

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a vibrant and fulfilling week at Rivers, and I'm excited to share some of the lovely moments from across our school community.

On Thursday evening, we welcomed prospective students and their families to our annual Open Evening. It was such a pleasure to see so many excited young people exploring the academy, chatting with staff and students, and getting a real feel for what life at Rivers is all about. The atmosphere was fantastic, and the feedback we've received has been incredibly positive.

I want to say a huge thank you to our brilliant student volunteers who guided families around the school and brought our subjects to life with engaging demonstrations. You represented Rivers with pride and warmth, and we couldn't be prouder. A special mention goes to our new Year 7 students Dougie & Lila and Sixth Form Leadership Team Theo, George, Dan & Evie who spoke so confidently to our visitors. You were outstanding and showed real courage and leadership.

I'm also incredibly grateful to our dedicated staff, whose enthusiasm and hard work made the evening such a success. Thank you for everything you do to make Rivers a place where students thrive.

It's also been a busy week for sport. Our Year 8 girls' football team hosted a home fixture against Anglo European School, and our Rivers Sixth Form Sport Academy played their first home match of the season against Sweyne Park. Both teams showed great spirit and teamwork; well done to everyone involved.

As we approach the end of the month, we're looking forward to celebrating students who've shown excellent attendance, behaviour, and lived our CARRE values. Each department will be choosing their Star of the Month, students who've gone above and beyond, whether through hard work, creativity, resilience or simply being a fantastic role model. We'll be sharing the winners in next week's newsletter, and I know you'll be just as proud of them as we are.

This Saturday, some of our students and staff will be taking part in the Burnham Carnival procession on our "Heroes & Villains" float. If you're heading out to watch, please give them a wave and help fill their collection pots; your support means a lot!

Looking ahead, our Sixth Form team will be hosting their Open Evening next Tuesday, 30th September, from 5:00 to 7:00pm. We're excited to welcome our Year 11 students and their families to explore the wide range of post-16 pathways available at Rivers. It's a great opportunity to meet staff and students, discover the subjects on offer, and get a real sense of what life in our Sixth Form is like. For a glimpse into Sixth Form life, do follow @RiversSixthForm on Instagram.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, and I look forward to seeing our students back on Monday, ready for another great week.

Warm regards,

Dijana Piralic

Principal (interim)

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 30 September 2025 @5pm

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

Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October 2025 (2 weeks)

Autumn half term holiday

Monday 3rd November 2025

All students return after half term

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 **“Complement”**.

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

wotw@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Say it: kom-pluh-ment

Spell it: Com-ple-ment

Complement

(noun)

Stem: / ple:- fill / can be

(Prefix) **com** - together, with; altogether
(Stem) **ple** - fill - can be 'pli' 'plete' or 'plen'
(Suffix) **ment** - state, result of an action

Understand it

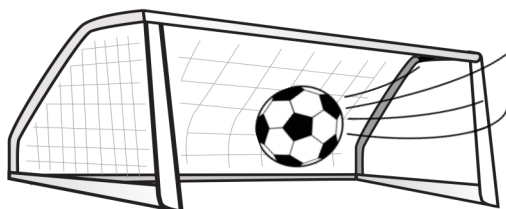
A thing that gives extra features to something else in such a way as to improve or emphasise its quality.



Year 8 Girls Football

On Tuesday we hosted Anglo European School for a Year 8 girls football fixture! We played some great football with some great teamwork! We were unlucky to loose 1-0 but the girls kept their heads high for their first fixture of the year.

Player of the match went to Lexi M, with special mention to Millie B for keeping the team in the game with some great saves!





Year 7 - Mr Adair

It has been another busy week here at Ormiston Rivers. I cannot help but be amazed by the energy, enthusiasm, and excellence radiating from our Year 7 students. From classroom achievements to community contributions, this month has been packed with moments worth celebrating.

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the Year 7 students who volunteered their time and talents at our recent Open Evening. Your warm welcomes, confident conversations, and impressive displays of work helped make the event a true success. Families and prospective students were genuinely impressed by your maturity and pride in our school. You showed exactly what it means to be part of our community, and we couldn't be prouder.

Across the school, fantastic work has been spotted in many subjects, but a special mention must go to our budding scientists in Year 7. In recent lessons, students have been exploring the fascinating world of acids and alkalis, conducting practical experiments with care and curiosity. From testing household substances to learning how indicators work, the level of engagement and scientific thinking has been outstanding. It's clear we have some future chemists in the making!

This week also saw a powerful and memorable road safety performance on Wednesday, delivered with passion and purpose. Year 7 students watched attentively as the performers brought important messages to life through drama, helping everyone understand how to stay safe on and around roads. The performance was both entertaining and educational, and we're confident it left a lasting impression on all who attended.

As the term continues, we look forward to seeing even more great work, kind actions, and exciting opportunities unfold. Well done, Year 7—you're off to a brilliant start.

Contact: cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

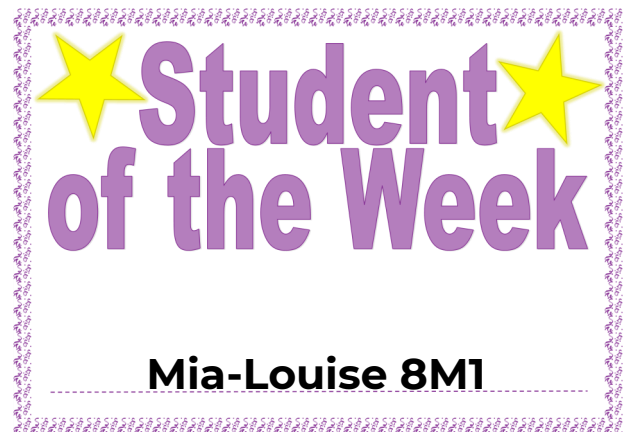
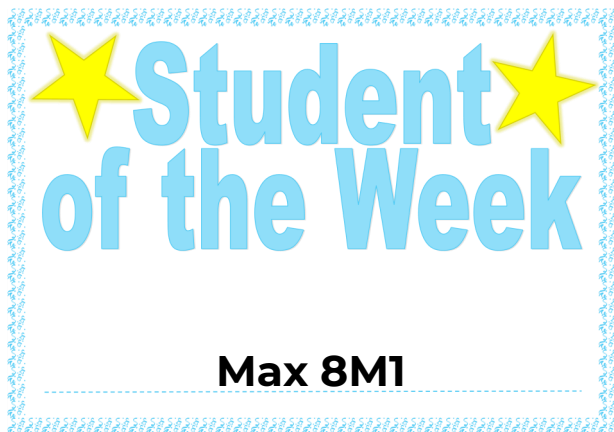


Year 8 - Mr Moon

A big well done to our Year 8 girls' football team who played their very first match this week! The team showed fantastic teamwork, determination, and school spirit. We're so proud of how they represented our year group on the pitch. Next week we have our first boys football fixture for the year. Good luck boys!

Thank you to all the Year 8 students who volunteered to help during Open Evening. We are delighted to say that Year 8 had the most helpers out of all year groups! Your friendliness, hard work, and enthusiasm really made a difference in welcoming future students and their families.

Mrs Byford's students of the week:



Top merits:

1st - Jess 8M2 with 31 points
2nd - Dougie 8Z1 and Alex 8D1 with 26 points
3rd - Bellamarie 8Z1 with 23 points

I hope you all have a restful and relaxing weekend, and I am looking forward to a new start next week.

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 9 – Mr Chapman

We're now more than halfway through the first half term, and it's flown by! It's been great to receive positive feedback about Year 9, particularly in PE and Humanities. Students have been working hard and making a strong impression on their teachers—well done to everyone for their efforts.

Merit Highlights

Top 3 Merit Earners This Week

Lou Lou C (9D2)
Isabelle R (9A2)
Ava B (9A2)

Top 3 Merit Earners Overall

Ava B (9A2)
Alfred H (9M1)
Isabelle R (9A2)

Keep up the fantastic work!

Open Evening Thanks

A huge thank you to all the Year 9 students who supported our Open Evening. It was brilliant to see so many of you helping to showcase our school to prospective Year 7 families. Your enthusiasm and maturity were a credit to the year group.

Attendance Focus

This week, our attendance dipped below the target of 90%. Let's make a real push over the next three weeks to get back on track. A special shout-out to the **133 students** who still have **100% attendance**—excellent commitment!

Contact: rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 10 - Mr Field

Whilst on my learning walks this week, it was wonderful to see so many students working hard and being focussed during their lessons. It was great to speak to George, James, Poppy and Daisy in their History lesson, as they were reviewing a test from the previous lesson, and were very pleased with their results. Well done guys. During Science, students were learning about testing different food groups and their properties. It was brilliant to see Louisa, Harry and Taylon all answering questions and getting involved in the tasks.

Top positive points earners this week are: Kieran, Megan, Tegan, Danica, Pippa, Felicity, Leah, Charlie, Shaine, Tommy, Lewisb and Skye. Well done to you all and keep up the hard work.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 – Ms Taylor

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our Year 11 Prefects for their superb guiding at Open Evening last night. They represented the Academy so well and I am so very proud of them.

This week I have seen some engaging lessons in Science and English, however, my favourite lesson involved seeing students make onion bhajis in Food - they are always welcome to bring their work up for tasting.

It is really good to see so many new names on the top merit earners this week, and my congratulations go to:

Samuel H - Z1, Henry A - Z2, Chloe G - A1, Lily B - A2, Bobby B - D1, Jaiden G - M1, Sienna H - A1, Maria H - M1, Ava H - D1, Emily B - A1, Keifer B - Z1, George C - M2, Holly D - Z1, Josh F - Z2, Paris H - Z1, Isla G - Z1, Bobby H - Z1, Kyla L - D1, Fletcher M - Z1, Evan M - D1, Tom N - D1, Layla S - M1, Ronnie - M1, Amelia T - Z1, Sebastian W - M1, Riley W - D1, Riley G - A2.

Many Year 11 students have using the study area well, with others asking for support with revision timetables and techniques. I am always available to help with this, so please do not hesitate to see me for whatever support you need.

An area that still needs improvement is punctuality to lessons. Most of the negative points for our Year 11 students are for this reason. If you could reiterate the importance of making every minute count as we head towards exams, that would be very much appreciated.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

This week, the Sixth Form came together as a strong and supportive community. Students rallied behind the Rivers Sport Academy in their first game, showing great school spirit. They also focused on sustainability by promoting recycling initiatives and worked collaboratively to improve the Sixth Form Centre, making it a more welcoming and functional space for all.

In this week's assemblies, students attended an informative and engaging presentation by Mrs Makwana on sexual health. This important topic encouraged awareness, responsibility, and open discussion, helping students make informed choices and better understand their well-being.

It really has 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

Open Evening – A Huge Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful students who supported Open Evening. From those leading activities in departments to the Sixth Form Leadership Team who spoke confidently during the main hall presentations, every student was brilliant. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school with such enthusiasm and professionalism.



Sixth Form Open Evening – Student Volunteers Needed

If any students would like to support the Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 30th September, please speak to Mrs Penberthy. This is a great opportunity to get involved, showcase our community, and gain valuable experience. We will also be announcing our new subject leads next week.

Carnival - Tegan and George will be performing with their band on Saturday, 16:00 in front of the clocktower. Please come and support them and enjoy the music.

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. 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.

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Student Shoutout

Year 12 - Bobbi for her positive attitude and the time spent studying every evening

Year 13 - Evie for her outstanding resilience



Sports Academy News

First Football Game of the Season

Our boys played their first football game on Wednesday. Although they didn't win, we were very impressed with their commitment and determination to improve and secure a victory next week. It was also wonderful to see so many Sixth Form students out supporting the team, once again demonstrating great community spirit. Well done, boys!

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 provides 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.

Sixth Form Reminders – Attendance, Lanyards & Wellbeing

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



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

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.



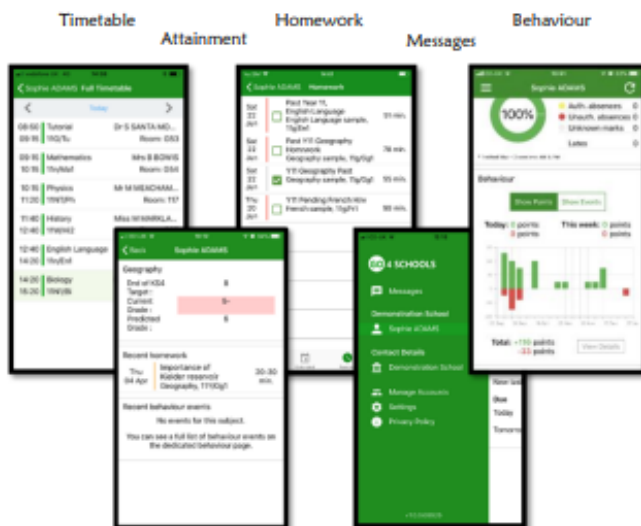
[Click here](#)

[Click here](#)

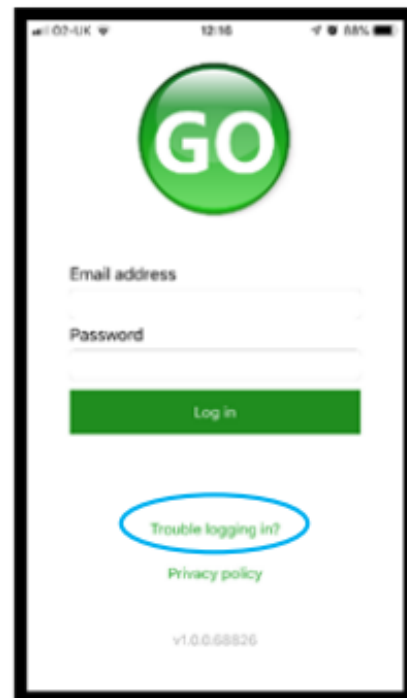
2 – Type in your school email address.

3 – Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.



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.



**Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy**

**Weekly
Newsletter**

Issue # 4 - 26th September 2025



**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.**



Community - Ambition - Resilience - Respect - Excellence