

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin the Spring term, our pastoral team is working hard to ensure every student can make the most of their learning by reducing time spent out of lessons. This week, Ms Victory has been leading year group assemblies to reinforce classroom behaviour expectations and strengthen our culture of belonging, something we know is vital for both wellbeing and achievement. She will be speaking to students again next week to explain the requirement to attend restorative education during Period 6 (3:20pm-4:20pm) for instances where behaviour expectations have not been met.

To help your child maximise their learning time, we kindly ask that, wherever possible, medical appointments are scheduled outside of school hours. If this isn't possible and an appointment falls in the morning, please bring your child to school as soon as you can afterwards. For afternoon appointments, we encourage you to collect them as late as possible. Every minute in the classroom truly makes a difference.

We are also excited to re-launch the **ORA Student Council** next week. Applications open on Monday, and we would love for you to encourage your child to apply. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to represent their peers, share ideas, and work alongside our Sixth Form Leadership Team to make our school an even better place for everyone.

A few practical reminders:

- Students must tap their catering card when purchasing food to keep queues moving. Lost cards can be replaced via ParentPay for £1 and will be delivered through their tutor.
- Please ensure your child brings the correct equipment for learning and a refillable water bottle each day. Water stations are available throughout the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can make this term a positive and successful one for every student.

Warm regards,

Dijana Piralic
Principal [Interim]

Parents Evenings

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

Dates for your Diary

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

Teaching Behaviours

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

We hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. As we begin this new term, we are excited to welcome all our students back and look forward to a successful and productive start to the year.

Assemblies: Building a Strong Start

This week, our assemblies have focused on the importance of starting the term with energy and purpose. We've encouraged students to think about new habits and New Year's resolutions that will help them thrive both academically and personally. A strong start sets the tone for the weeks ahead, and we are committed to supporting every student in making positive choices.

Strong Starts to Lessons

We have also emphasized the importance of beginning each lesson well. A strong start means:

- **Being punctual** – arriving on time and ready to learn.
- **Preparedness** – having the correct equipment and a positive mindset.
- **Engaging immediately** – completing the 'Do Now' retrieval task within the first 60 seconds of the lesson. This quick activity helps students recall prior learning and sets the tone for focused work.

These habits ensure that every minute of learning counts and that students make the most of their time in class.

How Parents Can Support at Home

You play a vital role in helping your child succeed. Here are some practical ways to support them:

- **Encourage punctuality** – Help your child plan their morning routine so they arrive at school on time.
- **Check readiness** – Ensure they have the correct equipment (pens, books, PE kit) and a positive mindset for learning.
- **Discuss SMART targets** – Ask your child about their goals and talk through how they can achieve them.
- **Celebrate progress** – Recognize small wins and effort, not just results, to keep motivation high.
- **Create a calm study space** – A quiet, organized area at home helps reinforce good habits.

A Motivational Message for the New Year

The start of a new year is a chance to reset, refocus, and aim high. Every day is an opportunity to learn, grow, and take a step closer to your goals. We encourage our students to embrace challenges, stay positive, and remember that small, consistent actions lead to big achievements. Together, let's make this year the best one yet!

Mr Marklew



Department Stars of the Month!

December

English

Year 7 - Adaline M
Year 8 - Lexi M
Year 9 - Ava B
Year 10 - Jenson H
Year 11 - Charlie W
Sixth Form - Ellie N

Child Development

Year 10 - Ceri P-L
Year 11 - Becca M

Health & Social Care

Year 10 - Lorna L
Year 11 - Callum G
Sixth Form - Charlotte B

Maths

Year 7 - Georgia L
Year 8 - Harvey C
Year 9 - Phoebe M
Year 10 - Isabelle W
Year 11 - Jack C
Sixth Form - Eva S

MFL

Year 7 - Shay E
Year 8 - Jack S
Year 9 - James B
Year 10 - Erin R
Year 11 - Rishi H

Performing Arts

Year 7 - Megan S
Year 8 - Rebekha S
Year 9 - Megan C
Year 10 - Lacey N
Year 11 - Jaya N
Sixth Form - Hannahae H

Computing

Year 7 - Henry H
Year 8 - Libby B
Year 9 - Jayla H
Year 10 - Jessica M
Year 11 - Cooper P
Sixth Form - Daisy C

Science

Year 7 - Harrison O
Year 8 - Sienna S
Year 9 - Ava B
Year 10 - Evelyn B
Year 11 - Freya C
Sixth Form - Evie D

PE

Year 7 - Elizabeth N
Year 8 - Lexi M
Year 9 - Samuel B
Year 10 - Isabelle W
Year 11 - Rishi H
Sixth Form - Leila B

Attendance Matters

100%

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

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



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



Careers Spotlight

Job of the Week - YouTuber

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #71 - YOUTUBER](#)



Anglia Ruskin University Campus Day Year 9 and 10

Wednesday 7th January a group of Yr 9 and 10 students, who have participated in the Amplify your Talent Programme this term attended a Campus Day at Chelmsford which involved a tour around the campus, a sample lecture and teamwork challenge, all students took part with enthusiasm. The final part of the programme is a Celebration Evening on Wednesday 14th January 5pm, students on the programme and their parents are invited to this. Well done to all students who attended the programme.



A massive well done to all the students that took part in the Rotary Young Musician competition on Friday 9th January.

Rishi (11A2) Alissa (11D1) Bradley (11M1) Paige (9A1) Thomas (7A2) Danica (10M1) Haidyn (10M1) Harry (10M1) Sam (11D1) and Olivia (SF3)

Students were asked to perform a solo instrumental or vocal piece for a panel of judges and a small audience. Everyone performed to a very high standard and the judges had real difficulty deciding who would go through to the next round. The audience and judges commented on the how professional the students were and were impressed with the skill level of all. I am please to announce that in first place for instrumental was Sam with his amazing rendition of Sweet Child 'O' Mine by Guns 'n' Roses. The winner of the vocal competition was Paige (9A1) with her fabulous performance of I Can Hear the Bells from 'Hairspray.' These two will go through to the District Final at Chelmsford Cathedral.

Exams News



Exam Dates

Well done to sixth form students taking vocational unit exams this week and luck as they continue through next week. We are currently working on the schedule for our Spring Mock season for students in Years 11 and 13 and some modular Year 12 courses. These will take place after February half term, details will follow as soon as they are finalised.

After the Spring mock season, once Summer exam entries are confirmed, we will be able to prepare individual summer exam timetables. In the meantime, students should ensure that they attend school every day where many courses will be completing coursework assignments and practical assessments over the coming weeks and months, class teachers will be able to provide specific details on these. The formal Summer written exam season begins on Thursday 7th May, all examination students must ensure that they are available on all days from this date up until the final contingency date of 24th June. Students must remain available to sit exams throughout this period in case of a need to move an exam to contingency day in the event of a National Event prompting a bank holiday, for example.

English KS3 OAT Assessments

The week of the 19th January, all students will complete an assessment common across all Ormiston Academies to assess their progress.

Year 7 will sit a grammar test assessing their understanding of sentence structure and word classes (fragment and complete sentence, subject and objects, adjectives, verbs, nouns, proper nouns). This will take place in a computer room across the week.

Year 8 and Year 9 will sit a writing assessment. They will be given a task and asked to write up to 2 pages. The task will assess their technical accuracy, ability to structure ideas, vocabulary and style.

Within English at Ormiston Academies Trust, we use No More Marking, a comparative judgment system designed to provide a fair and accurate way of assessing pupils' writing. This approach ensures consistency and reliability when moderating writing across the school. We are seeking to improve the efficiency of implementing No More Marking and will be trialling an AI-based method to validate our moderation process. This method involves sharing anonymised images of pupils' writing from designated tasks. These images will be transcribed and processed using secure AI cloud services. Data may be transferred to servers in the United States; however, we ensure an adequate level of data protection by relying on Adequacy Decisions and Standard Contractual Clauses. All data is deleted from the backend within 30 days of receipt or generation and is not used to train AI models.

For further details, please refer to the GDPR and privacy notice provided by No More Marking.



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 **"Testify"**.

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

Say it: teh-stuh-fai

Spell it: Tes-ti-fy

Testify

(verb)

Stem: test-: witness

(Stem) test - witness
(Suffix) fy - make into, become

Understand it

To make a factual statement based on personal experience or to declare something to be true from personal experience



Library News

Hibernate with a good book this winter!

We have a great selection of adventures, mysteries, historical stories, sport, fantasy, non-fiction, comedy, murder-mysteries, animal stories... and much more for students to choose from this winter. There are 32 titles in our winter selection, and each book has been chosen with a winter theme such as frozen or snowy weather, polar bears or wolves, and events that happened in the winter or cold climates.

Simply borrow and read at least one of the recommended library books, use a Hibernate bookmark as you read, then complete the Hibernate Book Review - the best entries get merits and a Library Champion or Reader of the Month badge.

Fiction titles include:

- Northern Lights by Philip Pullman
- The Ice Garden by Guy Jones
- Winter by Marissa Meyer
- An Eagle in the Snow by Michael Morpurgo
- A Million to One by Adiba Jaigirdar (YA)
- The Ice Monster by David Walliams
- Murder at Snowfall by Fleur Hitchcock
- The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell
- S.T.A.G.S by M.A. Bennett (YA)

Hibernate with a good book this winter

Read at least one of these books and complete the Hibernate Book Review.



The best entries get merits and a Reader of the Month badge!



Non-Fiction:

- Everest: Reaching the Roof of the World by David Long
- Perishing Poles: Horrible Geography by Anita Ganeri
- Tragedy at Sea: The Sinking of the Titanic by David Long



Felsted

FELSTED SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY COMPETITION

The Felsted Summer School application process has changed this year and places for students will be awarded through their **International Summer School Essay Competition** with students applying independently online giving them the chance to win a fully funded place on the programme in the role of a British Ambassador.

Details about the competition and application process can be viewed here:

<https://www.felsted.org/global-education/summer-school/essay-competition>

Further information about the Summer School can be found here:

[Felsted Summer School](#)

Win a Scholarship to Felsted Summer School



We are delighted to announce our First annual Essay Competition, offering students the opportunity to earn a scholarship to Felsted International Summer School 2026.

Essay Competition 2026

We invite curious, ambitious students to sharpen their thinking, polish their expression, and step confidently into the role of a British Ambassador by entering this year's Felsted Essay Competition.

The competition is open to:

- British Students Only (UK home address required)
- Primary Category: Years 5-8-9 (8-11 years old)
- Senior Category: Years A-D (12-17 years old)

ESSAY COMPETITION TOPICS

Why would you like to attend Felsted International Summer School?

How have your learning experiences or personal challenges prepared you to support and represent British culture as a British Helper?



For any assistance with the above information please contact Hydro.Hamid@felsted.org or [01376821126](tel:01376821126) or follow the QR code link.



The summer school program offers students a unique opportunity to:

- Build confidence and leadership by welcoming and supporting international students
- Share their culture, experiences, and knowledge, helping others feel at home
- Develop communication skills and strengthen their English in a real-world, international setting
- Form lasting friendships with students from around the world
- Experience the atmosphere of a leading UK boarding school during the summer holidays

Please encourage your child to apply for this fantastic opportunity. We are here to support students with their application if required.

Year 7 - Mr Adair

Welcome back to the Spring Term! I hope you and your families enjoyed a well-earned break and had plenty of time to relax and recharge together. It has been wonderful to see our Year 7 students return with such enthusiasm and energy. They have picked up right where they left off, working hard and diving deeper into their learning across all subjects.

In Music, students are exploring the art of composition, developing their creativity by studying how melodies and chords combine to create popular songs. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to understand the building blocks of music and express themselves through original ideas.

Meanwhile, in Drama, our young performers have been investigating the concept of breaking the fourth wall. They are learning how this technique can draw an audience into a performance, creating a more engaging and interactive experience. It's inspiring to see their confidence grow as they experiment with these dramatic conventions.

I am also delighted to share a special achievement from one of our talented students. A huge congratulations to Esther in 7Z2, who has successfully achieved her Grade 3 ABRSM Piano qualification! This is an incredible accomplishment and a testament to her dedication and hard work. Well done, Esther – we are all very proud of you!



As we move forward into the term, we look forward to seeing more fantastic progress and achievements from our Year 7 cohort. Thank you for your continued support in helping our students thrive.

Contact: cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 8 - Mr Moon

Welcome back, Year 8! What an incredible start to the new year. It's been fantastic to see everyone settling into the new school systems so positively and embracing the routines that will help us all succeed in 2026. Our first assembly focused on routines and setting goals for the year ahead—a great reminder that consistency and ambition will drive success. Let's keep those goals in mind as we move forward!

A huge congratulations to our Year 8 boys' football team for securing their very first win of the season! It was a brilliant performance from the whole squad, and we're so proud of the effort and teamwork on display. Special shout-out to our goal scorers: Max, Isaac, Fraser, and Olly—amazing work, boys!

We also want to celebrate our top merit earners for the first week back: Frankie (8M2), Envy (8A2), and Esme (8A2). Each of them earned an incredible 20 merits—an outstanding achievement and a fantastic example for everyone. Keep up the great work!

Let's keep this momentum going and make this term our best yet!

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 – Mr Chapman

Welcome Back!

Happy New Year and welcome to a fresh term! We hope you had a relaxing break and are ready for all the exciting opportunities ahead. Let's make this year one full of success, positivity, and memorable achievements.

Top 3 Merits of the Week:

Amelia (9A2)

Ava (9A2)

Eleanor (9Z2)

Fantastic effort—keep up the great work!

Top 3 Merits of the Year So Far:

Ava (9A2)

James (9D2)

Mia (9D2)

A brilliant start to the year—well done to all!

Contact: rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 10 - Mr Field

Welcome back Year 10. I hope everyone has had a enjoyable and restful Christmas break. The year group have had a great start to the term with many students working hard and focussed on their studies.

Earlier this week some of the Year 10 students visited Anglia Ruskin university after completing a session in school which provided them with information about university life. Feedback from Mrs Compton and the students was very positive and they all said it was a fantastic trip and a great opportunity for them to see what a university is like.

Prior to Christmas, Ollie A had the opportunity to train and spar with another boxer and this is what he had to say about it.

'Before Christmas I represented my club, Maldon Boxing Academy and England Boxing, and had a 1-2-1 technical and sparring session with the world number 1 at my age group in preparation for the World Championship later this year'.

We wish all Ollie all the best for the future in the ring.

Just a reminder to everyone, Parents Evening will be on 22nd January. Information about the evening will be coming out soon.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 – Ms Taylor

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had an amazing Christmas. We are now entering the final few months before the GCSEs. These will be underway in the early part of May. Students should be revising 3 subjects for 20 mins each at this stage, increasing after February half term.

Students are reminded that there are 3 things that I am tracking for the prom:

- attendance to school
- attendance to lessons
- conduct in school.

A letter will be sent shortly.

This week's top merit earners are:

Max C (11D1), Ava B (11Z1), Bobby F (11Z1), Joseph J (11M2), Madison P (11M1), Oliver B (11A1), Lily B (11A2), Elliot C (11Z1), Morgan D (11Z1), Isabelle J (11M2), Karsten M (11A2), Eve M (11M2), Becca M (11M2), Hollie P (11D1), Daisy S (11A1), Blake V (11A2) and Maria W (11M1).

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



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

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

Happy New Year, everyone! We hope you all had a restful Christmas break and are feeling recharged as we head into the final stretch of your time here in Rivers Sixth Form. As we step into 2026, there's no denying that this is going to be a crucial term. There's a lot to focus on, and many important milestones ahead.

First and foremost, Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) are just around the corner. This is an opportunity for you to really get a feel for the exam experience, test your knowledge, and identify any areas that need attention before the real Year 13 exams in the summer. It's an important practice run, so treat it as such, take it seriously, but also use it as a chance to learn and refine your approach to revision and exam technique.

For Year 13 the summer might seem a long way off, but time flies. The reality is that your A-level exams are fast approaching, and the work you put in now will set the foundation for your success. We all know the journey hasn't been easy, and there's still a lot to do—but you've come so far already. Stay focused, stay driven, and know that everything you do in this term matters. It's all about momentum, keep building on what you've already achieved and stay committed to reaching that final goal.

But, while it's easy to get caught up in the pressure of exams, remember that this term is about more than just exams. It's also about growth, not just academically, but personally. Take time to focus on your well-being, keep a balanced approach, and don't be afraid to ask for help when needed. Whether it's from your teachers, your friends, or your family, support is here for you.

As a Sixth Form community, we're all in this together. Every challenge you face is an opportunity to show your resilience and determination. Whether it's tackling the hardest essay, preparing for a mock exam, or just getting through a tough day, you're building the strength you'll need for whatever lies ahead, be it in university, apprenticeships, or the world of work. So let's make this term count. You've got everything you need to succeed. Stay positive, stay motivated, and remember that your future starts now. We believe in you, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

Student Shout Out

Year 12 - Brandon and Sofia for excelling in their exams

Year 13 - Solomon for working incredibly hard and staying late most evenings to stay on top of work



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form in the Community

Sixth Form Parents' Evening – Thursday, 15th January

We are excited to invite you all to our Sixth Form Parents' Evening on Thursday, 15th January. This is a valuable opportunity for parents and guardians to meet with teachers, discuss your child's progress, and gain insight into how they are performing as they approach the final stages of their Sixth Form journey.

Bookings are now open on SchoolCloud, where you can easily book individual appointments with your child's subject teachers. We strongly encourage all parents to attend this important event, as it will help us ensure that every student is on track to achieve their best and that we are all working together to support their success.

We look forward to seeing you all there and continuing our partnership in guiding your child through this important year.

Student Subject Leads Announced!

We are pleased to announce the new Student Subject Leads for this term! Congratulations to all those who have been chosen to represent their departments. This is a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate leadership, support your peers, and work closely with teaching staff to help improve the learning experience for everyone.

We look forward to seeing the impact you'll make in your roles and the enthusiasm you'll bring to your subjects. Well done to all those selected!

Sixth Form Applications

Sixth Form Applications – Final Reminder

A quick reminder that Sixth Form applications close today! Thank you to all those who have already applied. Students will be contacted shortly with their interview time and date. These interviews will take place during school hours and will be with Mrs. Wilkins in the Sixth Form office.

We look forward to speaking with each of you and helping you take the next step in your academic journey!

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.

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Exam Behaviour & JCQ Regulations

As we approach the exam season, it's important to remember the expectations for behaviour during all exams. To ensure a smooth and fair exam experience, students must adhere to the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) regulations, which are in place to maintain integrity and fairness for all candidates.

Key points to remember:

- **Arrive on time:** Make sure you arrive at least 15 minutes before the exam starts. Late arrivals can lead to complications, and in some cases, may not be allowed to sit the exam.
- **Clear water bottle:** Only clear, unlabelled bottles are permitted in the exam room. No labels or logos are allowed on the bottle, and the bottle should be free from any writing or stickers.
- **Prohibited items:** Phones, smartwatches, or any electronic devices must be turned off and left in your bag, which should be placed at the back of the exam room. Only pens, pencils, and necessary equipment should be on your desk.

Respect and Focus: It is essential to maintain a calm, respectful environment for everyone in the exam hall. Please follow the instructions given by the invigilators, remain focused, and take the time to carefully read all instructions. Following these regulations is vital for a smooth exam experience and for your success in the upcoming assessments. Let's all do our part to ensure that everything runs smoothly!

What's Coming Up

- Mock Interviews - 29th/30th January 2026
- 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
- Summer Ball 3rd July 2026

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.

The Rivers Sixth Form Team

 mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

 sixthform@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

 Absent reporting to Mrs Penberthy: 01621 787882

 Follow us on Instagram: @RiversSixthForm

 Visit: www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Catering



Menu

We have pleasure of enclosing a link to next weeks [menu](#). Please note that items are subject to change at short notice due to availability of produce from our suppliers. We welcome feedback on our catering offer; so please email our catering manager, Leanne Warner at lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk with any comments / suggestions.

Nut Allergies

Any form of nut or products that contain nuts should not be brought into school. We do have students with severe nut allergies, which can be life threatening, and we would appreciate your support in keeping them safe.

Parentpay

The daily limit for students to spend is set at £4.50 as a default. This means, should a student select items at break and / or lunch which take them over the limit, they will be asked to put something back. If you would like to change the limit on your child's account please email our catering manager lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk. Please note: it can take a while before the cashless system updates once you have added funds to your child's catering account. Please be mindful of this and try and get the money on there in plenty of time for break / lunch. When adding funds please ensure you add it to Dinner money and make sure it's not just sitting in your parent account.

Free School Meals

The daily limit for free school meals is £3.30. Funds will need to be added to your child's Parentpay account should you wish them to be allowed to exceed the limit.

Catering Cards

Students must tap their catering card each time they wish to make a purchase, even if they are entitled to free school meals. Please remind them that they need to bring their catering card in every day. Those students without their card will be held back until the end of the queue, allowing those through with cards first. The cards really speed up the catering service, giving students more time to socialise with friends and eat their food. If a card is lost or damaged, a new one can be purchased for £1 on ParentPay. The new card will be delivered to tutors the following morning.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above please contact either Leanne Warner, Catering Manager lwarner@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk or Angela Mahoney, Finance & Business Director amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.



Rivers Academy Shop

Academy Shop

All students are required to have sufficient equipment to allow them to learn and achieve their full potential. It is a students' responsibility to arrive at the Academy with the appropriate equipment for lessons:

Equipment:

2 x black pens
1 x purple biro for assessment feedback
2 x pencils
1 x 30cm ruler
Coloured pencils (not felt tips)
Eraser
Pencil sharpener

Maths set (including a scientific calculator)
Student Planner (student organiser)
Reading book
Books / folders for the days lessons
Water bottle
Basic art equipment

The Academy Shop, located near the main hall, is open before school 8.30 - 8.50am and at breaktime 11.20 - 11.50am every day. The shop stocks all of the above equipment, as well as a wide selection of revision guides & workbooks, for all year groups. You can also purchase new ties from here. We can only accept cash for shop purchases on site, we are unable to use credit on a students catering card. Alternatively, you can complete an order form and return it to finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Year 10 & 11 - You will find an item on ParentPay - KS4 Revision Guides & Equipment- just overwrite the amount with the total to be paid, we will check it against your order and let you know when the items can be collected from the shop (or you can call in and collect from main reception if you would prefer).

Year 7, 8 & 9 (KS3) - Once we have received your completed order, we will add it to your ParentPay account. When payment has been confirmed we will let you know when the items can be collected from the shop (or you can call in and collect from main reception if you would prefer).

You can access the up to date [KS3 order form](#) and the [KS4 order form](#) here; these are also available on our website www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk. Please contact finance on 01621 787845 if you have any queries.

Absence Reporting

Students should attend school unless they are very unwell. On every day of absence please contact the school with the reason why your son/daughter is not attending. Please contact us as early as possible and at the latest by 8am on the first day of absence. This can be via the following methods:

MyEd Messaging App

ConnectED absence line: 0845 355 8104

Attendance line: 01621 787855

Change of Personal Details

It is essential that we are kept up to date with changes in your contact details. This may be a change to a mobile number, an e-mail address, a full address or even a change of who is the first priority to contact. By keeping us up to date with changes we can ensure that you are receiving information regarding your child's progress and that we can contact someone in the case of an emergency. Or preferred means of communication is by e-mail, please ensure that we have a current e-mail address for you. Please notify us of any changes by e-mail to: kcannon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Lost Property

We have several items in lost property, mainly coats, PE kits, blazers and drinking bottles. Any student can check in Student Reception for lost items. Please note that items not collected before the end of each half-term may be donated to charity or disposed of accordingly, therefore, please remind your children to check for anything they have misplaced before this time. Thank you.



BIG SISTER

Discounted gym memberships for girls aged 9-15 years

Blackwater Leisure Centre, Maldon

**A space to DISCOVER
your JOURNEY to getting
active, ❤ TOGETHER.**

Your Big Sister Membership includes:

- Unlimited gym use during Junior Gym hours, including a gym induction (for 11-15 year olds)
- Unlimited swimming
- Age appropriate exclusive We Move classes - **Tuesday 5-5.30pm (9-11yrs)** and **5.30-6pm (11-15yrs)**
- Friendly on-site team, to support you through your activity
- Free access to Places Leisure App and Virtual Studio which includes a Big Sister channel



Scan here for more
information



Our Big Sister Memberships are free* (subject to proof of eligibility criteria) or 50% discounted for all girls aged 9-15. Please visit our centre to sign-up today! @ Blackwater Leisure Centre, Park Dr, Maldon, CM9 5UR.



Essex County Council

Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools after 19th August 2024.

Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including the U code (late after registers have closed).

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

Second Offence

(within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court.

Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.



Parent / Carer Login

Go4Schools is an online platform providing parents and carers with live attainment, timetable, targets & attendance. This will also be where pupil reports are released.

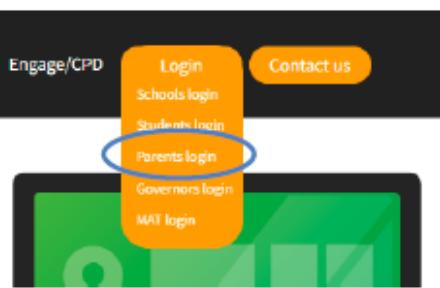
1 – www.Go4schools.com through any web browser.



Welcome to GO 4 Schools

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

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



Overview

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



Attendance

Behaviour positive and negative points.



Behaviour

Homework see what homework has been set.



Homework

Inbox messages from the school will be displayed here.



Inbox

Progress grades for assessments taken over the academic year.



Progress

Reports Annual written communication including strengths and next steps.



Reports

Timetable full academic timetable.



Timetable



Sign in with GO

First-time user?

Forgotten Password?

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

Email address

Send password reset link

Forgotten Password

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

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



G4S App Login

1 – Download the app.



[Click here](#)

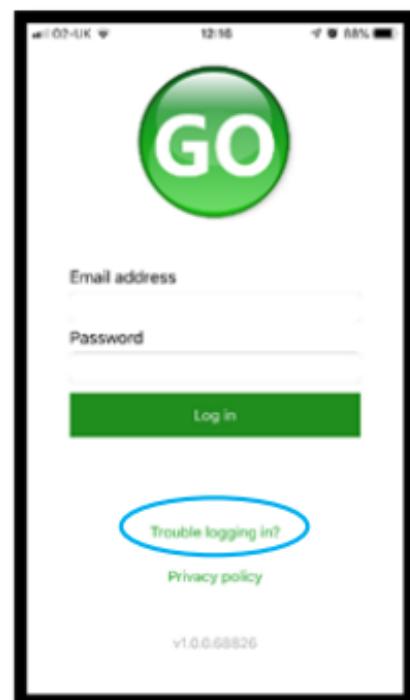
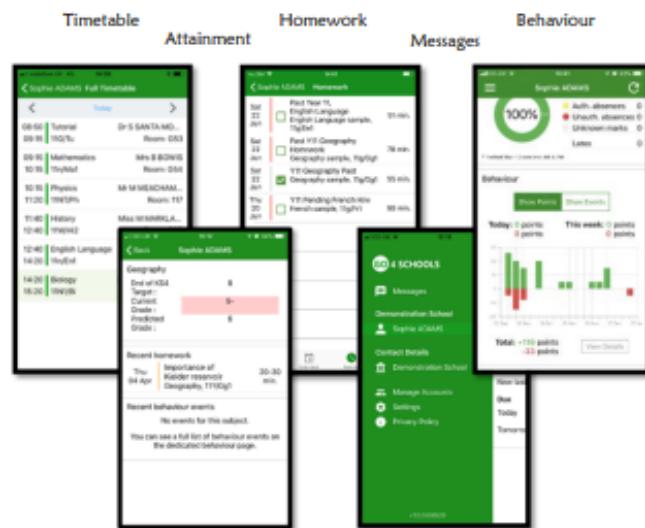


[Click here](#)

2 – Type in your school email address.

3 – Type in your password.

This is the password you have already set in go4schools.



FORGOTTEN YOUR PASSWORD?

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

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

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

[Forgotten Password?](#)

Email address

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

Remember my email address

[Sign in with GO](#)

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

[Forgotten Password?](#)

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

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

Email address

[Send password reset link](#)

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

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