

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the midpoint of this half-term, I am pleased to share some reflections on the many activities and opportunities taking place across our school community.

I am delighted to see such strong participation in our after-school clubs and sports fixtures. These opportunities play a vital role in keeping our students motivated, engaged, and connected to school life. Thank you for continuing to encourage your children to take part, especially following the difficult decision to discontinue the late bus service. Your support helps ensure that our students continue to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

A particular highlight this term has been the visible support from our parent community. Whether through volunteering, attending events, or encouraging learning at home, your involvement makes a real difference. The partnership between home and school is central to every child's success, and we are grateful for your ongoing commitment.

Year 6 Open Evening - A reminder that our Academy Open Evening takes place next Thursday, beginning at 6:00pm. To allow staff time to prepare, the school day will end early at 1:40pm. School bus companies have been given the earlier time. Thank you also for encouraging your children to volunteer as tour guides during the evening - we greatly appreciate their contribution.

Communication and Use of Social Media - Rivers Academy is proud to be part of a strong, supportive community, and we remain committed to serving it with care and integrity. To achieve the best outcomes for our students, it is important that we continue working together in a spirit of respect and collaboration.

With this in mind, I ask for your support in promoting responsible use of social media. We are increasingly aware of posts involving sensitive issues, including comments directed at individual staff members. Such posts can be deeply hurtful and impact the well-being of staff and the wider school environment.

If you have concerns or questions, please raise them directly with the academy. Your child's Form Tutor should be your first point of contact and they will either provide a response or refer your query to the appropriate department. This helps us address issues promptly and ensures clear communication.

SEND Provision - Our SEND provision is currently short staffed, and we kindly ask for your patience during this time. For any SEND-related queries, please email send@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk and we will respond as soon as possible.

Burnham Carnival Fun Fair - If your child is planning to attend the Burnham Carnival Fun Fair this year, we encourage you to talk with them about potential risks to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. Should any incidents arise, please report concerns directly to the police.

I wish you a lovely weekend and look forward to welcoming students back 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

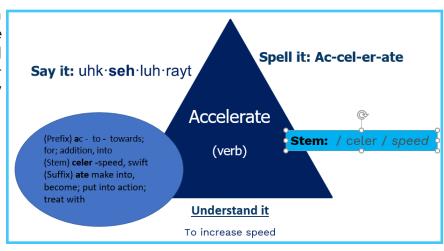
Staff INSET Day – academy closed to students



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 "Accelerate".

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

wotw@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.





Weekly Newsletter Issue #3 - 19th September 2025



Library Badges

There are 2 different Library badges that you can work towards achieving.

Library News Library Champion badge - Read a Library book and complete an amazing book review. 'Let's Talk About Books' review forms are available from the Library desk. Students receive merits for writing a book review, and the students who enter the best reviews are awarded badges. Another way to get this badge is to create a fantastic poster

about a favourite author who has books in our school library and recommend these books for other students to read.

Reader of the Month badge - Each month we select books with a different theme or genre for you to read. This month is September Sci-Fi; October will be Black History Month, and in

November we look at horror and suspense fiction. To achieve this badge, you are challenged to read the recommended book and complete a worksheet based on the story.

Well done to the following Year 7 students who have written fantastic book reviews this week - their reward is a Library Champion badge and merits! Rosa 7A2, Oscar 7Z2, Adeline 7A2, Jayden 7A2, Catalina 7A2.

Have you got a LIBRARY CHAMPION badge?

Could you be the next student to achieve a Library badge? Ask Mrs Yerbury, Librarian, for more information.

Come to the Library for our Scholastic Book Fair event!

We are holding a Book Fair for students to browse some of the latest book titles and purchase their own copy! Celebrate reading and choose from a fantastic selection of titles recommended for secondary school students. It is recognised nationally that reading for pleasure can improve learning outcomes for students; and if you buy books from this book fair you will also be helping to raise funds for the school.

The Book Fair will be in the Library at break and lunchtime from Friday 26th September to Tuesday 30th September. Payment for books will be cash only - so remember to bring cash to school on those days if you wish to participate. The Book Fair will also be here during Open Evening on Thursday 25th September from 6pm to 8pm for parents, carers and children to browse and purchase books. This will also be payment by cash only.

We look forward to welcoming you to visit the Book Fair next week. For further information contact Mrs Yerbury, Librarian.







Weekly Newsletter Issue # 3 - 19th September 2025



Year 7 Football

The Year 7's enjoyed their first game of football away to Shenfield this week.

The game was incredibly tight in the first half and after a great finish from Oliver to make it one nil to ORA, Shenfield levelled just before half time.

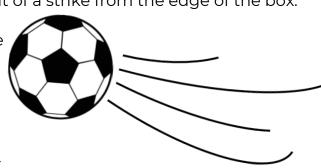
The second half was similar, both teams limiting each other to only a couple of chances. It was Shenfield however that won it was a thunderbolt of a strike from the edge of the box.

It was an excellent first game though with the whole squad working tirelessly - well done, team!

Year 10 Football

Year 10's played in the first round of the District Cup this week against Boswells from Chelmsford. A crazy first 5 minutes saw Boswells lead the game 2-1.

Sadly, Boswells continued to dominant the game and deserved their win. Thank you to all the boys that played.





Year 11 had the opportunity to take part in an Army Elite Skills Careers Day Thursday and Friday this week. They were given a presentation on career opportunities in the British Army, the **Spotlight** application process and the qualifications needed.

This was followed by an hour session of team building skills challenges. This required students to use communication skills, leadership skills and problem-solving skills. All skills that employers are asking for when students leave the world of education and enter the world of work.



















Year 7 - Mr Adair

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic start to the academic year, and I'm delighted to share how well our Year 7 students have settled into secondary school life. Their enthusiasm, kindness, and willingness to get involved have made a real impact already, and the year group is quickly becoming a valued part of our school community.

One of the highlights so far has been the incredible effort shown by the Year 7 boys football team in their first fixture of the season. Despite a narrow 2–1 loss away to Shenfield, the team played with determination and pride, and we're excited to see how they develop over the coming months.

In the classroom, students have made a strong start across all subjects. In drama, we've seen some outstanding creativity, with pupils confidently using freeze frames, levels, and dynamics to bring their ideas to life. It's been a joy to watch their confidence grow and their imagination flourish.

We're also celebrating a major milestone, over two thousand merits have already been awarded in Year 7! This is a testament to the students' hard work, positive attitude, and commitment to our school values. We're incredibly proud of them.

Looking ahead, there are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved. Open Evening is fast approaching, and Year 7 students are warmly invited to help out and represent the school. Letters are available now at Student Reception, and I encourage all interested pupils to take part, as it's a great way to build confidence and show leadership.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Please keep an eye on emails and the school app for updates, and don't hesitate to get in touch with me or your child's form tutor if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Welcome Evening, where we'll share more about the Year 7 journey and how we can work together to support your child.

- 7A1 hheales@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk
- 7A2 adennis@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk
- 7M1 <u>dmecurius@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</u>
- 7M2 kcoulson@ormistonriveracademy.co.uk
- 7D1 eheath@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk/rball@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk
- 7D2 amorgan@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk
- 721 krumary@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk
- 7Z2 Ibennet@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

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

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.

In this week's assembly, we focused on attendance and why it's so important. Every single day in school counts! Missing just one day can mean gaps in your learning, and regular absences can add up quickly.

Students of the week



Ruby - 8D1



Rowan - 8D1

Top merits for the week

- 1st Jacob 8D2
- 2nd Poppy 8D2
- 3rd Freddie 8Z1

Year 8 attendance

• 93.35%

Top attendance

- 1st 8A2 with 95.4%
- 2nd 8M1 with 94.45%

Well-done to those tutor groups.

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk





Year 9 - Mr Chapman

Open Evening – 25th September

A huge thank you to our Year 9 students who are volunteering at next week's Open Evening. Their enthusiasm and pride in our school will no doubt make a fantastic impression on prospective Year 7s and their families.

School Production: Chicago

Rehearsals have officially begun for this year's school production of Chicago. We're thrilled to see some talented Year 9 students joining the cast. We look forward to seeing them perform in December.

Football Victory

Congratulations to the Year 9 boys' football team for their impressive 3–0 win against Plume on Tuesday. A strong performance and a well-deserved result—well done, team!

Merit Achievements

This week's top merit earners are:

- Mia W
- Samuel B
- Alfred H

Leading the way for the year so far:

- Ava B
- Alfred H
- Mia W

Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!

Contact: rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 10 - Mr Field

It is good to see that Year 10 have started their GCSE subjects with focus, commitment and hard work. This can be seen in the number of students receiving positive points in their lessons, with 90% of the year group having achieved over 15 positive points since we started a few weeks ago, along with 905 of the year group having less than 10 negative points.

Top positive point earners this week are: Kieran, Arran, Tommy, Mason, Evie, Erin, Shaine, Daisy, Tegan, Tyler, Adle, Scarlett and James.

Well done to you all and keep up the hard work.

Contact: <u>sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk</u>



Year 11 - Ms Taylor

On Thursday and Friday this week, we had the privilege of having an Army related careers event. Year 11 had an assembly about opportunities in the Armed Forces before having an hour of practical sessions, developing communication skills, leadership and problem solving. All of these are transferrable skills which students should consider evidencing on post 16 applications. It was lovely to see so many students engage so positively with the activities. This also contributes to the careers provision in year 11.

Sadly, there have been some incidents at break and lunch, usually around footballs and I will be reminding the students to keep to their own area of the field and away from younger years. I would appreciate it if this message is supported at home, so that younger students aren't intimidated and Year II do not face retaliation for their antics. I do not want to ban them from the field, but their conduct must be appropriate. They have no need to go anywhere near the areas of other year groups.

I would also like to remind students that there are 4 school weeks until their second set of mocks and so revision should be underway. These are the grades they will be putting on their post -16 applications and so they should reflect their ability. Interventions also started this week on Tuesday-Thursday to support with this and will continue.

There are many positives this week. The study area continues to be well used at break and lunch. Many students have worked really hard to improve their attendance. The top merit achievers this week are:

Paris H - Z1 Maisie B - Z2 Isla G - Z1 Sienna B - D1 Ava H - D1 Maria W - M1 Holly D - Z1 Bobby B - D1 Chloe G - A1 Kyla L - D1 Eve M - M2 Becca M - M2 Ava B - Z1 Lily B - A2 Ella C - Z2 Eleanor G - A1 Alex G - Z1 Callum G - A1 Aiden K - M2 Madison P - M1 Riley W - D1

A reminder that next Thursday evening is our Open Evening where all Year 11 prefects should be at school to fulfil their role as tour guides.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

Another Busy Week in the Sixth Form! This week, the Sixth Form came together in a fantastic show of community spirit to support Jeans for Genes Day. Students and staff alike wore jeans to school and made generous donations, all in support of children living with genetic disorders. It was great to see the whole Sixth Form united for such a meaningful cause, demonstrating compassion, solidarity, and a commitment to making a difference. Well done to everyone who took part and contributed to this important charity.





In this week's assemblies, students were treated to an engaging and inspiring presentation by Mrs Smith in celebration of National Poetry Day. She shared a selection of thought-provoking poems, highlighting the power of words and the beauty of poetic expression.

Students were also invited to take part in interactive tasks, encouraging them to think creatively and reflect on the themes explored in the poems. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate literature and ignite a passion for poetry across the Sixth Form.

Last week 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.

It's been another 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 have any plants that they no longer want, please bring them in to brighten out Sixth Form area up.

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.



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Student Shoutout

Year 12 - Charlotte for her outstanding work ethic during non-contacts

Year 13 - Tegan for all her help with the Environmental Club and her work ethic during noncontacts.

Sports Academy News

It's been a week of intense training and determination for our Sports Academy students as they prepare for their first official game of the season next week against The Sweyne Park School.

The team has shown great commitment and teamwork throughout their sessions, and spirits are high as they head into this exciting fixture. We have high hopes for a strong performance and will be out in full force to support them.

Good luck to all involved - we're behind you every step of the way!



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.

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



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

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

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



Weekly Newsletter

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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.





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

1x purple biro for assessment feedback

2 x pencils

1 x 30cm ruler

Coloured pencils (not felt tips)

Eraser

Pencil sharpener

Maths set (including a scientific calculator)

Student Planner (student organiser)

Reading book

Books / folders for the days lessons

Water bottle

Basic art equipment

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

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

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

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



Absence Reporting

Students should attend school unless they are very unwell. On every day of absence please contact the school with the reason why your son/daughter is not attending. Please contact us as early as possible and at the latest by 8am on the first day of absence. This can be via the following methods:

MyEd Messaging App

ConnectED absence line: 0845 355 8104

Attendance line: 01621 787855

Change of Personal Details

It is essential that we are kept up to date with changes in your contact details. This may be a change to a mobile number, an e-mail address, a full address or even a change of who is the first priority to contact. By keeping us up to date with changes we can ensure that you are receiving information regarding your child's progress and that we can contact someone in the case of an emergency. Or preferred means of communication is by e-mail, please ensure that we have a current e-mail address for you. Please notify us of any changes by e-mail to: kcannon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Lost Property

We have several items in lost property, mainly coats, PE kits, blazers and drinking bottles. Any student can check in Student Reception for lost items. Please note that items not collected before the end of each half-term may be donated to charity or disposed of accordingly, therefore, please remind your children to check for anything they have misplaced before this time. Thank you.





Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools after 19th August 2024.

Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including the U code (late after registers have closed).

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Second Offence

(within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court.

Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

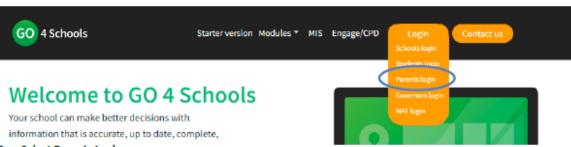


Parent / Carer Login

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). Behaviour positive and negative points. 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.		
Attendance			
28 Behaviour			
Homework			
☐ Inbox			
DO Progress			
Reports			
Timetable	Timetable full	academic timetable.	
Sign in with GO	First-time user?	Forgotten Password?	Forgotten Password
If you have forgotten yo	our password, you car	n reset it by entering your	
email address.			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 password reset will be emailed to your school

account.



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G4S App Login

1 – Download the app.





Click here

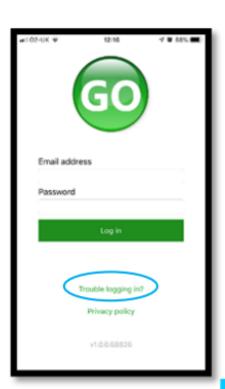


- 2 Type in your school email address.
- 3 Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.

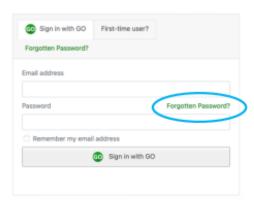


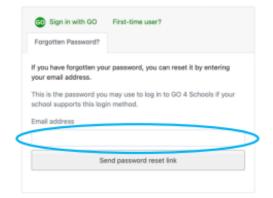




FORGOTTEN YOUR PASSWORD?

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.



Weekly Newsletter

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Burnham On Crouch Town Council in conjunction with The Royal British Legion invites you to attend.

BURNHAM ON CROUCH REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 10:30AM BURNHAM WAR MEMORIAL

Commemorating the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and of civilians in times of war.

