



**Message from the Principal**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

This week, our Year 11 students have tackled their mock exams under exam conditions, and I have been truly impressed by the maturity and determination they have shown. These mocks are an important part of their preparation for success in the summer and their hard work and positive attitude now is laying the foundation for excellent results ahead.

On Sunday, I had the privilege of attending the Remembrance Service at Burnham's War Memorial alongside two of our Year 7 students and two Year 12 students. Together, we laid a wreath on behalf of the academy to honour those who served. I was deeply moved by the strong sense of community at this event and would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the students for representing the academy with such dignity at this important occasion.

On Tuesday, we gathered for our own Remembrance Service, a moment of reflection and respect. I was incredibly proud of our students for the dignity and appreciation they demonstrated throughout the service. A special thank you to Danica for speaking during the service and to our Air Cadets for their impeccable march as they laid the wreath.

As many of you know, Rivers is proud to have a diverse staff that includes many overseas-trained teachers. Sadly, some of their families and loved ones have been affected by the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica and surrounding countries. In response, the Rivers community is coming together to show support by assisting with the collection of donations, which will be shipped to Jamaica in time for Christmas. If you would like to donate any items suggested below, please drop them to Main Reception by next

**Wednesday 19th November.**

- Non-perishable food (canned goods, rice, pasta, powdered milk, oats, cereal, flour, sugar etc.)
- Personal hygiene products (soap, toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary items)
- First aid supplies (bandages, antiseptic wipes, Vitamins supplements)
- Baby essentials (diapers, wipes, formula)
- Lightweight clothing for all genders (gentle used or new)
- Small household items (flashlights, batteries, etc.)

Finally, I am thrilled to share that Rivers alumnus **Lenny** will once again be part of the presenting team for **Children in Need 2025** on BBC One tonight. We are immensely proud of Lenny's continued success and wish him every happiness as he takes part in this incredible event. Tune in and cheer him on!

Thank you, as always, for your support and for being part of this amazing 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'

#### **Friday 19th December 2025**

Academy closes at 1.50pm for Christmas Holiday

### **Teaching Behaviours**

At Rivers we are keen to teach our students crucial routines in order to be Ready to Learn. We want to increase the opportunities for students to engage with learning and reduce distractions or opportunities to cause worry.

Our morning routines in form time are the perfect example of this. We line up as year group collectives in Year 7 to 10 to prepare for the day, with Year 11 moving straight to their intervention sessions. Our Form tutors check in with their form groups:

- **check that phones are placed into phone pouches**
- **resolve uniform issues**
- **check that students have their correct equipment for all lessons**

At home parents and carers have a key role in this process too. They will help students to pack their school bags, check on their lesson timetable for the day and ensure that uniform is correct. If there is an issue they can write a note or send an email to the form tutor to ask for support.

We have taught these routines since day one in September and continue to set reminders about these to ensure students are Ready to Learn.

**Mr Marklew**



On Tuesday 11th November, 30 students travelled to Hylands Park in Chelmsford to take part in the District Cross Country event. The weather was kind to us, and our students had a superb day, demonstrating great determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout their races.

We were especially proud of some outstanding individual performances:

- Max C (Year 11) – 5th place
- Monet G (Year 8) – 7th place
- Lorna L (Year 10) – 13th place
- Jenna S (Year 9) – 21st place

A huge well done to all our runners for representing the school so brilliantly and showing such fantastic effort and sportsmanship throughout the day!



### Year 7 Rugby

On Wednesday, the Year 7's competed in their second waterfall festival at Brentwood Rugby Club. They played against other schools in the mid-Essex district and had another successful competition.

The team managed to win 3 of their 4 matches, some people scoring their first try for the school.

With rugby now being taught in lessons, we'd like to encourage more students to after school club. Our rugby club runs on a Monday after school and students are more than welcome to attend.

### Royal Yachting Association - Impact Award Scheme

Florence F, a Year 11 student has been celebrated by the RYA for her outstanding commitment to sailing. Florence has assisted with club open days, helped with a recent Dinghy Endeavor event and even skippered a boat in recent WoW sessions (Woman on Water).

Florence always speaks passionately about sailing at her local club and the time she spends helping younger sailors. Florence deserves this National award for her dedication and hard work - many congratulations!



### **David Randall Foundation: Scholarships and Inspirational Awards**

David was a talented musician, sportsman and coach, but it was his dedication and application to all his interests that impressed and inspired his many friends and family.



Financial Support from the Foundation will be offered to those who demonstrate exceptional dedication and passion in pursuing their ambitions in music or sport but are held back by financial means.

### **HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP OR INSPIRATIONAL AWARD**

The David Randall Foundation exists to help the development of aspiring sportspeople and musicians who require support with different aspects of their career development, including help with education and training, financial support for overseas placements and assistance with kit and equipment.

If your application is successful you will be asked to provide invoices for the items you applied for and these will be paid directly by the foundation.

Applicants should be aware that except in very exceptional circumstances no cash awards will be made.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The applicants should submit a written request using the David Randall Foundation Application Form before 31st December to:

David Randall Foundation, 7 Browning Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6BU

Applicants should:

- Be aged 12-25
- Reside in Essex, Suffolk or the London Borough of Havering
- Demonstrate exceptional dedication to the interest they wish to pursue

There will be a major annual award called "The David Randall Scholarship". Applications open at the beginning of October and must be submitted by 31st December. A decision will be made by the 23rd February.

In exceptional circumstances applications may be considered outside of this time scale.

Please contact [info@davidrandallfoundation.org](mailto:info@davidrandallfoundation.org) if you need to apply outside of the normal application time. Applications will only be accepted on the official David Randall Foundation application form. You can download the application form [here](#).

There are opportunities for applicants to receive lesser awards and these can be submitted at any time to the trustees on the official David Randall Foundation application form and will be reviewed quarterly by the trustees.

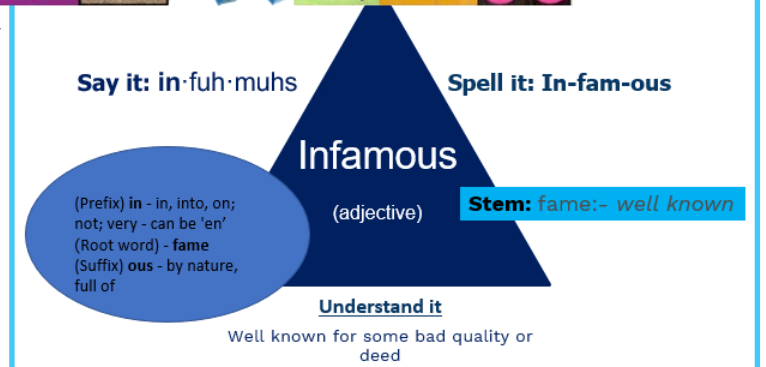
All applications should be supported by a referee, who knows the applicant well and can vouch for their dedication and passion in their chosen field. When applying to the David Randall Foundation you should have read carefully the aims and objectives of the foundation as the trustees will base their decisions on the fulfilment of these criteria.



### 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 **"Infamous"**.

Why not have a go? Send the definition and the word in a sentence to [wotw@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:wotw@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk).



### Performing Arts News



We're excited to launch a House competition inviting students to design a poster for our upcoming school production of Chicago, a musical set in the 1920s, featuring the characters Roxie and Velma.

Students can create their posters either digitally or by hand. There's no requirement to include text, although they are welcome to add the show's title if they wish. Please ensure your child includes their name and tutor group on the back of their work.

All entries must be submitted by **Wednesday 19th November**. Posters should be handed in to Mrs L Turnnidge in the Performing Arts department, or emailed to: [lturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:lturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

We can't wait to see the creativity and talent our students bring to this competition!

### Rotary Young Musician Competition

We are looking for competitors to take part in our Rotary Young Musician competition on Friday 9th January 2026. There are two categories in the competition:

- Solo instrumental
- Solo vocal

To enter, you need to submit a short video of your chosen piece and email it to Mrs L Turnnidge at [lturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:lturnnidge@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk). The deadline for entries is **Friday 12th December**.

Students can perform any style/genre of music. If submitting a vocal piece, please ensure it has a backing track. Students who are put through to perform on Friday 9th January for the competition will be announced that last week of term. If they are successful in the competition, they will then go through to the District finals in February, then the Cluster Finals in March and possibly The National Finals in April!

This is an amazing opportunity to show your talent and any student can enter!





### Lexonik Advance

Our Year 7 and 8 groups have now chosen their team names, and we are celebrating success with 'syllables at speed'. This is a part of the Lexonik Advance programme each week where students are challenged as a group to identify and name up to 72 syllable cards within one-minute.

### Library News



This week's leaderboard shows The 3 Ghosts with 49 cards, Thunderbolts and Fantastic 4 scoring 45 each, and in third place the Ballistic Bananas and Lazy7s with 43 syllables at speed. Well done to these Year 7 teams and we look forward to seeing their results next week.

Lexonik Advance is currently being delivered to 18 groups of students across Years 7 and 8. If your child is taking part this term, please encourage them to attend each week to get the best outcomes from the programme.



### Lexonik Leaderboard



| 7th November | Year | Team Name         | Syllables at Speed |
|--------------|------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1st          | 7    | The 3 Ghosts      | 49                 |
| 2nd          | 7    | Thunderbolts      | 45                 |
| 2nd          | 7    | Fantastic 4       | 45                 |
| 3rd          | 7    | Ballistic Bananas | 43                 |
| 3rd          | 7    | Lazy7s            | 43                 |

Community - Ambition - Resilience - Respect - Excellence

### Reading

The BookTrust's 2025 report The Benefits of Reading advises that regular reading 'supports children to meet early development milestones and do better at school' and that 'regular readers consistently score higher on general measures of wellbeing and happiness.' ([booktrust.org.uk](https://booktrust.org.uk))

With this in mind, our library shelves are full of wonderful fiction and non-fiction books for students to browse and enjoy reading. We are open before school from 8:30am, at break and lunchtimes every school day and look forward to welcoming students and help them choose the best books to read.



### Library Badges

Have you got a Library Champion or a Reader of the Month badge?

Read a library book and collect a 'Let's Talk about Books' sheet to write a review - the best entries are awarded a Library Champion badge.

For a Reader of the Month badge, you need to read one of the recommended books for the month and complete an activity sheet and review.

Ask Mrs Yerbury, Librarian for more information.

### Health and Social Care and Child Development

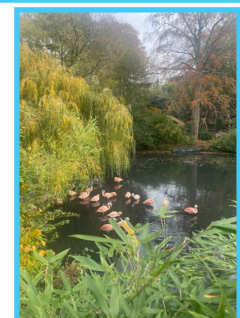
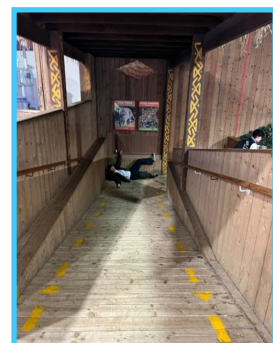
Our Year 10 class were tasked to research taking a baby along with pushchair and equipment around Colchester Zoo and checking how accessible this might be for our class assessment. Our group found that some of the pathways were very steep we had our robot baby (Maude Mary), buggy and the changing bag and found this hard to push up the hills. We were lucky that we met Mrs Procter's granddaughter Freya who is 5 months old, and her mum allowed us to push her to see the difference. It was so heavy, two of us had to push Freya. We were also worried we might let go or trip with the pushchair and she would shoot off down the hill. The path was also uneven which again is quite dangerous. The baby changing areas were clean but quite cold inside there were also lots of places we could go if we needed to change our baby. Some parts of the Zoo weren't accessible as the path wasn't suitable for buggies, so we missed that part of the Zoo. We didn't see anywhere for breast-feeding mums could go comfortably to feed their baby. The doorways to enter and exit the Zoo were suitable for a single pushchair but we did see a double buggy that might have had trouble getting in and out of some of the coffee places around the Zoo. We had a brilliant day and saw some lovely animals which would be great for a baby or toddler. ET



### Disability Accessibility at the Zoo Year 12 Summary

While exploring the zoo, we observed how well it supported people with Disabilities for our class discussion and recognising if it was giving equal opportunities to this group of people as we have theoretically examined in class for our class assignment.

The paths were not smooth in places they were really bumpy which caused difficulty for one of our groups who has a walking stick. There were ramps but they were steep we didn't come across any lifts which would have been hard to access several parts of the Zoo if you were in a wheelchair. The toilets were accessible and easy to get too although we found there was an alarm going off in one, as far as we could see there was no member of staff attending to the flashing light. Mrs Procter knocked on the door to make sure the individual was okay they said they was and it had been going off when they entered. There wasn't much for individuals with a visual impairment, no braille and coloured floor tape was only visible in some places to see the edges of hills and paths. There were big boards with maps on which were visual but depending on the sight problem not accessible to all. The animals could be seen easily with smaller lower placed windows to see if you were in a wheelchair. There were a couple of trip hazards as one of our students found out as the wood was uneven. We didn't notice any buttons to press to explain what the animal was which would make the experience more inclusive. Thank you to Miss Welham and Mrs Procter for taking us and bringing the class experience out in the real world. CB







### Foamy Fireworks Light Up the Science Lab

Year 7 lit up the science labs on Wednesday lunchtime with an explosion of colour, bubbles, and excitement during our Foamy Fireworks experiment! Using simple ingredients, washing-up liquid, food colouring, yeast, and a conical flask, students created mini geysers of fizzing foam that shot upwards in spectacular style.

The lab buzzed with gasps, laughter, and plenty of “Look at mine!” as colourful foam erupted across the benches. Behind all the excitement was simple chemistry: yeast breaks down hydrogen peroxide, releasing oxygen that becomes trapped in soapy bubbles. The result? A vibrant foamy eruption worthy of any science celebration.

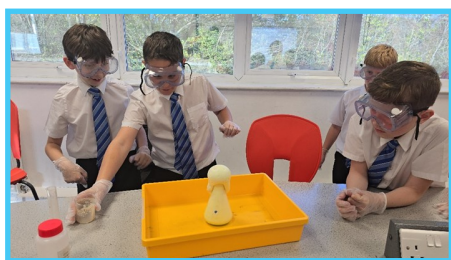
Even better, this is an experiment you can try at home. Foamy Fireworks makes a brilliant weekend family activity, using items most families already have in the kitchen. It's safe, simple, and seriously fun, perfect for sparking curiosity beyond the classroom.

Click the link to explore the activity and try it yourself!

### Science Club Reminder

Next week (Week B): After school at 3:20 pm.

### *Science isn't just a subject — it's an adventure!*





### Rivers Grow Provision

Look at the amazing efforts students have put into the window display at Grow Rivers to commemorate remembrance.

We are extremely proud of their work!



As the Winter is fast approaching we will be reintroducing a Roast dinner at lunchtime. Initially this will be once a month, beginning next week. The meal will consist of: meat, potatoes, and vegetables with a pudding, there will also be a vegetarian option and both will be Gluten & Nut free. The meal will be plated and students will sit in the canteen area to eat it, there will be no option to "take away". The cost will be £3.50. If the demand is high we will increase the frequency. If your child would like to take this meal you may need to consider

increasing the daily limit on their account as this is set at £4.50. The meal will be provided for Free School Meal students.

### Christmas Lunch

We will be holding our student Christmas lunch on Thursday 18th December. It will consist of a traditional roast turkey dinner with a pudding, drink and novelty hat / glasses. There will also be a vegetarian option, both will be gluten & nut free. This meal must be pre-booked by payment on Parentpay. The cost will be £7.50, this will be added to Parentpay on Monday 17th November. For those students entitled to free school meals booking must be made by email to [finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk). The last date for booking will be Monday 1st December.

### The Anime Lunch Club

Hi everyone! We're kicking off an Anime Lunch Club and would love to have you.

When: Every Friday until the end of this term

Where: D06

Plan: Quick intros, 5 min rec shares, a watch-along vote, and casual hangs.

Questions? Contact Mrs Dennis

Hope to see you there!



# Exams News



Last week we began our Exams calendar for this academic year with a small number of Sixth Form students completing GCSE Maths and English exams. This led into a busy few days of mock exams for our Year 11 students. The exams team have been very pleased and proud to hear many compliments from internal and external invigilators regarding the behaviour and maturity of our students. We look forward to concluding the Year 11 exams in the same manner next week. We will be moving on to mock exams for Year 13 and some Year 12 students during the week commencing 24th November, the schedule for these exams is below, students will receive individual timetables by the middle of next week.

As always please could students ensure that they arrive on time to exams and ensure that they have all of the equipment they need for their exam with them, in a clear pencil case, with a calculator if appropriate. A clear, colourless, unmarked bottle of water may also be brought into the exam, all other items must be left outside in the cloakroom area for Year 11 students or within the Sixth Form area.

### Year 13 November Mock Schedule

| 9 AM Prompt Start time |                                                                                                               | 1 PM Prompt Start time                                                                     |  |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 24-Nov-25              | <b>Year 13 Block D</b>                                                                                        | <b>Year 13 Block B</b>                                                                     |  |
|                        | English Literature (150 mins)<br>Physics (105 mins)                                                           | Maths (2 hours)<br>Further Maths (90 Mins)<br>Criminology (90 mins)                        |  |
| 25-Nov-25              | <b>Year 13 Block E</b>                                                                                        | <b>Year 13 Block C</b>                                                                     |  |
|                        | History (150 mins )<br>Biology (120 mins)<br>Engineering (150 mins)<br>Drama (150 mins)                       | Chemistry (105 mins)<br><br>Sociology P 1 (90 mins)                                        |  |
| 26-Nov-25              | <b>Year 13 Block A</b>                                                                                        | <b>Year 13 Block C</b>                                                                     |  |
|                        | Core Maths (90 mins)<br>Maths (2 hours)<br>Further Maths (90 mins)<br>Sport (90 mins)<br>Psychology (2 hours) | Chemistry (105 mins)<br><br>Sociology P 2 ( 2 h 15)                                        |  |
| 27-Nov-25              | <b>Year 13 Block D</b>                                                                                        | <b>Year 13 Block A</b>                                                                     |  |
|                        | English :Literature (3 hours)<br>Physics (1h 45)                                                              | Core Maths (90 mins)<br>Maths (2 hours)<br>Further Maths (90 Mins)<br>Psychology (2 hours) |  |
| 28-Nov-25              | <b>Year 12 Block B</b>                                                                                        | Contingency                                                                                |  |
|                        | Media (2 hours)                                                                                               |                                                                                            |  |
|                        | <b>Year 13 Block E</b>                                                                                        |                                                                                            |  |
|                        | History (150 mins)<br>Biology (120 mins)<br>Further Maths (90 mins)                                           |                                                                                            |  |
|                        | <b>Year 12 Sport (90 mins) WP</b>                                                                             |                                                                                            |  |

**Year 7 - Mr Adair**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for your patience and understanding during the unexpected events we faced this week. Moments like these remind us of the importance of working together as a school community, and your support has been invaluable in helping us maintain a calm and positive environment for our students. It is reassuring to know that our partnership with you enables us to respond to challenges with resilience and care, ensuring that the wellbeing of our young people remains at the heart of everything we do.

Throughout the week, our Year 7 students have shown an outstanding level of effort and determination. Their ability to adapt to changing circumstances, while continuing to focus on their learning, has been truly impressive. Many staff have commented on the maturity and positivity displayed across the year group, and it has been inspiring to see how they encourage one another and work together as a team. These qualities are not only essential for academic success but also for building the kind of supportive community we want our school to be.

This week also gave us the opportunity to pause and reflect during our Remembrance services. I was deeply proud of how Year 7 conducted themselves during these moments of reflection. Their respect, thoughtfulness, and dignity were evident throughout, and they demonstrated a clear understanding of the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed. The way they carried themselves was exemplary, and it was a privilege to witness their contribution to such a significant occasion.

As we move forward, I would like to remind you to encourage your children to speak up if they have any concerns or needs. Their **form tutor** is always available as the first point of contact, and this remains the best place for them to share worries or seek guidance. For urgent or serious matters, students should approach **Ms Makwana** or **Mr Adair**, who are both dedicated to ensuring that every child feels safe, supported, and listened to. We want all students to know that there is always someone they can turn to, and that their voices matter.

Thank you once again for your continued partnership and support. It is through working together that we help Year 7 grow into confident, caring, and responsible young people. I am proud of what they have achieved this week and look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in the weeks ahead.

Contact: [cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)



### Year 8 - Mr Moon

Dear Parents and Guardians,

November has been a busy and rewarding month for Year 8! Our students have shown fantastic effort and enthusiasm across all areas of school life. Recently, many of them took part in the cross-country competition, demonstrating resilience and teamwork as they tackled the course. A special mention goes to **Monet (8M2)**, who finished **7th in the junior category** – an excellent achievement!

We are also proud to share the success of our boys' rugby team, who represented the school superbly in their tournament. They played with skill and sportsmanship, winning **three out of four games** – a fantastic result that reflects their hard work and commitment.

In assembly, we explored some important themes: **mental health**, encouraging students to look after their wellbeing and seek support when needed; **bullying**, reinforcing our commitment to kindness and respect; and **Movember**, raising awareness about men's health and the importance of open conversations. These discussions were thoughtful and engaging, and we hope they continue beyond the assembly hall.

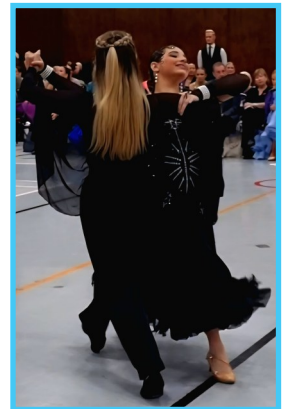
This month also included our **Remembrance Service**, where the whole school came together to reflect on the sacrifices made by others and the importance of peace. Year 8 students showed great respect throughout, making it a truly meaningful occasion.

We also want to celebrate **Seren (8D2)** for her incredible achievement in ballroom dancing – finishing **second in a recent competition!** Her dedication and talent are inspiring to us all.

Finally, congratulations to **Mrs Byford's Students of the Week: Amelia (8D2)** for her outstanding effort and positivity, and **Ryley (8A1)** for his excellent contributions and resilience. Well done to both!

Thank you for your continued support. We are proud of Year 8's achievements and look forward to more successes in the weeks ahead.

Contact: [smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)





**Year 9 – Mr Chapman**

This week, we marked Remembrance Day with a respectful service on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see so many Year 9 students wearing poppies and taking part in this important occasion.

We also supported Children in Need through a cupcake sale—thank you to everyone who contributed to this fantastic cause.

Finally, Thursday was World Kindness Day, and it was great to see acts of kindness across the year group. Let's keep that spirit going every day!

**Top 3 Merit Earners of the Week**

James (9D2)  
Josh (9D2)  
Alex (9D1)

**Top 3 Merit Earners of the Year So Far**

Ava (9A2)  
James (9D2)  
Lou Lou (9D2)

Contact: [rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

**Year 10 - Mr Field**

Early this week we had our remembrance service. It was a pleasant time for the pupils to give their respects and remember the fallen, culminating in a two minute silence at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

**Top positive points this week were:**

Taylon, George, Jamie, Henry, Tegan, Evelyn, Scarlett, Grace, Jess, Ollie, Lily, Jake, Mirella.

Well done to you all and keep up the good work

Contact: [sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)



**Year 11 – Ms Taylor**

This week has seen the start of formal mock exams in the Sports Hall for Year 11. Most of the students have been very mature with the process, and the feedback from invigilators has been glowing. Teachers will start to feedback to the students and give them grades. I am, as always, available to support with revision techniques, exam timetables, etc.

Another source of pride for me this week was the way in which year 11 conducted themselves at the Remembrance Day event. They really did show themselves in the best light.

In exciting news, the Year 11 Prom has now been provisionally booked. The date for the diary is 7th July 2026. It is an INVITE ONLY EVENT. Year 11 should be reminded that invitation to this event is based on 3 criteria:

- Attendance to school
- Attendance to lessons
- Conduct in school.

Further details will come out in due course.

**This week's top merit earners are:**

Chloe D - Z2, Blake V - A2, Holly B - Z1, Kaitlin C - M1, Kyle S - M2, Daisy S - A1, Lola S - Z2, and so congratulations to them.

Contact: [staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)



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| <p><b>Chelmsford College</b><br/><a href="http://www.chelmsford.ac.uk">www.chelmsford.ac.uk</a><br/>Wednesday 1st October 2025– 6pm to 8.30pm<br/>Wednesday 12h November 2025– 6pm to 8.30pm<br/>Wednesday 4th February 2026 - 6pm to 8.30pm<br/>Wednesday 20th May 2026– 6pm to 8.30pm</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>South Essex College - SEC</b><br/><a href="http://www.southessex.ac.uk">www.southessex.ac.uk</a><br/><b>SEC - Southend City College</b><br/>Thursday 25th September 2025 – 5pm to 8pm<br/>Wednesday 14th January 2026 – 5pm to 8pm<br/>Thursday 12th March 2026 – 5pm to 7pm</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>USP College</b><br/><a href="http://www.uspcollege.ac.uk">www.uspcollege.ac.uk</a><br/><b>Seevic Campus - Benfleet</b><br/>Thursday 2nd October 2025– 5.20pm to 8pm<br/>Wednesday 19th November 2025 - tbc<br/>Thursday 22nd January 2026 – tbc<br/>Tuesday 7th July 2026 – tbc (yr 10/11)<br/><b>Palmer's Campus - Grays</b><br/>Thursday 16th October 2025 - 5.20pm to 7.00pm<br/>Wednesday 5th November 2025 - tbc<br/>Thursday 29th January 2026 – tbc<br/><b>XTEND Digital Campus – Canvey</b><br/>Thursday 25th September 2025 – 5.20pm to 7pm<br/>Wednesday 25th February 2026 - tbc</p> | <p><b>SEC- Stephenson Road, Southend</b><br/>Tuesday 11th November 2025 – 5pm to 7pm<br/>Tuesday 3rd February 2026 – 5pm to 7pm<br/>Thursday 16th April 2026 – 5pm to 6pm<br/><b>SEC - Centre for Digital Technologies, Basildon</b><br/>Tuesday 21st October 2025 - 5pm to 7pm<br/>Tuesday 10th February 2026 – 5pm to 7pm<br/>Tuesday 28th April 2026 – 5pm to 6pm<br/><b>SEC - Luckyn Lane, Basildon</b><br/>Thursday 9th October 2025 – 5pm to 7pm<br/>Thursday 29th January 2026 – 5pm to 7pm<br/>Tuesday 31st March 2026 – 5pm to 6pm</p> |
| <p><b>Writtle College</b><br/><a href="http://www.aru.ac.uk/writtle-college">www.aru.ac.uk/writtle-college</a><br/>Saturday 11th October 2025 – 10am to 3pm<br/>Saturday 29th November 2025 – 10am to 3pm<br/>Saturday 14th March 2026 – 10am to 3pm<br/>Wednesday 10th June 2026 – 3.30pm to 7.30pm<br/><b>Harlow College</b><br/><a href="http://www.harlow-college.ac.uk">www.harlow-college.ac.uk</a><br/>Thursday 16th October 2025 - 5.00pm to 8.00pm<br/>Tuesday 10th February 2026 -5.00pm to 8.00pm</p>                                                                                      | <p><b>SEC - Thurrock Campus</b><br/>Wednesday 1st October 2025– 5pm to 8pm<br/>Wednesday 7th January 2026 – 5pm to 8pm<br/>Wednesday 25th March 2026 – 5pm to 7pm<br/><b>Plume Academy</b><br/><a href="http://www.plume.essex.sch.uk">www.plume.essex.sch.uk</a><br/>Thursday 9th October 2025 – 6pm to 8pm<br/><b>Stansted Airport College</b><br/><a href="http://www.stanstedairportcollege.ac.uk">www.stanstedairportcollege.ac.uk</a><br/>Saturday 11th October 2025 - 10am to 2pm<br/>Thursday 22nd January 2026– 5pm to 8pm</p>         |
| <p><b>The Sixth Form College, Colchester</b><br/><a href="http://www.colchsfc.ac.uk">www.colchsfc.ac.uk</a><br/>Wednesday 22nd October 2025 - 6.15pm to 9pm<br/>Thursday 23rd October 2025 – 6.15pm to 9pm<br/><br/>Applications will open online from 24th October 2025 and will close on 31st January 2026<br/><br/><b>William de Ferrers School</b><br/><a href="http://www.wdf.school">www.wdf.school</a><br/>To be advised</p>                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Colchester Institute</b><br/><a href="http://www.colchester.ac.uk">www.colchester.ac.uk</a><br/><b>Colchester Campus</b><br/>Tuesday 14th October 2025 – 5pm to 8pm<br/>Saturday 18th October 2025 – 10am to 1pm<br/>Thursday 23rd October 2025 – 5pm to 8pm<br/>Thursday 22nd January 2026 – 5pm to 8pm<br/><b>Braintree Campus</b><br/>Monday 13th October 2025 – 5pm to 7pm<br/>Saturday 8th November 2025 – 10am to 12.30pm<br/>Tuesday 20th January 2026 – 5pm to 7pm<br/>Thursday 14th May 2026 – 5pm to 6.30pm</p>                 |
| <p><b>For Grammar Schools –<br/>please visit their websites for details of their<br/>Sixth Form open events.</b><br/>The Grammar Schools in our area are as follows<br/><br/>King Edward VI - Grammar School<br/>Chelmsford County High School for Girls<br/><a href="#">Colchester County High School — for Girls</a><br/><a href="#">Colchester Royal – Grammar School</a><br/><a href="#">Southend High School – for Girls</a><br/><a href="#">Southend High School – for Boys</a><br/><a href="#">Westcliff High School – for Girls</a><br/><a href="#">Westcliff High School – for Boys</a></p>  | <p><b>Apprenticeship Information Events at Colchester Institute</b><br/>Thursday 12th February 2026 - 5pm to 7pm<br/>Thursday 18th June 2026 - 5pm to 7pm<br/><b>Braintree Sixth Form</b><br/><a href="http://www.braintreesixthform.com">www.braintreesixthform.com</a><br/>Wednesday 5th November 2025 –<br/>5.30pm to 7.30pm<br/>Applications will open online from<br/>6th November 2025 and will close on<br/>31st January 2026</p>                                                                                                        |

# RIVERS SIXTH FORM

## **Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins**

It has been our busiest week yet in the Sixth Form, and one filled with purpose, positivity and community spirit. Students have embraced Anti-Bullying Week by spreading support and encouragement, marked World Kindness Day with thoughtful notes designed to make someone smile, and rounded off the week by donning pyjamas and onesies to raise valuable funds for Children in Need. Students also joined the whole school in commemorating Remembrance Day, with our Sixth Form boys leading the parade and paying their respects to those who lost their lives.

All of this has taken place while students continue their focused revision for the upcoming PPEs and maintain exceptional behaviour throughout. We are incredibly proud of their maturity, enthusiasm and commitment across such a full and meaningful week.

### **Rivers Sport Academy News**



On Wednesday, our boys delivered an outstanding performance against Beauchamps School, securing a well-deserved 4-0 victory. A special shoutout goes to Max, who was absolutely fantastic on the pitch. He has been immense over the last few games and continues to impress every time he plays. Let's keep this momentum going!



### **Year 13 – PPEs & Real Exams**

Your PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations) are fast approaching, a valuable chance to test your knowledge and exam technique ahead of the summer. Treat them as the real thing; they'll help identify your strengths and show where to focus revision. For some subjects, these next few weeks bring actual exam components, so preparation, organisation and focus are key. Your teachers are here to support you every step of the way so make the most of that guidance!

Top Tip: Create a realistic revision timetable now and start small. Consistent effort always beats last-minute panic.

### **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.

# RIVERS SIXTH FORM

## Student Shout Out

Year 12 - Max Robbins (SF5) - for his outstanding drive and passion within the Sports Academy.

Year 13 - Jamie and Luke (SF3) - in recognition of their efforts and professionalism with the Remembrance Service.

## Sixth Form in the Community

**Remembrance Service:** This week, the whole school came together for a deeply moving Remembrance service, honouring those who sacrificed their lives in conflict. The atmosphere was one of respect, reflection and unity, creating a truly special community moment.

We are incredibly proud of Jamie and Luke, who led the procession with maturity, dignity and composure. Their leadership set the tone for the service and reflected the very best of our Sixth Form.

It was wonderful to see our school community stand together in remembrance, showing gratitude and respect in such a meaningful way.

**World Kindness Day 2025:** On Thursday we joined people across the globe in celebrating World Kindness Day, a universal day of awareness created by the World Kindness Movement.

It's a reminder of the importance of being kind, to others, to yourself, and to the world around you. Every kind act, no matter how small, creates a ripple effect that can make a huge difference. Together, we can build a kinder, more compassionate world.



## Children in Need – Sixth Form Pyjama Day

Today, the Sixth Form embraced a fun and relaxed atmosphere as students arrived in pyjamas, onesies and loungewear to raise money for Children in Need. The response was fantastic, with everyone getting involved and showing great enthusiasm for such an important cause. The day was full of smiles, positive energy and a strong sense of community spirit. Despite the cosy attire, students remained focused and engaged in their lessons, demonstrating maturity and a brilliant attitude throughout.

A huge well done and thank you to all who took part and donated, your support is helping to make a real difference.





# RIVERS SIXTH FORM

**Hurricane Melissa:** Throughout this week, our Sixth Form students have shown remarkable generosity and compassion by bringing in items to support a staff member and their family in Jamaica following the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa. We have been truly overwhelmed by the kindness, empathy and willingness to help shown by our students. Their response reflects the strong sense of community within the Sixth Form and their understanding of the importance of supporting others in times of need. Thank you to every student who contributed, your actions have made a meaningful difference.

## What's Coming Up

There's plenty to look forward to this term!

- Year 12 Work Experience Launch
- Sixth Form PPE's
- Charlie Dix leading sessions on Finance and Future Careers
- Decorating the Sixth Form area in preparation for Christmas - Elf on the Shelf
- Cake Fridays
- Christmas Trip to London universities and Winter Wonderland
- School Musical - Chicago!
- House competitions
- End-of-Term Celebration – a well-earned moment to relax and celebrate achievements before the Christmas break.

## 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.

## Motivation for the Half Term Ahead

***"The expert in anything was once a beginner. Keep going, keep growing."***

This is a great reminder that progress takes time and persistence, especially during a busy and challenging term.

## 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.





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**Weekly  
Newsletter**

**Issue # 9 - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

# RIVERS SIXTH FORM

## **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](mailto:mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

✉ [sixthform@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:sixthform@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

☎ Absent reporting to Mrs Penberthy: 01621 787882

📷 Follow us on Instagram: @RiversSixthForm

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

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



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk) or Angela Mahoney, Finance & Business Director [amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.Go4schools.com) through any web browser.



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**GO** 4 Schools

Starter version Modules MIS Engage/CPD

Login

Contact us

Schools login

Students login

Parents login

Governors login

MAT login

## Welcome to GO 4 Schools

Your school can make better decisions with information that is accurate, up to date, complete,

- 2 Select Parents Login
- 3 Click First-time user
- 4 Enter email address registered with Ormiston Rivers
- 5 Click New password
- 6 Select Sign in to Parent Site
- 7 Open link sent to personal email address entered and activate account
- 8 Set your Go4Schools password
- 9 Sign in

 Overview

**Attendance** live percentage for the academic year (24hr update).

 Attendance

**Behaviour** positive and negative points.

 Behaviour

**Homework** see what homework has been set.

 Homework

**Inbox** messages from the school will be displayed here.

 Inbox

**Progress** grades for assessments taken over the academic year.

 Progress

**Reports** Annual written communication including strengths and next steps.

 Reports

**Timetable** full academic timetable.

 Timetable

**GO** Sign in with GO First-time user? Forgotten Password?

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

Email address

Send password reset link

## Forgotten Password

If you have forgotten your password, click 'Forgotten your Password' which is located just below the sign in option.

Enter your school email address and a password reset will be emailed to your school account.



## G4S App Login

1 – Download the app.



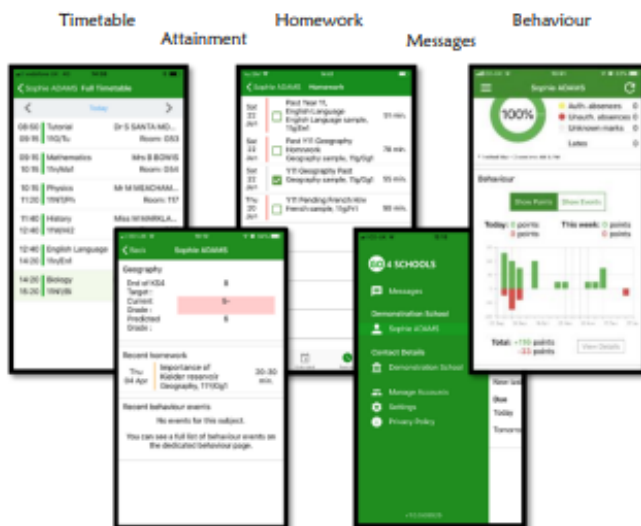
[Click here](#)

[Click here](#)

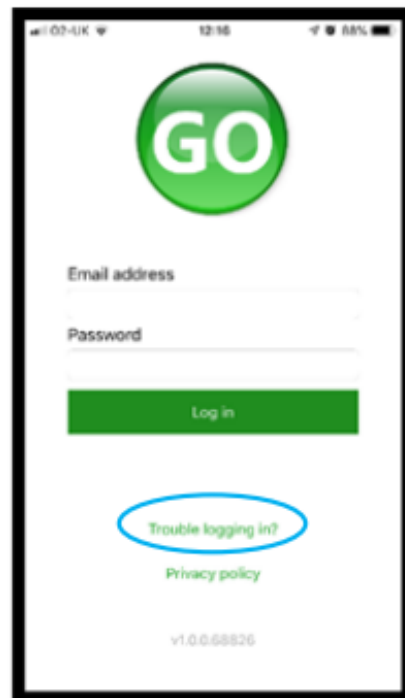
2 – Type in your school email address.

3 – Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.



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### FORGOTTEN YOUR PASSWORD?

If you have forgotten your password, click 'Trouble logging in?'

This will open the web browser where you will click forgotten password.

GO Sign in with GO First-time user?

Forgotten Password?

Email address

Password

[Forgotten Password?](#)

☐ Remember my email address

GO Sign in with GO

GO Sign in with GO First-time user?

Forgotten Password?

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

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

Email address

Send password reset link

Type in your school email address and click 'Send password reset link.'

Open Outlook from Office 365 (your school email) and you will have received an email from Go4schools that include instructions on how to reset your password.

### Yo-Yo Project Bereavement Consultation Line

We are pleased to let you know that The Yo-Yo Project, Farleigh Hospice's Children and Young People's Bereavement Service, is piloting a new telephone consultation line designed to provide quick access to advice from a qualified and experienced child/young person's therapist.



### Who it is for?

It can be accessed by any adult [Family, Carer or Professional] supporting a child or young person who is facing a significant bereavement, or by any young person seeking advice about their own grief experience.

The consultation line can be used to:

- Discuss concerns around a child / young person who is experiencing grief
- Seek guidance on how best to support them
- Explore resources and services that may be of benefit to the child / young person
- Consider whether a referral into the Yo-Yo Project would be beneficial
- Discuss any training needs for community partners with which we may be able to support or signpost.

### Contact times

The consultation line number is **01245 933855** and will be open Tuesdays 3-5pm and Thursdays 11am-12.30pm.

**Please note, this service is not a crisis line, but a way to support family members or professionals understand and respond to the needs of a child / young person.**