

Message from the Principal

This morning in assembly, our Year 11 students received their brand-new CGP Revision Guides and Planners. These fantastic resources are designed to support effective revision planning, strengthen study skills, and encourage independent learning as students prepare for their upcoming mock exams and, ultimately, their summer assessments. We are incredibly proud of the hard work already taking place, and this is another step toward ensuring every Year 11 student feels confident, prepared, and ready to succeed.

Earlier this week, we experienced an unexpected power cut that resulted in the loss of telephone and internet access. I was truly impressed by the resilience shown by both staff and students during this time. Everyone came together to ensure learning continued without interruption proving once again that paper and pen still hold great value! Thanks to the dedication of our IT team, we are now fully operational.

Rehearsals are in full swing for this year's school musical, 'Chicago', and excitement is building! Performances will take place on Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th, and Wednesday 17th December, with doors opening at 6:30 pm and the show starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets are available from the main reception at £7.50 for adults and £5 for children. They are selling fast, so please secure yours soon to support our fantastic cast and crew.

Looking ahead to the festive season, we're delighted to announce that our annual Student Christmas Lunch will take place during the final week of term. Students can enjoy a traditional roast turkey dinner with pudding, a drink, and a fun festive accessory. A tasty vegetarian option will also be available, and both meals are fully gluten- and nut-free. Meals must be pre-booked via ParentPay by Monday, 1st December. Students entitled to free school meals can book by emailing finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk. Don't miss out on this wonderful celebration!

I also wrote to you earlier this week regarding the potential for strike action in December following the recent NEU ballot. I want to reassure you of our continued commitment to working positively and constructively with the NEU and our staff to reach a swift resolution. We had a productive conversation with union representatives yesterday, and I am hopeful we can provide a further update on Tuesday. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. Our priority remains supporting our colleagues and minimising any disruption to learning for pupils.

Following our recent Parent Governor election, I am delighted to announce that, Miss Lisa Fawcett and Mrs Nina Noonan have been elected as our two new Parent Governors. Congratulations to them both and thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to vote. Your engagement is invaluable to our school community.

Finally, please remember that we have a Staff INSET Day next Friday, 5th December, so the academy will be closed to students on that day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our academy community.

Warm regards,
Dijana Piralic
Principal (Interim)



Dates for your Diary

Friday 5th December 2025

Staff INSET Day – academy closed for students

Thursday 11th December 2025

Year 11 Parents Evening

Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th December 2025

School Show 'Chicago' - tickets available from Main Reception

Friday 19th December 2025

Academy closes at 1.50pm for Christmas Holiday

Teaching Behaviours

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining high expectations across our school. We are striving to set routines and push standards and I have spoken about corridor and classroom behaviour. We would like to remind you of the following key uniform standards that apply to all students:

Blazers: Must be worn at all times inside the school building.

Ties: Should be worn correctly and visible.

Skirts: Worn at an appropriate length (around knee level) and not rolled up.

Shirts: Tucked in with the top button fastened.

Footwear: Black, leather-look school shoes only – no mesh, canvas, trainers, or coloured shoes.

Form tutors will check uniform daily, and any issues should be resolved during form time. Consistent adherence to these standards helps maintain a sense of pride and equality within our school community.

If you have any questions or need support with uniform, please contact the form tutor to support.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mr Marklew
Assistant Principal

Attendance Matters

100%

Each week we are giving a shout out to the tutor groups with the highest attendance for Years 7 to 11. This is something that needs to be celebrated, as attendance really does matter!

If you see your child's year group mentioned, give them a big high five for their contribution towards this fantastic achievement.

Year 7
7D1

Year 9
9A2

Year 8
8A2

Year 10
10M1



Year 11
11A1

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



It is great to see more students enjoy reading and receive Library badges for excellent book reviews and Book of the Month activity sheets. Well done!

Library News



The Library is open for students from 8:30am, at break and lunchtime every day. Please remember that it is a quiet and calm space for reading books, research and homework. Wordsearches, Sudoku and colouring sheets are also available. We have laptops and a printer for students to check Go4Schools and complete their homework. Library books can be borrowed for 2 weeks and we ask that books are returned on time in good condition so others can also read them.

Books of the Month

December will focus on fantasy adventures.

Read one of these books, complete the activity worksheet and review - the best entries will receive a Reader of the Month badge:

- **Spellslinger by Sebastien de Castell** - as his 16th birthday approaches, Kellen is moments away from the start of 4 trials that will make him a spellcaster; but he seems to have lost his magic powers!
- **The Boy Lost in the Maze by Joseph Coelho** - (suitable for Year 9+) - if you like mythology, this book could be for you - two boys, separated by centuries, parted by myth, divided by reality.
- **The Fire Within by Chris d'Lacey** - when David arrives at Wayward Crescent, he has no idea what happens there until he is given a clay dragon called Gadzooks and begins to unlock the mystery.

Book of the Month

As his 16th birthday approaches, Kellen is moments away from facing his first master's duel and the start of four trials that will make him a spellcaster. There's just one problem: his magic is gone. Find out what happens next in this fantasy adventure.

What is Book of the Month?

Each month we recommend books for you to read and review; introduce new authors and genres.

We have several copies of each book, issued on a first-come, first-served basis - books are loaned for 2 weeks only to allow as many students as possible to read them. We encourage you to share your opinions and thoughts about the book by completing reviews, challenges and activities - outstanding entries will be rewarded with certificates and badges!

Happy Reading!

December: Fantasy

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 7, 8 & 9

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 9+

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 9+

Like Fantasy? Here are some more books you could read...

The Wildspark by Vashni Hardy
Raven's Gate by Anthony Horowitz
Pegasus and the Flame by Kate O'Hearn
Finding the Fox by Ali Sparkes
The Ghosts of Heaven by Marcus Sedgwick (Y9+)
Raven's Gate by Anthony Horowitz
Pegasus and the Flame by Kate O'Hearn
Finding the Fox by Ali Sparkes
Magisterium series by Elizabeth & Cassandra Clare
A Throne of Swans by Elizabeth & Cassandra Clare
Hotel Magnifique by Emily J. Taylor (YA)
Daughter of the Pirate King by Tricia Levenseller

Christmas Gift Tag Competition!

Our Library competition is now open for you to enter! Collect an A5 Christmas Gift Tag from the Library desk and complete the book review challenge. What is your favourite book and who would you give this book to for Christmas? Make your gift tag unique by adding more decoration to the front - you can use pencils, pens, collage or paints.

There will be merits and certificates awarded, and a prize for the winning entry.

The closing date is Friday 12th December and we will use your gift tags to decorate the Library.

For more information see Mrs Yerbury, Librarian.



ORA Library Christmas Gift Tag Competition

- 1 Collect a Christmas Gift Tag from the Library desk
- 2 Write a review of your favourite book on the reverse
- 3 Who would you give this book to at Christmas?
- 4 Add to the design on the front of the gift tag - use pens, pencils, collage, paint
- 5 Make sure your name and Tutor group are on the tag
- 6 Hand your competition entry to Mrs Yerbury, Librarian before 12th December
- 7 Help to decorate the Library with the best gift tags
- 8 The best entries get merits and certificates - the winning entry gets a prize!

Community, Ambition, Resilience, Respect, Excellence

Lexonik Advance

Year 7 and 8 students attending Lexonik Advance have now completed 2 or 3 of their weekly sessions and are settling in well in their team groups. The programme runs for 6 weeks, and we are pleased to see that most students are achieving good results so far. We also have a new group of Year 10s starting this week.

Students start their sessions with 'syllables at speed' with 72 cards for the group to recognise and pronounce within one minute. Our leaderboard shows the highest score so far this week as the Thunderbolts Year 7 group with 69 cards!

As the programme continues, new vocabulary is introduced each session to engage students with different topics and teach them the skills to decode subject specific words relevant to all lessons.

If your child is attending Lexonik Advance, please continue to encourage them to participate each week.

Sixth Form Reading Buddies

Our 6th Form volunteers Molly, Charlotte, William, Keira, Finn and Emily, have been working with Year 7 students to increase confidence in reading and develop comprehension skills. This is part of our wider initiative to support Literacy across the Academy and students are reading PhonicBooks designed with a reader-friendly font and layout suitable for KS3 students. This takes place during Form Tutor time on Tuesday mornings - well done to everyone that took part and we look forward to continuing this next week.



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 **"Functional"**.

Why not have a go? Send the definition and the word in a sentence to wotw@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Learn more about Lexonik Advance

What benefits will you see?

Imagine being in a lesson and you come across some technical vocabulary you haven't seen before. It's a long word and tough to read. Lexonik Advance is the key to unlocking the language.

Imagine being in an exam and you come across a word you don't recognise. It's stopping you from answering the question. What are you going to do? Lexonik Advance is going to give you the tools you need to find the meaning independently.

What do sessions look like?

Your Lexonik Advance sessions will take place once a week, for six weeks. There will be four students in your group, working with a member of staff. It's all about **human interaction**, not being sat in front of a screen.

There's a real mix of activities in Lexonik Advance. Some will be spoken, some written. Some will involve working as a team, some individual.

What is Advance?

Lexonik Advance is an intervention designed to improve students' comprehension, reading and spelling. It will teach you some really important skills that will help you right across the curriculum. Lexonik Advance has been designed for older learners, and you'll see massive progress in just six 1-hour sessions.

Why have I been chosen?

Your teachers have chosen you because they believe you have real potential. Lexonik Advance is going to help you achieve this.

Lexonik Advance is different to what you might have seen or experienced before. That's one of the things that make it work. It's fast-paced, fun and competitive. You're going to love it!

Say it: fuhgngk·shuh·nuhl

Spell it: func-tion-al

(Stem) **funct** - perform
(Suffix) **al** - to do with
(Suffix) **tion** - act, process, result of

Functional
(adjective)

STEM: func:- / perform

Understand it

Designed to be practical and useful, rather than attractive.

Exams News



Summer 2025 exam certificates will be available for collection from Main Reception during school hours from Monday. Former students may nominate an adult to collect their certificates on their behalf by providing them with signed permission to bring with them. Please allow a few minutes as the certificates will need to be unlocked from our secure store.

We do still have some uncollected certificates from Summer 2024, we would very much like to be able to pass these to their owners before we break up for Christmas as we are unable to store them indefinitely.



Poster Competition Winner

A massive congratulations to Penny (10A2) for being the winner of our House Poster Competition for our school musical 'Chicago'!

We think it is absolutely fantastic, and you have won

serious house points for Amazon. The poster will also be used as the front cover for our show programme.

Thank you to all students that submitted a poster, there were some great entries!

Don't forget to buy tickets - they are selling fast!



National Dance Competition

We are extremely proud of Sophia (9D2) and Ethan (10A2) who got through to the British National and Latin Championships. The BBC were also filming it as part of documentary for the 50th Anniversary. They danced extremely well competing against the best couples in the country. Ethan and Sophia made it to the quarter finals and were praised by both teachers and coaches for the standard of their performance.

We are lucky to have such talent in the school, and we can't wait to see what they can achieve in the upcoming year. Well done to both of them.





Year 9 Netball

Our Year 9 girls played a fantastic home match against Plume Academy, showing incredible effort and enthusiasm throughout. The game was closely contested, with Plume just edging ahead in the final quarter to take the win, 18–10.

Every player demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and a positive attitude, making us proud of their performance. Plume selected Abbey S as their Player of the Match, while our own Katelyn C earned the well-deserved title for her excellent play.

Well done to all the girls – a brilliant team effort!

Year 7 and 8 Netball

On Tuesday evening we travelled away to The William De Ferrers School, with our Year 7 and Year 8 Netball Teams. Despite the very cold evening, the girls played some great netball and showed great resilience!!

Well done to our players of the match!!

Year 7 - Adeline M

Year 8 - Tilda S



CHESS – RAISING MONEY AND AWARENESS

CHESS stands for 'Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme' and they work to ensure that homeless people are supported in ways that allow them to move forward in life with good physical and mental health. CHESS aim to provide good accommodation and give practical support to these people, and this happens with the help of people's donations and support.

As a school, our aim is to donate and provide hygiene products and necessities for service users. The Year 12 Health and Social class are coordinating the donations and will be dropped off to Mrs. Procter in D05 and taken to the charity. Final donations will be needed by the 12th of December

The items we need donating are:

- ⇒ Bottled water
- ⇒ Lightweight Blankets
- ⇒ Baby wipes
- ⇒ Hand sanitizer
- ⇒ Deodorant
- ⇒ Food: crisps, canned food, biscuits, snacks
- ⇒ Tissues



**Opening doors
to independence**



Work Experience Week - Get looking for your placement now!

Year 10 - Monday 20th July - Friday 26th July 2026

Year 12 - Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July 2026

FREE ACCOUNTANCY SUMMER SCHOOL will be returning in 2026, taking place on the 8th and 9th of July. The event is open to students in Years 11 to 13, and places can be secured by registering via [this link](#). Over the two days, students will take part in a range of engaging and practical sessions, including:

Day One

- Introduction to Accountancy – What does an accountant do, and where do they work?
- Routes into Accountancy – Advice on starting a career at 16, 18 or after university, including an overview of apprenticeships.
- Case Study Activity – Get a hands-on feel for what it's like to think and work like an accountant.

Day Two

- Interview Skills – Top tips from our team on how to prepare for and perform well in an interview.
- CV Surgery – Bring your CV along for tailored feedback and suggestions.
- Employer Q&A Forum – Meet local employers, learn about the industry, and hear what they look for when recruiting.

It's a great opportunity to explore the world of accountancy and start thinking about future career options.

Career of the Week - Set Designer

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #224 - SET DESIGNER](#)

Year 7,8, 9 and 10 - Take Your Child to Work Day - Friday 5th December

To widen the understanding and appreciation of the working world, we are delighted to start running the "Take Your Child to Work Day". Your child is invited to participate, and we hope that every student in Years 7-10 will be able to organise a suitable day's experience with a parent, relative, family friend or someone they know well. Booklets will be handed out in tutor time before 5th December.

Your help is greatly appreciated in helping to organise this for them. We hope a day can be arranged on either on Friday 5th December 2025 and/or Monday 23rd February 2026. These are all INSET days, so no lessons will be affected. Parents should use their own judgement about where their child goes, and I would like to stress that the focus for students will be observation and fact-finding. The day is not intended to be a hands-on work experience placement and, therefore, for insurance purposes students should be treated as visitors and not workers. Contact fcompton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk for further information.

The aims of the day are for students to:

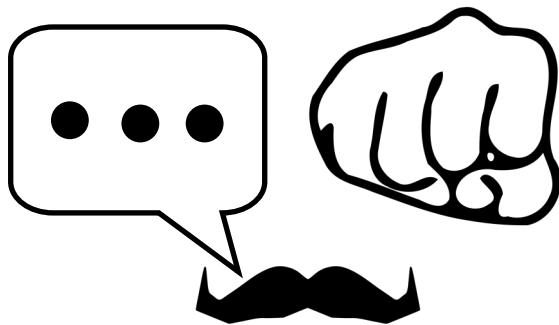
- Gain an awareness of a workplace organisation
- Find out about the jobs that are available in different organisations
- Develop an awareness of the skills and qualifications that are required in the workplace
- Consider the need to develop an individual learning plan towards employability.



Movember

November is nearly over, and so are the moustaches! Staff and students across campus have been growing them proudly to spark conversations and raise awareness for men's mental health.

The facial hair may disappear, but the message remains: keep talking, keep supporting, and keep looking out for one another.



MOVEMBER.COM



Year 7 - Mr Adair

As we move deeper into the term, it has been a joy to watch our Year 7 students continue to grow in confidence, curiosity, and community spirit. Their energy fills the school each day, and this week has been a wonderful reminder of just how much they are already achieving.

One of the standout moments has come from our musical theatre lessons in the Music department. Students have been exploring the world of stage performance through singing, movement, and character work, and their enthusiasm has been infectious. This week, they took on Consider Yourself from Oliver! — a lively, spirited number that encouraged teamwork, vocal projection, and expressive performance. It has been inspiring to see students step outside their comfort zones, support one another, and embrace the joy of musical theatre. Their confidence is growing lesson by lesson, and we are incredibly proud of the progress they are making.

Meanwhile, over on the sports field, our Year 7 boys have shown remarkable dedication during football training. Despite the near-freezing temperatures, they have continued to turn up with determination, resilience, and a positive attitude. Their commitment to improving their skills — even when the weather is far from inviting — is truly commendable. The teamwork and encouragement they show one another reflect the values we aim to nurture across the school, and we look forward to seeing how their efforts translate into future matches and training sessions.

As the colder weather settles in, we would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of ensuring students are appropriately dressed for the journey to and from school. A warm coat, hat, and gloves can make a significant difference to their comfort and wellbeing, especially during early mornings and late afternoons. Many students are spending time outdoors for break, lunch, and extracurricular activities, so being properly wrapped up will help them stay healthy and focused throughout the school day.

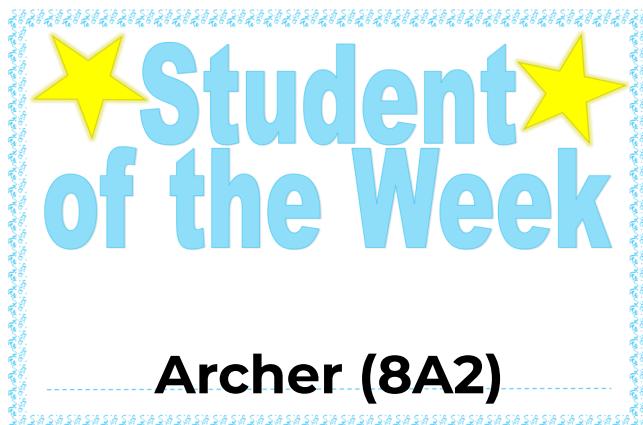
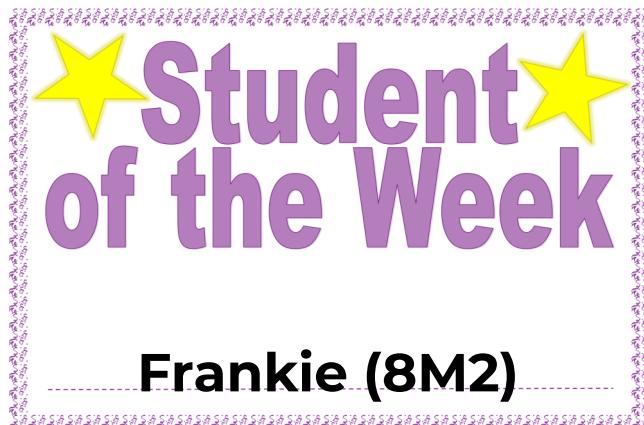
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to work with such enthusiastic young people, and we look forward to sharing more of their achievements as the term progresses. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

Contact: cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 8 - Mr Moon

This week, our Year 8 assembly focused on building a positive culture in school. We discussed how kindness, respect, and teamwork create an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. Students were encouraged to reflect on how their actions—big or small—can make a real difference in shaping our school community.

A special congratulations goes to Mrs Byford's Students of the Week:



Both have shown outstanding effort and a positive attitude, setting a fantastic example for their peers.

We also want to celebrate our Top Merit Earners this week:

Frankie (8M2) – 38 merits

Envy – 36 merits

Tristen – 34 merits

Well done to all three for their hard work and commitment—keep it up!

Finally, a big shout-out to the Year 8 Girls' Netball Team, who demonstrated incredible determination and team spirit in their recent match. Your enthusiasm and effort were brilliant, and you represented Year 8 with pride!

Quote of the Week

"Positive peer pressure is when friends inspire you to be your best self because greatness grows in good company."

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 – Mr Chapman

Top Merits of the Week

Phoebe (9M2)
Eleanor (9Z2)
Finian (9D1)

Top Merits of the Year So Far

Ava (9A2)
James (9D2)
Mia (9D2)

A Message from Ms Corbett

Thank you for your kind messages and thoughtful gifts as I move on to a new role. It has been an honour to support this amazing year group and to work alongside you as parents and carers. I wish every family a bright, happy and hopeful future.

Warm regards,

Ms Corbett

Contact: rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



*We will
miss you*



Year 10 - Mr Field

During my learning walks this week it has again been a pleasure to see students working hard during their lessons.

- It was great to see Charlie, Logan and Jamie preparing for their Computer Studies assessment.
- Ms Venter showed me the work of Ryder in Engineering and went on to say that she has never seen such a good tap wrench in a Year 10 class.
- Well done to Isla and Rose in physics for explaining the differences in wavelength.

Earlier in the week I watched the Year 10 rugby club playing against Plume. A hard-fought battle was had where all our players played superbly well. The next game is against Anglo European in a few weeks.

The rehearsals for Chicago are going really well and as I have been able to watch some of Year 10s perform, I am sure the play will be a great success. Please purchase tickets for what I am sure will be a wonderful evening in December.

Top positive point earners this week are:

Tegan, Alexia, Jenson H, George P, Leo, Jake W, Lily B, Pippa, Lily S Hugh, Maisie, Daniel and Harry S.

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

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 – Ms Taylor

This week in assembly, students were given a revision guide to support their efforts.

Students are starting to get their grades back from their recent mock exams, and they are in discussions with teachers on how to improve. I am impressed with so many of the Year 11 students for the level of maturity they are showing and the dedication they are showing to improve their grades.

College open event details can be found on the next page, so have a look and take the opportunity to visit as many as possible. This may help encourage your child to reach further and want to do better, as they'll have a plan in mind that they are striving towards.

Prom discussions continue and some students are on report, some at their request to maximise their chance of attending. Keep up the good work and hopefully we'll have a fantastic prom with as many students as possible in attendance!

Our top achievers in terms of merits this week are:

Holly D (11Z1), Lily B (11A2), Sienna B (11D1), Madison P (11M1), Maria W (11M1), Millie D (11A2), Bobby B (11D1), Sam D (11Z2), Tiffany T (11Z1), Joshua F (11Z2), Callum G (11A1), Chloe G (11A1), Sienna H (11A1), Ava H (11D1), Kyla-Mai (11D1) and Christie W (11M1).

A reminder that our first parents evening is on Thursday 11th December and I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Chelmsford College
www.chelmsford.ac.uk

Wednesday 1st October 2025 - 6pm to 8.30pm
Wednesday 12th November 2025 - 6pm to 8.30pm
Wednesday 4th February 2026 - 6pm to 8.30pm
Wednesday 20th May 2026 - 6pm to 8.30pm

USP College
www.uspcollege.ac.uk

Seevic Campus - Benfleet

Thursday 2nd October 2025 - 5.20pm to 8pm
Wednesday 19th November 2025 - tbc
Thursday 22nd January 2026 - tbc
Tuesday 7th July 2026 - tbc (yr 10/11)

Palmer's Campus - Grays

Thursday 16th October 2025 - 5.20pm to 7.00pm
Wednesday 5th November 2025 - tbc
Thursday 29th January 2026 - tbc

XTEND Digital Campus - Canvey

Thursday 25th September 2025 - 5.20pm to 7pm
Wednesday 25th February 2026 - tbc

Writtle College

www.aru.ac.uk/writtle-college

Saturday 11th October 2025 - 10am to 3pm
Saturday 29th November 2025 - 10am to 3pm
Saturday 14th March 2026 - 10am to 3pm
Wednesday 10th June 2026 - 3.30pm to 7.30pm

Harlow College

www.harlow-college.ac.uk

Thursday 16th October 2025 - 5.00pm to 8.00pm
Tuesday 10th February 2026 - 5.00pm to 8.00pm

The Sixth Form College, Colchester

www.colchsf.ac.uk

Wednesday 22nd October 2025 - 6.15pm to 9pm
Thursday 23rd October 2025 - 6.15pm to 9pm

Applications will open online from 24th October 2025 and will close on 31st January 2026

William de Ferrers School

www.wdf.school

To be advised

**For Grammar Schools –
please visit their websites for details of their
Sixth Form open events.**

The Grammar Schools in our area are as follows

King Edward VI - Grammar School

Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Colchester County High School – for Girls

Colchester Royal – Grammar School

Southend High School – for Girls

Southend High School – for Boys

Westcliff High School – for Girls

Westcliff High School – for Boys

South Essex College - SEC

www.southessex.ac.uk

SEC - Southend City College

Thursday 25th September 2025 - 5pm to 8pm
Wednesday 14th January 2026 - 5pm to 8pm
Thursday 12th March 2026 - 5pm to 7pm

SEC- Stephenson Road, Southend

Tuesday 11th November 2025 - 5pm to 7pm
Tuesday 3rd February 2026 - 5pm to 7pm
Thursday 16th April 2026 - 5pm to 6pm

SEC - Centre for Digital Technologies, Basildon

Tuesday 21st October 2025 - 5pm to 7pm
Tuesday 10th February 2026 - 5pm to 7pm
Tuesday 28th April 2026 - 5pm to 6pm

SEC - Luckyn Lane, Basildon

Thursday 9th October 2025 - 5pm to 7pm
Thursday 29th January 2026 - 5pm to 7pm
Tuesday 31st March 2026 - 5pm to 6pm

SEC - Thurrock Campus

Wednesday 1st October 2025 - 5pm to 8pm
Wednesday 7th January 2026 - 5pm to 8pm
Wednesday 25th March 2026 - 5pm to 7pm

Plume Academy

www.plume.essex.sch.uk

Thursday 9th October 2025 - 6pm to 8pm

Stansted Airport College

www.stanstedairportcollege.ac.uk

Saturday 11th October 2025 - 10am to 2pm
Thursday 22nd January 2026 - 5pm to 8pm

Colchester Institute

www.colchester.ac.uk

Colchester Campus

Tuesday 14th October 2025 - 5pm to 8pm
Saturday 18th October 2025 - 10am to 1pm
Thursday 23rd October 2025 - 5pm to 8pm
Thursday 22nd January 2026 - 5pm to 8pm

Braintree Campus

Monday 13th October 2025 - 5pm to 7pm
Saturday 8th November 2025 - 10am to 12.30pm
Tuesday 20th January 2026 - 5pm to 7pm
Thursday 14th May 2026 - 5pm to 6.30pm

Apprenticeship Information Events at Colchester Institute

Thursday 12th February 2026 - 5pm to 7pm
Thursday 18th June 2026 - 5pm to 7pm

Braintree Sixth Form

www.braintreesixthform.com

Wednesday 5th November 2025 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Applications will open online from 6th November 2025 and will close on 31st January 2026

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

This week has been a busy and productive one at Rivers Sixth Form, marked by the start of the PPEs. We are incredibly proud of the mature and focused way our students have approached these assessments, which are designed to help consolidate knowledge and support continued development. Alongside the exams, there have been many other wonderful things happening across our community, including the launch of our Read Buddies Programme and another excellent home game for our Sport Academy. A reminder that students have been invited to bring in a Christmas decoration to add to our Sixth Form space. Anything from handmade ornaments to treasured decorations from home, each item will add a personal touch to our festive display.

Student Shout Out

Year 12 - Poppy - endless hours spent studying and always smiling

Year 13 - Freya (SF3) - outstanding worth ethic and commitment to her studies

Sixth Form in the Community

Reading Buddies

Our 6th Form volunteers Molly, Charlotte, William, Keira, Finn and Emily, have been working with Year 7 students to increase confidence in reading and develop comprehension skills. This is part of our wider initiative to support Literacy across the Academy and students are reading Phonic Books designed with a reader-friendly font and layout suitable for KS3 students. This takes place during Form Tutor time on Tuesday mornings - well done to everyone that took part and we look forward to continuing this next week.



**Opening doors
to independence**

Year 12 Supporting the CHESS Charity

Year 12 are proudly supporting the CHESS Charity to help vulnerable people in our community who are facing homelessness. Students are raising money and collecting donations such as hygiene products, food supplies and warm clothing to support individuals throughout the winter and Christmas season. Their generosity and commitment are making a real difference.

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Sport Academy Update

This week saw another exciting home game for our Sport Academy. Although we narrowly missed out with a 4–3 loss, the boys demonstrated exceptional resilience and determination throughout. We celebrated two fantastic goals from Blake and an unbelievable solo effort from Alex, showcasing real talent and teamwork. Keep this up, your progress and spirit are brilliant to see!



What's Coming Up

- There's plenty to look forward to this term!
- Year 12 Work Experience Launch
- Charlie Dix leading sessions on Finance and Future Careers
- Elf on the Shelf - begins Monday 1st December
- Cake Fridays
- Christmas Trip to London universities and Winter Wonderland - Friday 5th December
- School Musical - Chicago! - tickets out now
- House competitions
- End-of-Term Celebration – a well-earned moment to relax and celebrate achievements before the Christmas break.

UCAS – Deadlines Approaching!

For those applying to university, this half term is crucial.

- Personal statements should now be nearing completion.
- Final drafts and predicted grades will soon be submitted.
- Our Sixth Form UCAS deadline is before the Christmas break.

Remember: whether you're applying to university, an apprenticeship or planning your next steps into employment, there's always support available from the Sixth Form Team and Careers Advisors.

Applications

Sixth Form applications are now open. Students have been emailed the link, parents and carers have received the link via text and it is also available on the ORA website. Deadline for applications is 9th January 2026.

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Motivation for the Half Term Ahead

"You showed up, you worked hard, and you kept going. That's the kind of effort that shapes success." - This focuses on what you can control, your attitude, persistence, and work ethic—rather than exam results. This helps build a growth mindset.

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 rejoining lessons. Thank you for your cooperation and continued high standards.

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.

The Rivers Sixth Form Team

 mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

 sixthform@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

 Absent reporting to Mrs Penberthy: 01621 787882

 Follow us on Instagram: @RiversSixthForm

 Visit: www.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.

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.

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.

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.

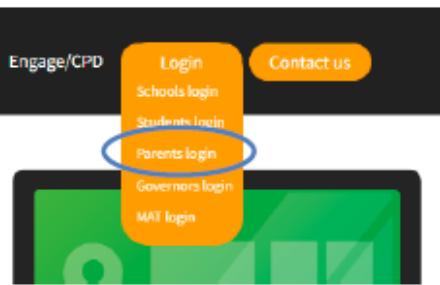
1 – www.Go4schools.com through any web browser.



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.



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](#)

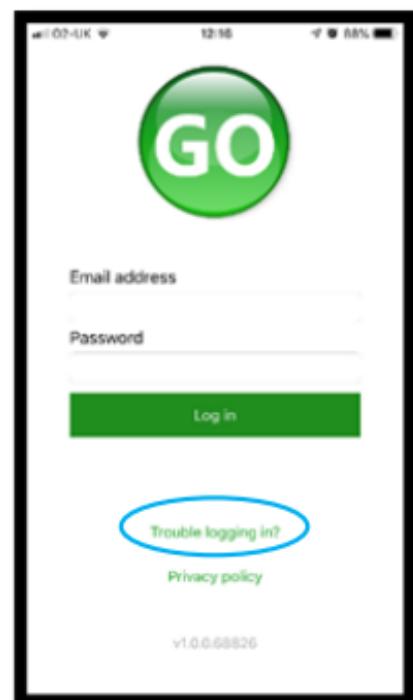
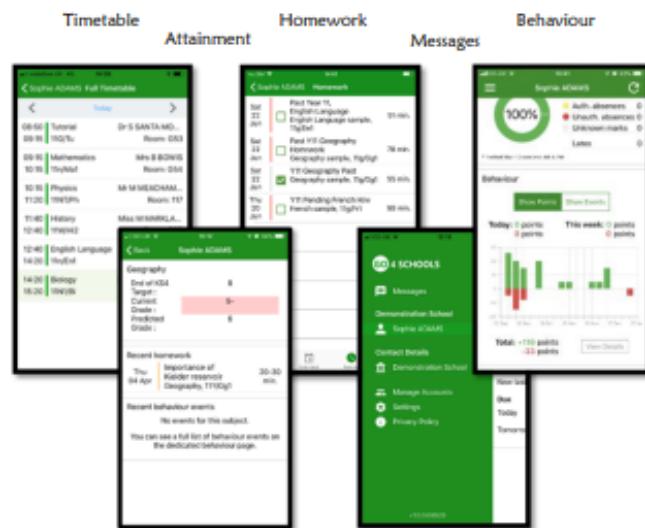


[Click here](#)

2 – Type in your school email address.

3 – Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.



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.

[Sign in with GO](#) [First-time user?](#)

[Forgotten Password?](#)

Email address

Password [Forgotten Password?](#) (This link is circled in blue)

Remember my email address

[Sign in with 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.