

Contact us

Schools login

Students login

Parents login

Governors login

MAT login

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

GO 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.



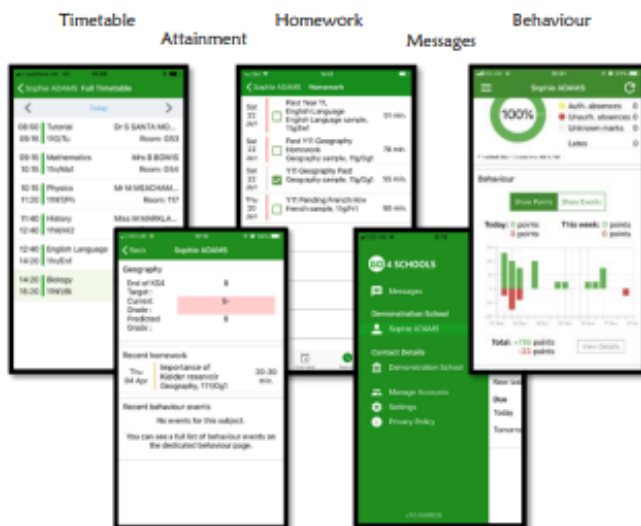
[Click here](#)

[Click here](#)

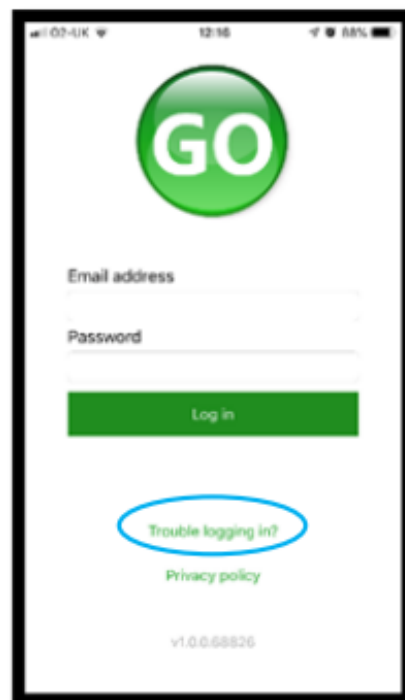
2 – Type in your school email address.

3 – Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.



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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.

GO Sign in with GO First-time user?

Forgotten Password?

Email address

Password

[Forgotten Password?](#)

☐ Remember my email address

GO Sign in with GO

GO Sign in with GO First-time user?

Forgotten Password?

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

This is the password you may use to log in to GO 4 Schools if your school supports this login method.

Email address

Send password reset link

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.