



**Ormiston  
RIVERS  
Academy**

# **Prospectus**

**2025 - 2026**

**Community - Ambition - Resilience - Respect - Excellence**

# Welcome



Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Visitors,

I am delighted to welcome you to Ormiston Rivers Academy. As Principal, it is my privilege to lead a school community that truly lives by our CARE values: Community, Ambition, Resilience, Respect, and Excellence. These values are not just words, they are the foundation of everything we do, shaping our culture and guiding our students to become the very best versions of themselves.

Our core purpose is simple and non-negotiable: to educate and enrich the lives of every student, every day, in every lesson, assembly, and opportunity. We believe in the power of education to transform lives, and we are committed to unlocking the potential in every child.

Our curriculum is broad, balanced, and ambitious. From the arts and humanities to languages, sport, and STEM, students experience a rich tapestry of subjects, underpinned by strong provision in English, Maths, Science, and more. Our teaching is characterised by clarity, challenge, and high expectations, designed not just to cover content, but to build knowledge, develop skills, and prepare young people for their next steps, whether that's further study, apprenticeships, or employment.

But education at Ormiston Rivers is about more than just academic achievement. We nurture character, confidence, curiosity, and well-being through a wealth of extra-curricular clubs, activities, trips, and performances. From sports and performing arts to STEM, debate, and Duke of Edinburgh, our students have countless opportunities to discover new interests, develop leadership, and contribute to our wider community.

While we celebrate our achievements, we are never complacent. We know there is always more to do, whether closing gaps in literacy and numeracy, improving attendance, or ensuring every lesson and interaction reinforces our values. We are committed to knowing every child as an individual, holding high expectations, and providing a warm, supportive environment where every young person is encouraged to try, even when they find things difficult.

I am confident that the information in this prospectus, along with our website and the opportunity to visit us on Open Evening or during one of our Open Morning tours, will show you what makes Ormiston Rivers Academy special. I look forward to meeting you and hope to welcome your child to our remarkable academy community next year.

Dijana Piralic, Principal

*"Students are engaged and positive about their learning"*  
Ofsted 2023

<b>C</b>	We participate and contribute positively to our school and the local <b>COMMUNITY</b> .
<b>A</b>	We have <b>AMBITION</b> for ourselves, others and the school. We want to succeed.
<b>R</b>	We <b>RESPECT</b> ourselves and others; we are polite. We are <b>RESILIENT</b> in the face of challenge and difficulty.
<b>E</b>	We aim for <b>EXCELLENCE</b> in all that we do; we want to be our best selves at all times.



# Mathematics



Mathematics is both an incredibly interesting and important subject. A good mathematical understanding is essential for an increasing number of careers as well as a fundamental part of everyday life. Securing understanding is achieved through our provision of an exciting and innovative curriculum, where concepts are linked across subjects and taught in novel ways. Competitions, trips and clubs form part of our extended offer beyond the normal school day and help foster the true pleasure that mathematics brings.

In mathematics, students follow a well-sequenced curriculum centred around four strands: algebra, number, geometry and statistics. Conceptual links are emphasised across strands and knowledge is carefully built on and reviewed. Frequent opportunities for creativity are presented, and can stimulate moments of wonder when a problem is solved for the first time, or when hidden connections suddenly manifest. This enables students to build a secure framework of mathematical reasoning, which they can use and apply with confidence.

The mathematics department at Ormiston Rivers Academy is passionate about supporting students to become confident in their mathematical ability whilst instilling a joy for learning. Our subject specialists provide students with the tools they need to become successful mathematicians. By focusing on context, competition and challenge, students are encouraged to achieve beyond their expectations, setting them up for success in the future.



# Science

The science curriculum at Ormiston Rivers Academy aims to develop confident scientists of the future, with comprehensive and diverse subject knowledge. Our team of well-qualified subject specialists aim to train students in the three science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, including how to use a wide range of scientific equipment to set them up for future success in their next steps.

Our curriculum offer starts at KS3 which is broadly based on the fundamentals needed to access the GCSE curriculum. For those with a thirst for understanding science, we offer a Science club to Year 7 and Year 8 students, which is designed to expand their understanding and knowledge in an enjoyable, friendly and fun environment.

In Year 7 we cover a variety of topics, including states of matter, energy, movement and digestion, human reproduction, forces and motion, animal cells and electricity.

In Year 8 our topics include the periodic table and chemical reactions, plants and photosynthesis, ecology, magnetism and health.

In Year 9, as well as continuing to embed the topics covered in Years 7 and 8, we introduce specific GCSE topics from the three areas of science, providing students with a strong basis upon which to commence their GCSE studies.

At GCSE we offer both combined science and the individual triple science disciplines of Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Year 10 and 11 students are provided with access to computer-based, home-learning platforms to enhance their learning.





# English Language and Literature

Our English department aims to create inquisitive readers, writers and speakers and to develop students into empathetic, resilient and hardworking learners who have the world opened up to them through the study of English. Through expert teaching and an ambitious, challenging, knowledge rich and skill-driven curriculum, students are enabled to become confident readers, writers and speakers. They are given opportunities to take part in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and trips including theatre visits, speaking competitions, writing competitions and mock trials.



Our English curriculum is designed to be ambitious and thought-provoking, introducing a variety of classic and contemporary novels, plays and poetry across several genres, to inspire our students to expand their knowledge of the English language and to explore the impact of works of literature on social issues and conventions.

**Literacy** is embedded in every area of the academy. All lessons have a strong literacy focus with key words introduced in all subjects, enabling students to understand and access every aspect of the curriculum.

Our staff are passionate about the importance of literacy and reading. There is a strong reading culture which is supported by various initiatives, such as Lexonik Leap, Lexonik Advance, Read-Aloud sessions in tutor time, catch-up literacy sessions and, of course, World Book Day.

Our weekly “Word of the Week” is used to develop students’ vocabulary and is displayed in all tutor groups and around the academy as a prompt. Students are encouraged to “Say it, Spell it, Understand it and Define it” and are issued with reward points for their efforts.

Our amazing library also provides students with ample opportunities to enhance their reading and literacy skills, including a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and reference books, additional reference materials and access to laptops. The library is open before and after school and at break and lunch time, and also runs a variety of extra-curricular clubs and competitions.

# Modern Foreign Languages

Languages are becoming more and more important in the multi-cultural and multi-lingual society in which we live. The study of a modern language is seen as extremely beneficial by prospective employers.

At Ormiston Rivers Academy, students are helped to recognise their linguistic knowledge, understanding and skills that help them to take their place in a multilingual society.

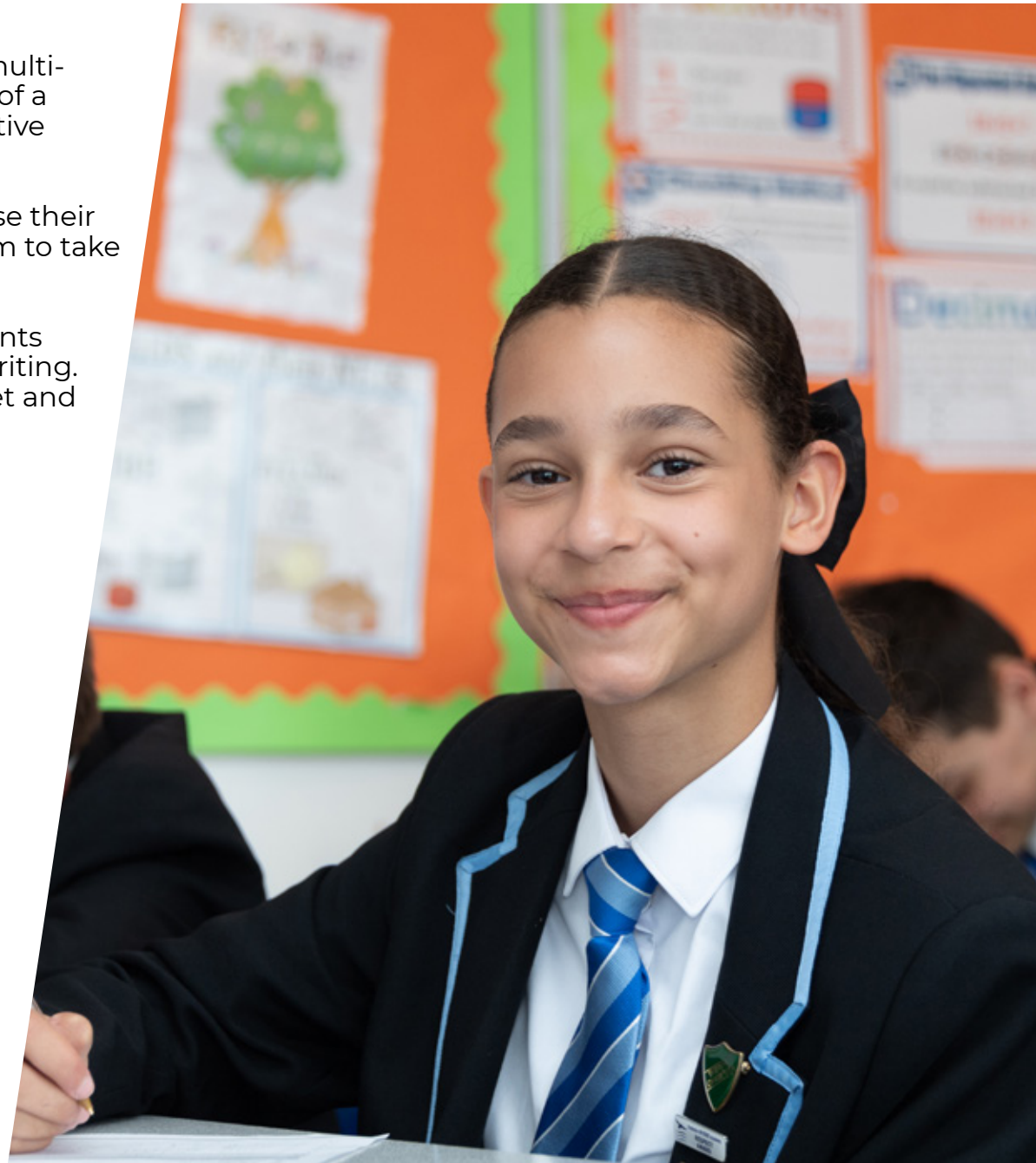
The MFL department is committed to ensuring that all students develop the four key skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students have access to a variety of resources such as internet and authentic texts in the target language.

Whilst mastering language techniques such as tense and vocabulary, students are enabled to put these into practice through the study of a variety of topics from Year 7 to Year 11, including family & home life, TV & Film, books, hobbies, sport, holidays and many more.

Students have the opportunity to travel to France and Spain, which enriches their skills and enjoyment of learning a new language.

Both French and Spanish languages are studied at GCSE.

*"There are a range of clubs, trips and events which help students learn about the wider world"*  
Ofsted 2023





# Humanities

## **Geography:**

In Geography, we aim to provide students with a clear overview of the world in the 21st century and develop a sense of 'awe and wonder', which will allow them to fully appreciate and learn from the world around them. We will empower students with a strong sense of place and provide opportunities for personalised and independent learning.

At key stage 3, students study a broad range of topics including map skills, human and physical geography, ecosystems, global weather, climate and climate change, amongst many others. The GCSE geography course at key stage 4 allow students the opportunity to study a balance of physical, human geography and fieldwork

## **History:**

History is a highly respected academic discipline, which enables its scholars to think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, make informed decisions and develop perspective and judgement. This will prepare students to become informed, thoughtful and active citizens

At key stage 3, students study a range of topics and historical periods, including historical local study, medieval society, the English civil war, Empire & Commonwealth and the Titanic, amongst many others.

The GCSE History course aims to build knowledge across a range of time periods and geographical areas. Students have the opportunity to visit a historic environment selected by the exam board. Previous examples have included the Royal Observatory, London; Ham House, London and Medway, Kent.

## **Religious Studies:**

RS teaches students to respect the views of others and to communicate their own views in a courteous and sensitive way. It prepares students for adult life as it encourages them to consider moral issues both past and present. Students will also learn about different societies, cultures and the six major world religions.

RS inspires students to develop their own sense of identity and belonging within a multicultural society. Our aim at Ormiston Rivers Academy is to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which all students feel comfortable sharing their beliefs and viewpoints.

RS is also available to take at GCSE, where students are enabled to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of issues concerning life, culture and society.



# Art and Design Technology

## Art:

Our Art department actively encourages creativity and ambition. We provide an innovative and reflective art and design experience that allows students to be creative and imaginative.

We cover a variety of different art specialisms from drawing, fine art, mixed media collage, sculpture and three-dimensional designs.

Students research artists and art movements to discover both conventional and unconventional processes. These will be used to inform their own creative pieces of art using a variety of materials and techniques.

We also provide opportunities to exhibit work, to enter local and national Art competitions and to take part in a variety of related trips and visits.



## Design Technology:

Technology at Ormiston Rivers Academy covers a broad range of subjects including:

- Product design
- Food
- Engineering
- Textiles

These use scientific, mathematical and ICT principles to problem-solve the design and production of real products, prototypes and modelling in 2D and 3D.

We build students' knowledge of the subject as well as linking with business and enterprise to give them access to big projects. Collaboration is a vital part of our curriculum.

All of our technologies offer real-world experience and training and are designed to enthuse and challenge our young people to help make a difference to their futures.



# Performing Arts

Our Performing Arts curriculum encompasses a broad range of subjects; drama, dance, music technology and music performance, providing students with a variety of platforms and opportunities to truly express themselves.

## Music

At Key Stage 3, our music curriculum is designed to give students a broad and engaging foundation in performance, composition, listening, and music technology. Across Years 7 to 9, pupils explore a wide range of musical styles and traditions, from Western classical piano works and musical theatre to Caribbean, African, Samba, and Indonesian Gamelan music. They develop essential skills through solo and ensemble performance, singing, and instrumental work, while also building creativity through structured composition tasks. The use of Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) is introduced early on, enabling students to compose, mix, and produce using modern technology alongside traditional instruments.

At Key Stage 4 and 5, students have the option to specialise in either Music Technology (NCFE) or Music Performance (Trinity/TCL), allowing them to pursue a pathway that best matches their interests and strengths. The Music Technology course develops advanced skills in recording, sequencing, mixing, and production using industry-standard Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) such as Cubase and Ableton. The Music Performance course offered at Key Stage 4 focuses on developing instrumental and/or vocal skills to a high level, with an emphasis on technical control, expressive performance, and stylistic awareness. Pupils work towards graded performance pieces, explore improvisation across a range of genres, and gain valuable experience through rehearsals and live assessments.

## Drama

In drama at Key Stage 3, our students develop their performance skills working from a diverse range of stimuli. Students create original work learning devising skills and how to incorporate different dramatic techniques into a piece of drama. They also explore a variety of scripts, looking at how work can be interpreted from page to stage.

At KS 4 and 5 students can opt to do GCSE and A Level Drama where we follow the Eduqas exam board. Here, students further their knowledge and practice from KS 3 when producing both devised and scripted drama. Students will explore the work of influential theatre practitioners and develop their own work using practitioner styles and working methods. They will also study set texts in a greater level of detail, including exploring theatre from a design perspective and looking at how theatrical elements can be used to communicate meaning to an audience. Students are assessed through both their practical and written work.

## Dance

At Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to study the Level 2 BTEC in Dance, developing their performance skills, creativity and understanding of the performing arts industry. The BTEC Level 2 Award in Dance allows students to explore professionals works, develop technical and performance skills in response to a set brief.

Performing Arts students are involved in a range of showcases and productions throughout the year, including our ever-popular annual school musical and the opportunity to take part in the National Theatre Connections programme annually, along with our Gym and Dance show each summer. We encourage our students to become positive members of our local community and regularly take part in performances at our local churches and events, such as Burnham Carnival.



## Our intent is 'Physical confidence, health and career through PE'.

The physical education department makes a unique contribution to academy life by aiming to develop children physically, mentally and socially.

From Year 7 students receive four hours of core PE every two weeks, with lessons ranging from team sports such as football, netball, rugby and rounders, to individual sports such as cross country, badminton and athletics, to name just a few. Lessons focus on the physical, social and mental aspects of the curriculum, where students will develop an understanding of teamwork, respect, leadership, resilience, healthy active lifestyle, decision making and performance skills.

At key stage 4 students study the NCFE Health & Fitness course. There is a combination of theory and practical elements to the course, where students will develop knowledge in practical sports, fitness and sports leadership.

Students have the opportunity to participate in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. There are sports teams for all year groups in most activities and we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Many students will also have the opportunity to represent the academy in fixtures against other schools from the mid-Essex district.

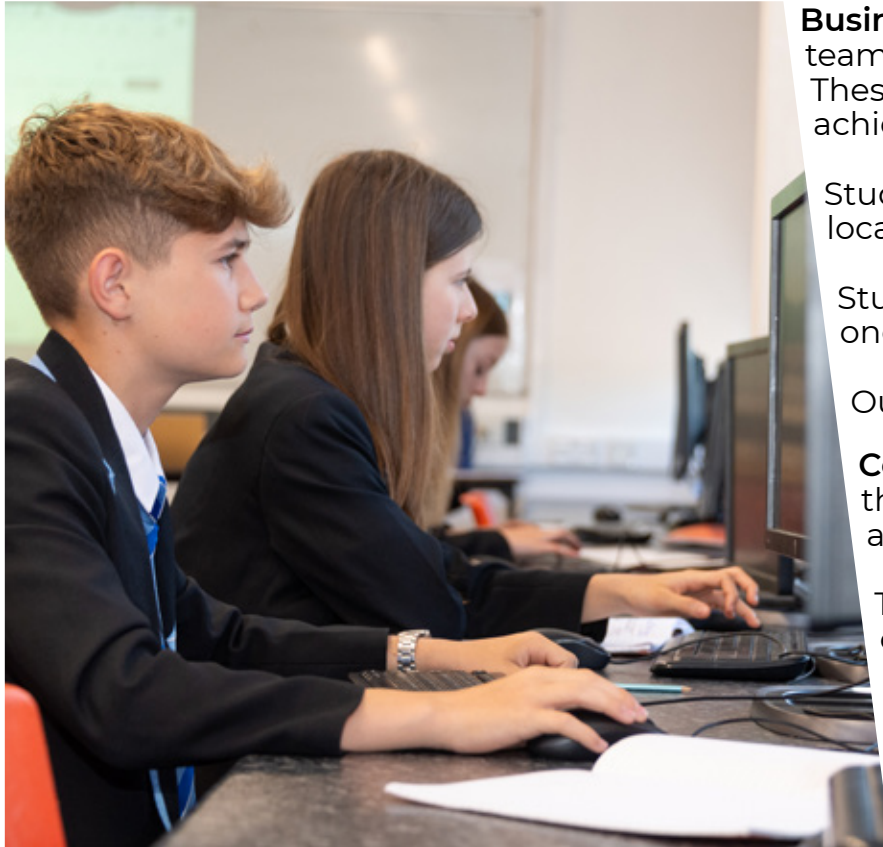
The academy holds an annual sports day where students have the opportunity to compete for their House team and win house points towards the coveted end-of-year House cup. We also run a variety of trips, including our popular annual ski trip.

*"Students access a wide range of opportunities to develop their confidence, resilience and leadership skills"*  
Ofsted 2023





# Business Studies, Computer Science and Creative iMedia



**Business studies** is taught from Year 10 onwards and promotes the skills of teamwork, problem solving, independent thought and effective communication. These are the attributes most valued by employers and essential in helping students achieve economic well-being.

Students will be exposed to the world of work through guest speakers and visits to local and national businesses.

Students get to know the relevance of their studies and where skills can be applied once they leave school.

Our aim is to prepare our students for lifelong learning.

**Computer Science** is taught at all key stages, reflecting the importance of this subject in an increasingly digital world and offering comprehensive and accessible learning of key importance in the 21st Century.

Through computing, students understand how technology can be used to enhance both the work place and society. Students are encouraged to explore new ideas and enhance their creativity through a range of software and hardware.

The computing curriculum encourages computational thinking through coding and how computers work, and digital media through video editing and animation.

**Creative iMedia** is taught from Year 10. Students will study and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, pre-production planning techniques, legal issues and creation/ publishing/ distribution considerations.

Students will also develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. In doing this they will develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry whilst learning how to design, plan, create and review digital media products which are fit for purpose meeting both client and target audience requirements.

*"Students are provided with the knowledge needed to prepare them for the next stage in their education or employment"*  
Ofsted 2023

# Health & Social Care and Child Development

**Health & Social Care, and Child Development** are two subjects taught from Year 10 onwards, in key stage 4 and key stage 5.

**Health & Social Care** students will gain an insight into the roles and responsibilities of the Health and Social Care sector, exploring the links between human development, lifestyle choices and health, along with learning how the sector supports individuals.

In **Child Development**, students explore how children develop from birth to the age of 5 years, and how this can be supported through play. Students learn about the importance of creating a safe and nurturing environment for children and consider the role of health professionals in ensuring children get the best start to their life.

*"Students learn about a range of careers, further and higher education and apprenticeships. This provides them with the knowledge needed to prepare them for the next stage in their education or employment"*  
Ofsted 2023





# SEND

*"Students with SEND are well supported, thanks to teachers who identify their needs accurately and adapt their teaching to ensure that all students can access the same curriculum"*  
Ofsted 2023

The goal of the SEND department at Ormiston Rivers Academy is to support students in becoming positive, accomplished individuals who develop effective life skills and achieve the very best they are capable of, both academically and socially.

We aim to ensure that all students have equality of access to their learning regardless of the position they start in. The provision we put in place is to enable that access to be fully inclusive for all students.

Students with SEND are largely taught in mainstream lessons, with some additional, specifically focussed support where required.

Our SENDCo is a highly qualified, experienced specialist and is supported by an Assistant SENDCo and a team of Learning Support Assistants.

Students who experience social difficulties or anxiety have access to the Rivers' Club at break and lunch time, supervised by our Learning Support Assistants.

Further information regarding our SEND provision is available via our website:

<https://ormistonriversacademy.co.uk/key-info/send>

# Rivers Sixth Form

*"Students in the sixth form follow a well-designed curriculum and learn how to study independently"*  
Ofsted 2023

Rivers' Sixth Form is a vibrant and enriching community that helps our students to open doors and pursue future choices. As a smaller community Sixth Form, we get to know each and every student's needs and specialist interests.

At Rivers, we strive to offer a wide range of enriching education to our students. Our curriculum offer ensures that all students have the chance to build a programme of study that allows them to not only achieve, but to establish firm and productive progression routes to take with them into their adult lives. We try wherever possible to build a bespoke offer that allies with our students' ambitions.

All students study at least three subjects in the Sixth Form. Each course has five hours of teaching per week and may be taught by one or more specialist subject teachers. Students may also have an enrichment subject they study such as Core Maths, Further Maths, or an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). To allow for this, students will all have a bespoke timetable which will include Supervised Study and free periods for group work and personal development.

At the heart of the Sixth Form lies a strong system of pastoral care. The Sixth Form pastoral team are on hand to support students with their studies, career and higher educational guidance and applications. Students are expected to develop and demonstrate qualities of self-motivation, maturity, resilience and commitment to their studies.

Similar to the lower school, our Sixth Form students have a tutor system to guide them through their Sixth Form journey. These sessions allow students to have opportunities to explore future destinations such as Universities and Apprenticeships as well as building life skills. We endeavour to listen to student feedback when building these sessions which focus around CV writing, exploring career opportunities, finances and saving, one to one mentoring, as well as SMSC and Well-being.

At Rivers' Sixth Form, we care deeply about the future prospects of our students. This is reflected in both the care and compassion we provide to students as well as the outstanding outcomes our students leave with as a result of a bespoke and personalised curriculum offer, which equally values the academic and vocational pathways, catering for the needs of all students from our local community.





# Rivers Sport Academy

Professional training for talented sportspeople.

Rivers Sixth Form has an exciting new opportunity for students to join our Rivers Sport Academy. This is great news for boys at Ormiston Rivers Academy and the surrounding areas, who are keen footballers and wish to follow a career in sport as well as develop, improve and realise their full athletic potential.

Rivers Sport Academy, aimed at 16-18 year old boys, offers a unique full-time professional football programme, alongside exceptional education in a high achieving Sixth Form. Rivers Sport Academy students will attend Rivers Sixth Form during the week, studying their choice of further education from a range of two-year Level 3 qualifications (A Level or equivalent). During the week, they will develop their footballing skills, while training and playing under a UEFA Qualified Coaches' guidance.

Training focuses on many elements, with the core focus on ball manipulation, possession-based training, tactical training, and player fitness.

To apply, please complete a Rivers Sixth Form application form and include Rivers Sport Academy on the application. All applicants will then be contacted with information on our taster day and trial information.

If you would like further information, please email either: -

Mrs. Wilkins – Head of Sixth Form, Director of KS5  
[mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

or

Mr. Clay – Head of Physical Education  
[mclay@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:mclay@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)



# Personal Development

As well as doing all we can to ensure that your child achieves academically at Ormiston Rivers Academy, we firmly believe that it is just as important to develop your child as a person and give them experiences which can help shape their attitude towards careers, travel, hard work, health and fitness and many other aspects of everyday life.

Students can choose from a wide range of activities, from experiencing overseas travel, joining after school clubs, experiencing outdoor education opportunities, taking part in regular debate, visiting the opera or theatre, participating in sporting events or attending a variety of extra-curricular activities.

We will encourage your child to visit the world's most prestigious universities and take part in careers events to help them to appreciate the wide and varied career opportunities available to them. We offer high quality, impartial careers guidance that helps students to make informed choices. We are committed to careers education as a vital means of providing all students with the skills, knowledge and understanding to manage their own lifelong learning and career development.

We will make sure that they appreciate that manners, politeness, and consideration for others are just as important in their lives as their academic qualifications. We deliver a comprehensive PSHE curriculum which is embedded across the academy, tackling many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are such an important part of moving into adulthood.

We look forward to taking your child on a journey of self-discovery and unlimited possibilities.

We have a wide range of extra-curricular activities that your child can take part in before school, during lunchtime and after school, such as: cookery, sport, music, STEM, drama, science, and environmental group.





# Contact us

*"Students follow a well-thought out personal, social and health education curriculum"*  
Ofsted 2023



*"Reading has been prioritised at the school, with well-trained staff able to support those who are weaker readers"*  
Ofsted 2023

## Ormiston Rivers Academy

Southminster Road  
Burnham on Crouch  
Essex CM0 8QB

Principal (interim): Mrs. D. Piralic, MEd,  
NPQH

t: 01621 782377

e: [info@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

w: [www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](http://www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)