



**Message from the Principal**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many highlights that have brought festive cheer and a sense of achievement to our school community.

On Monday, I had the privilege of attending our school's production of Chicago and it was truly outstanding! From the moment the curtain rose, the audience was transported to the glamour of 1920s Chicago. The cast delivered exceptional performances, with impressive choreography, powerful vocals, and incredible energy throughout. It was clear that countless hours of hard work and dedication had gone into every detail. A huge thank you to our talented students and the Performing Arts team for creating such a memorable experience. I left feeling immensely proud of everyone involved.

This week, we also celebrated success through our termly Honours Assemblies for all year groups. These events are always a highlight, as we recognise students who have demonstrated exceptional effort and commitment to our CARRE values. Congratulations to every student who received an award, you should be very proud of your achievements.

On Thursday, we came together to celebrate our annual Christmas Jumper Day, and thanks to the kindness and generosity of our students, we raised £126 for Save the Children.

Finally, on the last day of term, we celebrated even more achievements. Students who achieved 100% attendance or 100% positive merit points enjoyed a well-deserved non-uniform day. We announced the winners of the CARRE Card Prize Draw and presented additional rewards during our whole-school assemblies. Ms Goodfellow hosted our legendary In It to Win It draw, adding excitement to the occasion, and the talented cast of Chicago wowed us once again with a stunning performance of show highlights. We also presented our new Principal Piralic's Positively Perfect Prize, which on this occasion recognised and celebrated excellent attendance. It was wonderful to see both students and staff come together as a community before the holiday break.

Looking ahead to 2026, I would like to give you advance notice of an additional INSET day on Wednesday 1st July 2026, when the school will be closed to students. This day is an important opportunity for staff to plan and prepare for the new academic year. We have taken steps to ensure there is no disruption to student learning, and we will send a reminder in the new year so you can make any necessary arrangements. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our academy community. Wishing you and your families a joyful festive season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Warm regards,

**Dijana Piralic**

**Principal [Interim]**



### Dates for your Diary

**Monday 5th January 2026**

All students return for Spring Term

**Thursday 29th & Friday 30th January 2025**

Year 11 Mock Interviews

**Monday 16th February to Friday 20th**

**February 2026**

Half Term Holiday

**Monday 23rd February 2026**

Staff OAT INSET Day – academy closed to students

### Parents Evenings

**Rivers Sixth Form** - Thursday 15 January 2026

**Year 10** - Thursday 22 January 2026

**Year 9** - Thursday 5 February 2026

**Year 8** - Thursday 19 March 2026

**Year 11** - Thursday 26 March 2026

**Year 7** - Thursday 7 May 2026

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

**Celebrating Success in Our Final Week of Term**



As we approach the end of this term, we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible efforts and achievements of our students—and to thank you, our parents and carers, for the vital role you play in supporting them.

This week has been all about recognising success. Across the school, we are rewarding students who have demonstrated our CARE values and continue to show commitment, resilience, and excellence in their learning and personal development. From classroom achievements to contributions in extracurricular activities, we are proud of the progress and positivity shown by our young people.

**Ways students are being rewarded this week include:**

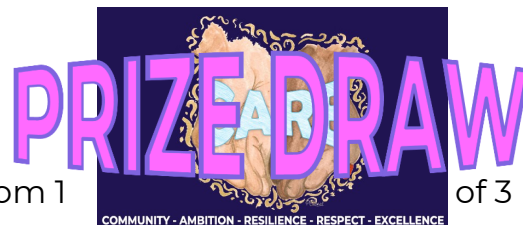
**CARE Cards** – students who show our school values can win prizes through the drop box system. They can select from 1 prizes.

The winners are ...

Alfie (7D1) - Cash Voucher

Eleanor (8M2) - Canteen Credit

Lou Lou (9D2) - Art Pack





**Merits** – every merit counts towards entry into **Club Zero**, and count towards our House total competition scores.

**Club Zero** – for students with **0 days off and 0 negative points**, celebrating outstanding attendance and behaviour. We have welcomed over 400 students to school in their non-uniform today - a huge achievement!



**Honours Assembly Nominations** – recognising exceptional contributions and achievements, students were nominated by their teachers and winners selected by form tutors based on these nominations.

**PAT (Pupil Achievement Tracker) Platinum Prize** – for those who have consistently excelled and shown great attendance, punctuality and behaviour. Prize draws have taken place for each year group in the end of term show!

Year 7 - Maisie (7Z2)

Year 8 - Rory (8M2)

Year 9 - Lara (9Z1)

Year 10 - George (10M1)

**Certificates and Department Stars of the Month** – highlighting subject-specific success, certificates and sweet treats handed out for December!

**Invites to Trips and Events** – rewarding commitment and effort beyond the classroom.

We know that these successes are made possible through the partnership between home and school. Your encouragement, guidance, and support have been invaluable, and we want to express our sincere gratitude for everything you do to help your child thrive.

### **Enjoy the Festive Season**

As the holiday season begins, we hope you and your family enjoy a wonderful Christmas filled with joy, laughter, and time together. Please take the opportunity to relax, recharge, and stay safe during the festivities. This is a special time to celebrate achievements and create lasting memories.

### **Looking Ahead to the New Year**

January brings a fresh start and new opportunities. We encourage every student to set positive goals and embrace the challenges ahead. Together, we'll be focusing on New Year's resolutions—whether that's improving attendance, trying something new, or aiming for personal bests. Every day is a chance to grow, learn, and succeed.

Thank you once again for your dedication and support. We wish you and your family a restful and joyful holiday season—and an inspiring start to the new year!

**Mr Marklew**



# 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 tutor group mentioned, give them a big high five for their contribution towards this fantastic achievement.

Year 7  
7M2

Year 8  
8Z1

Year 9  
9A2

Year 10  
10M1



Year 11  
11A1



During break time today, we also handed out cookies to around 300 students who have 100% attendance for the last half term. Congratulations to all of you for this fantastic achievement!

**100% ATTENDANCE**

As mentioned by Mrs Piralic last week, our Christmas Attendance Challenge has been in full swing, and the year groups have been competing for the top spot throughout December. We are please to announce that the year group who improved their attendance the most is:

Following close behind were:

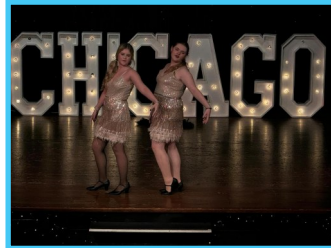
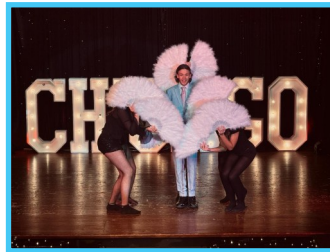
**Year 8!!**

- 2nd - Year 10
- 3rd - Year 7
- 4th - Year 11
- 5th - Year 9



### School Musical - Chicago

A massive congratulations to all of the students involved in our school musical 'Chicago'. The audience thoroughly enjoyed it and commented on this being the best show they have seen! Everyone performed to an extremely high standard, and we are very proud of you all. The costumes, singing, dancing, and acting were spectacular, and we cannot wait until next year! Have a wonderful relaxing Christmas and please enjoy some of the fabulous photos we took of the performances.





### 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 **"Intensify"**.

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

[wotw@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:wotw@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk).

Say it: uhn·ten·suh·fai

Spell it: In-ten-si-fy

**Intensify**

(verb)

(Prefix) **in** - in, into, on; not; very - can be 'en'  
(Stem) **tend** - stretch, reach, hold, keep - can be 'ten' or 'tent'  
(Suffix) **fy** - make into, become

**Stem:** tend:- stretch, reach

**Understand it**

To become greater/or make something, more serious, or more extreme.



### Reading Awards

Reading Awards were presented in the Honours Assemblies this week, with a book prize for one student in each year group 7 to 13.

### Library News



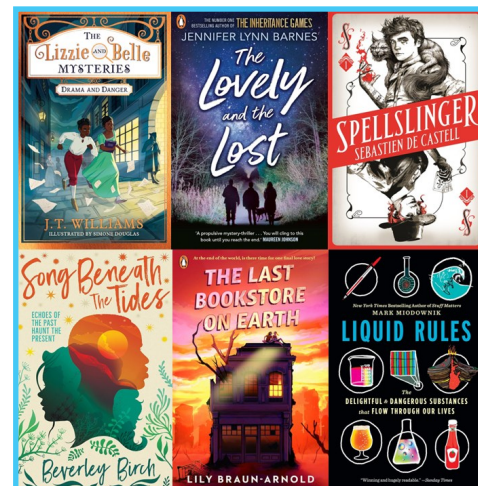
Rosa 7A2, Sienna 8D2, Jude 9D1, Penny 10A2, Maisie 11Z2, Leela SF6, George SF3.

Well done to these students and we hope you enjoy reading your new books!

### New Library Books

A big thank you to Year 12 student Charlotte who has donated some lovely books to the Library. These will be on the shelves for students to loan and read in January, and include fiction by well-known authors such as David Walliams, James Patterson, Holly Webb, Sophie Anderson, Hana Tooke; and some non-fiction books too.

If you have any suitable, good condition books that you would like to donate to the school library please contact Mrs Yerbury, Librarian.



### Library Christmas Gift Tag Competition

The closing date for our Library Gift Tag competition was Friday 12th December and we have received some excellent entries and book reviews.

This year's winner is Elizabeth 7M2 for her review of 'Cobweb' by Michael Morpurgo and lovely decoration of the gift tag. She received a book and certificate as first prize in the Honours Assembly – well done!



**Parliament Trip**

Our visit to Parliament was a resounding success. Students engaged enthusiastically throughout the day, demonstrating curiosity and respect during all activities. Highlights included seeing the building in its' full glory, having a tour on the Parliament's most valued treasures and a workshop where our local MP, Sir John Whittingdale answered eager and curious questions from our students.



Overall, the trip successfully met its objectives of enhancing political literacy and fostering active citizenship among our KS3 learners.

**Year 7 Inter House Cross Country**

Many thanks to the Year 7's who gave up their lunch time to compete in the Inter House competition last week.

House points were awarded to the house with the most participants and further points awarded for the house with the best combined finishers.

A special well done to Henry S and Izzy S for their first place finishes.

**Most Runners**

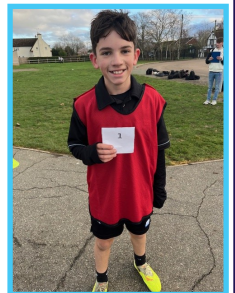
1st - Danube  
2nd - Zambezi  
3rd - Mekong

**Boys Results**

1st - Danube  
2nd - Mekong  
3rd - Zambezi

**Girls Results**

1st - Zambezi  
2nd - Danube





# Careers Spotlight

### Careers At Christmas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42y4bz2eUsl>



### 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

### 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](mailto: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.

### Year 12 Health and Social Care

Thank you to everyone for sending in donations for the Chelmsford CHESS homeless charity. Also for supporting the cake sale which raised £110.

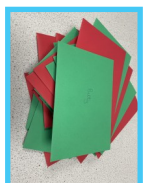


Opening doors  
to independence

Have a lovely Christmas.

### Year 10 Health and Social Care Community Project

As our Christmas Community Project for this academic year, our Year 10 students hand-made over 50 Christmas cards that were given out to elderly residents across the Dengie who attend the Knightswood Day Care Centre in Asheldham. Our students demonstrated excellent creativity and wrote a personalised message in each card, sharing Christmas spirit and care with others.





**Year 7 - Mr Adair**

As we come to the end of the autumn term, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to all of our Year 7 students for completing their very first full term in secondary school. This is a significant milestone, and every student should feel proud of the way they have embraced new challenges, settled into routines, and contributed to the life of our school community. The transition from primary to secondary school is never easy, but the resilience, enthusiasm, and determination shown by our Year 7 cohort has been truly inspiring.

This term has been packed with memorable highlights. On the sports field, our football teams have impressed us all with their outstanding performances. Matches have been played with skill, energy, and above all, teamwork. Whether celebrating victories or learning from defeats, our students have demonstrated the values of sportsmanship and perseverance, and we look forward to seeing their continued success in the seasons ahead.

In the classroom, curiosity has been alive and well. Science lessons have been buzzing with excitement as students carried out experiments ranging from chemical reactions to physics investigations. These hands-on experiences have sparked a genuine love of discovery and encouraged students to think critically about the world around them. Beyond science, many students have had the opportunity to explore new subjects for the very first time. Design Technology has allowed them to get creative with practical projects, Music has opened doors to rhythm and performance, and Modern Languages have introduced them to new cultures and ways of communicating. These subjects are laying the foundations for skills and passions that will last a lifetime.

The arts have also shone brightly this term. Our school production of *Chicago: The Musical* was a spectacular success, with Year 7 students playing a vital role both on stage and behind the scenes. Their energy, talent, and commitment brought the show to life and left audiences amazed at what such a young year group could achieve. It was a wonderful reminder of the creativity and confidence that thrives within our school.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable achievements of the term has been the sheer number of merits earned by the year group. Collectively, Year 7 students have achieved over 30,000 merits — a phenomenal accomplishment that reflects not only academic effort but also kindness, respect, and positive contributions to school life. This figure is a testament to the hard work and character of our students, and we could not be prouder.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of parents and carers. We are deeply grateful for the encouragement you have provided at home, the time you have given to school events, and the trust you have placed in us as your children begin their secondary school journey. Your partnership has been invaluable, and we thank you sincerely for walking alongside us during this important first year.



**Ormiston  
RIVERS  
Academy**

# **Weekly Newsletter**

## **Issue # 14 - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

To celebrate these achievements, we recently held our Honours Assembly, where students were recognised for their successes and contributions. It was a joyful occasion filled with pride, applause, and smiles, and we invite you to enjoy these achievements with your children.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited about the opportunities that await our Year 7 students. With such a strong start, we are confident that they will continue to flourish academically, socially, and personally. For now, we wish you all a restful holiday season and a very happy New Year.

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

**Year 8 - Mr Moon**

As we reach the end of an incredible term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic achievements of Year 8. This term has been nothing short of outstanding, and every one of you should feel proud of what you've accomplished.

Year 8 currently holds the second highest attendance in the entire school – a clear reflection of your commitment and resilience. Even more impressive, you've shown the most improved attendance across all year groups this year. That's a huge achievement and demonstrates your determination to make every day count.

Your hard work and positive attitude have also paid off in other ways, earning Year 8 the second highest number of merits in the school. This shows how consistently you've demonstrated our school values and gone above and beyond in your learning.

These results don't happen by chance – they're the result of teamwork, effort, and a shared commitment to excellence. Thank you to every student, parent, and member of staff who has supported Year 8 this term.

**Looking Ahead to Next Term:**

January brings a fresh start and new opportunities. We'll be focusing on maintaining our fantastic attendance, continuing to build on our merits, and setting ambitious goals for both academic progress and personal development. There will be exciting events and challenges ahead, so come back ready to give your best and make 2026 an even more successful year for Year 8.

Enjoy a well-deserved festive break, recharge your batteries, and come back ready to shine. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us!

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





**Year 9 – Mr Chapman**

As we head into the Christmas break, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of Year 9 students, their parents, and the staff who have worked so hard this term. Your effort, support, and commitment have made this a fantastic term, and I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved, wonderful Christmas break.

This week, we celebrated our Honours Assembly, and it was fantastic to recognise the achievements of Year 9. A special congratulations goes to Ava, who received four certificates, including the Principal's Award and the Overall Attitude to Learning Award—an incredible accomplishment!

We also enjoyed the Year 9 performance of Chicago earlier this week. I've heard so many positive comments about the talent and dedication on display. We're all looking forward to seeing some of the highlights during Friday's end-of-term assembly.

**Merit Highlights:**

**Top 3 merits this week:** Hollie-May (9D1), George (9M2), George (9D2)

**Top 3 merits for the year so far:** Ava (9A2), James (9D2), Mia (9D2)

Thank you again for making this term such a success. Have a safe and joyful holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

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



### Year 10 - Mr Field

As the first term of Key Stage 4 draws to a close, it's a great opportunity to reflect on how our pupils have embraced the start of their GCSE journey.

Throughout the term, we've seen incredible focus and determination in lessons, with pupils working hard to achieve their best. Beyond the classroom, their talents have shone through in a variety of activities—from representing the school in football, rugby, and netball, to performing in the spectacular end-of-term production of Chicago.

One of the highlights of the term was our Awards Assembly, where we celebrated pupils who have demonstrated our core values of Resilience, Respect, and Excellence since September. It was inspiring to see so many students recognised for their commitment and effort.



As we approach the festive season, it was wonderful to see Year 10 pupils enjoying their Christmas meals together—a perfect way to end the term on a high note.



Finally, congratulations to all pupils who achieved excellent attendance and maintained zero negative points this term. They were rewarded with a non-uniform day on the last day of term—a well-deserved treat!

Thank you to all pupils and staff for making this term such a success. We look forward to building on this momentum in the new year.

Well done, Year 10—you've set the bar high!

Merry Christmas

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



**Year 11 – Ms Taylor**

Year 11 started their week with our termly Honours assembly. I would like to congratulate the recipients of awards:

11A1 - Sam T, Amelie C, Callum G, Chloe G, Keira E

11A2 - Jack C, Poppy R, Lily B, Ryan F, Rishi H

11D1 - Alissa J, Freya C, Sam S, Sienna B, Suzie P

11M1 - Layla S, Ronnie S, Edward B, Maria W

11M2 - Jack M, Jaya N, Joe J, Bobby H, Bella W

11Z1 - Alex G, Thomas Y, Joshua T, Paris H, Hazel W, Holly D

11Z2 - Max H, Teddy K, Mia A, Isobel S, Maisie B.

Despite the tiredness they undoubtedly feel, some students have also produced some excellent work this week, and congratulations to our top merit earners:

Phoebe N (11D1)

Edward B (11M1)

George (11M2)

Max H (11M2)

Skye H (11Z2)

Sid L (11A2)

Tia O (11D1)

I wish every Year 11 student a very restful and happy Christmas and hope that they return in January with a commitment to make the most of their last full term in compulsory education.

Merry Christmas.

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



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

# RIVERS SIXTH FORM

## Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

As we reach the end of the Autumn Term and prepare to break for Christmas, it's hard not to reflect on what a remarkable first term it has been in Sixth Form. Over the past few months, we've shared trips and charity events, bake offs and awards, sporting fixtures and shows, exams and social activities, alongside moments of laughter, a few tears, new friendships and, above all, the chance to come together as a supportive and vibrant community. Thank you to every student for embracing Sixth Form life with such enthusiasm and spirit. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a well-deserved break before the year ahead. 🎄

### Student Shout Out

**Year 12** - Charlotte for all of her help with school events and being a Sixth Form advocate

**Year 13** - Olivia for outstanding attendance all while performing in the school musical



### 100% Attendance

Well done to all our Sixth Form students who achieved 100% attendance for this half. They all received a Christmas chocolate cookie.



### Sixth Form in the Community Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Yesterday, as a whole school, we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day, raising money for charity. It was fantastic to see so many of our students fully embracing the festive spirit in their colourful and creative jumpers. The celebrations continued with Christmas Dinner in the canteen, where the Sixth Form Team sat together to enjoy good food and mark this wonderful time of year as a community.





# RIVERS SIXTH FORM

## **Elf on the Shelf Antics in Sixth Form**

Our mischievous Elf on the Shelf has been causing plenty of excitement around Sixth Form this term and certainly kept us all on our toes! From starting an indoor snowball fight to sneaking off with everyone's snacks, the elf has been up to no good at every opportunity. Students arrived one morning to find the elf challenging staff to a game of noughts and crosses, while on another day the entire Sixth Form area had been completely rearranged overnight — proving that no corner was safe from festive mischief. These playful surprises have brought lots of laughter and seasonal cheer, helping everyone get into the Christmas spirit during a busy time of year. We can't wait to see what the elf gets up to next... if he hasn't already made his great escape!

## **School Musical Success – Chicago**

We are incredibly proud of all the students involved in this year's school musical, Chicago. From the very first rehearsal to the final curtain call, the commitment, talent and professionalism shown by our cast and crew have been outstanding. A special mention must go to the students who took on many of the lead roles, delivering confident, polished and captivating performances night after night. Their dedication, resilience and hard work truly brought this iconic production to life. The show was a fantastic celebration of creativity, teamwork and ambition, and it was wonderful to see students supporting one another both on and off the stage. Congratulations to everyone involved for producing such a memorable and successful performance, we couldn't be prouder.

## **What's Coming Up**

- Real exams in the first week back
- Year 12 Work Experience - W/C 29th June 2026 - Upload to Unifrog
- Charlie Dix leading sessions on Finance and Future Careers
- Bake Off's
- House competitions
- Mock Interviews - 29th/30th January 2026
- Summer Ball 3rd July 2026

## **UCAS – Deadline**

We have now sent over 80% of applications with a few booked in for the first week in January.

**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 soon closing. 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

## **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](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)



# 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'.

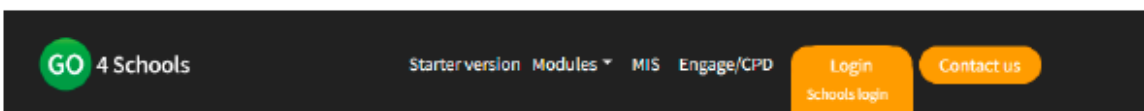
### Parent / Carer Login

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.



**Ormiston  
RIVERS  
Academy**












### 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	

 Sign in with GO

[First-time user?](#)
[Forgotten Password?](#)

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

Email address

Send password reset link

### Forgotten Password

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

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



## G4S App Login

1 – Download the app.



[Click here](#)

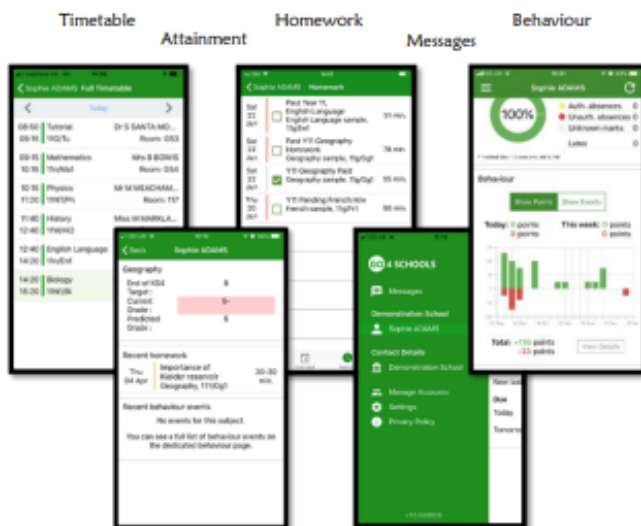


[Click here](#)

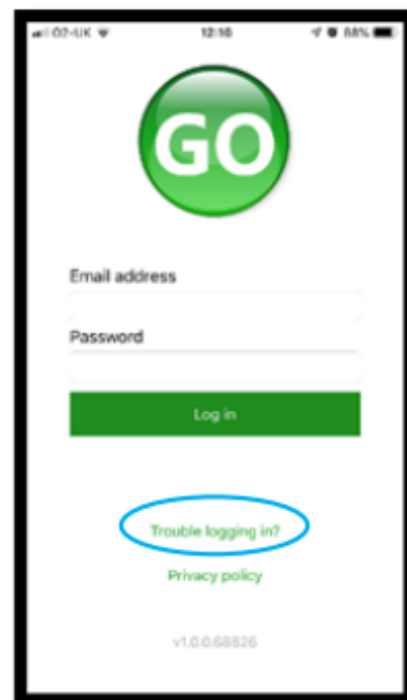
2 – Type in your school email address.

3 – Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.



Ormiston  
**RIVERS**  
Academy



### FORGOTTEN YOUR PASSWORD?

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

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

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.