

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic finish to the half term! It was truly uplifting to see over 500 of our students arrive in non-uniform today as a well deserved reward for achieving Club Zero status. We are exceptionally proud of all students who have maintained 100% attendance or achieved zero negative points this half term, an impressive accomplishment that reflects their commitment, resilience, and positive attitude.

Today, we were delighted to welcome our local Member of Parliament, Sir John Whittingdale to the academy. During his visit, he toured the school, spent time in the Sixth Form, and sampled some of the impressive Valentine's themed creations from our Great Rivers Bake Off. He also met with our Sixth Form Leadership Team, members of our School Council, and a group of Year 9 students he had previously met during their visit to Parliament. It was a pleasure to showcase the vibrancy, talent, and enthusiasm of our community, qualities that make me immensely proud to lead this school.

After the half-term break, we will be launching our Merit Rewards Shop, giving students the opportunity to exchange their merit points for a range of exciting prizes. This initiative celebrates the positive choices and behaviours that exemplify our CARRE values. Students will receive details of the rewards available shortly, and we will continue to expand the selection throughout the term. If parents or carers have any suitable unused or unwanted gifts, or if you know of local businesses who may wish to contribute prizes, we would be sincerely grateful.

Year 11 and Year 13 will begin their mock examinations during the first two weeks after half term. I wish every student the very best of luck; they have worked incredibly hard, and I am confident their determination will shine through in their results.

A gentle reminder that your child's Form Tutor should always be your first point of contact. They know your child well and are best placed to support them or direct any concerns to the appropriate member of staff. Following this route helps ensure that communication is more effective and timely, allowing us to respond to queries and provide support as efficiently as possible.

Thank you for your continued support. It means so much to us and plays a vital role in helping our school community flourish. Please note that Monday 23rd February is a staff INSET day, and the academy will be closed to students. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 24th February, refreshed and ready for another successful half term.

**Warm regards,
Dijana Piralic
Principal [Interim]**

Parents Evenings

Year 8 - Thursday 19 March 2026

Year 11 - Thursday 26 March 2026

Year 7 - Thursday 7 May 2026

Dates for your Diary

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026
Half Term Holiday

Monday 23rd February 2026

Staff OAT INSET Day – academy closed to students

HALF TERM HIGHLIGHTS

Half Term Highlights

Wow this half term has flown by! It has been full of momentum, CARE, and a sense of students pushing themselves to be their best. The positive atmosphere around school has been reflected in their achievements, effort in class, and behaviour in the corridors.

We have focused our assemblies on showing Respect for our staff and how this is reciprocated. We have discussed attendance to class and seen a huge increase in the time that students are in lessons and maximising their learning potential. And we have introduced a Period 6 to support students when they get this wrong and need extra help.



A surge in merits

Students have earned a significantly higher number of merits this half term, showing their commitment to learning, kindness, and contribution to school life. Staff have been delighted to recognise so many examples of determination, teamwork, and positive conduct.



January Department Stars of the Month

Each department has selected its Star of the Month for January, celebrating students who have shown exceptional effort, progress, or enthusiasm in their subjects. These awards highlight a willingness to go above and beyond. Congratulations to all students who were recognised—your hard work is noticed and appreciated.



Merit Swap Shop

Assemblies this half term have introduced students to our new Merit Swap Shop, an initiative designed to reward positive behaviour in a fun and meaningful way. Students can now exchange their merits for a range of items and experiences, encouraging them to take pride in the points they earn. The excitement around this has been growing and the shop will open in the Science Hatch after half term on each year groups assembly day.



Club Zero

A special celebration is underway for students who have achieved only positive points and maintained 100% attendance since January. These students have been invited to join Club Zero, recognising their consistency, reliability, and positive contribution to school life. It's a brilliant achievement and sets a strong example for others.

This half term has shown what our students can accomplish when they work with focus and positivity. Thank you for your continued support at home—it makes a real difference to the culture and success of our school.

Mr Marklew



The school Merit Swap shop opens after half term!!

Students have been working really hard to collect merits and now it is time to exchange these merits for prizes!! Merits are awarded for effort in class, great attitude to learning, doing well in assessment, demonstrating the CARE values, having good attendance and many more reasons. You can check your child's Go for Schools account to see how many positive achievement points they have.

In assembly next week we will be discussing how to spend these merits. The Merit swap shop will be open on your child's assembly day - they can attend the Science Hatch at lunch time to buy prizes, such as canteen Q jump passes, sweet or savoury food items, balls, hire of the sports hall, a pass to the Club Zero non uniform day or a ticket to see the school show/ event. The more merits they have the better the prize.

If parents/carers have any other gift items, or knows a local manufactory of gifts, and they wish to donate gifts that would be greatly received. We can then extend our range and continue to push the positive achievements that our students are making.

Reward Item	Merits
Mini Maryland Cookies	50
Mini cheddars	50
Lego pocket size note book	50
Mini chocolate buttons	50
Curly Wurly	50
Novelty pen	100
Novelty Notepad &pencil	100
Pringles	100
Soft tennis ball	100
Novelty Sticky Notes	100
Yahoo Milkshake	150
Fruit pastilles	150
Flash cards	150
Skip the queue for a day with a friend	150
Tennis ball	200
A4 sketch book	200
14 Watercolour paints	200

Reward Item	Merits
Hire the Sports hall or Gym for a lunch time	300
Pencil case set	300
Coloured pencils	300
Maths snap cards	300
Novelty eraser collection	300
Uno cards	300
Ticket to school show	300
Mini Tumbling Tower	400
Reading book of your choice from a selection	400
2 table tennis bats & balls	400
Size 4 football	400
Soft rugby ball	400
Skip the queue with a friend for the week	400
Dobble Card Game	500
Connect 4	500
Guess Who	500
Science Brainbox	500

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!

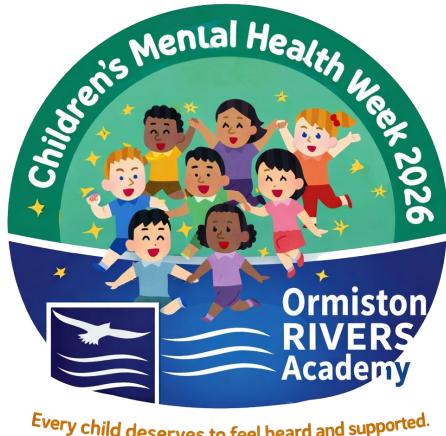
If you see your child's year group mentioned, give them a big high five for their contribution towards this fantastic achievement.



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
- Attendance line: 01621 787855

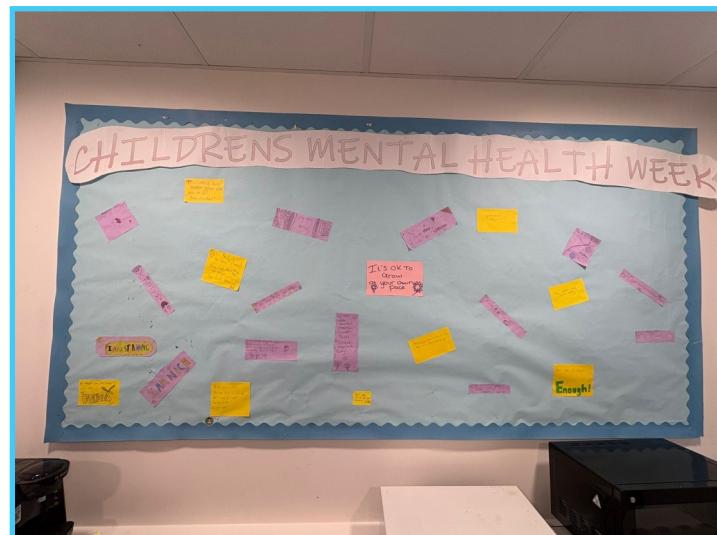
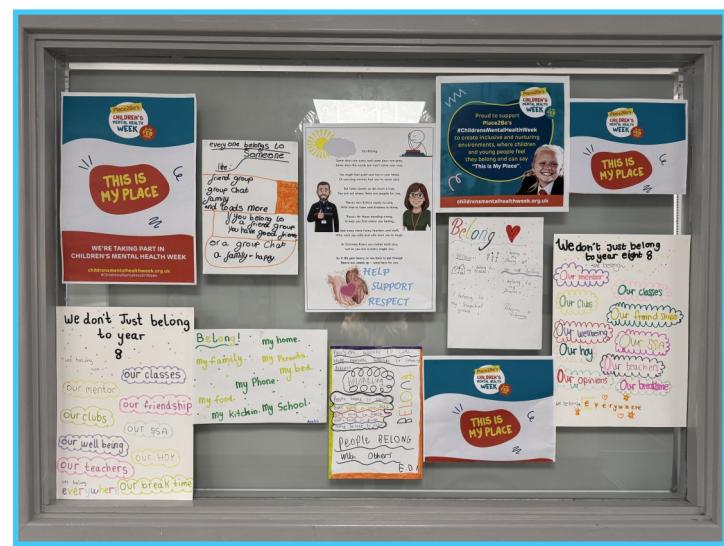
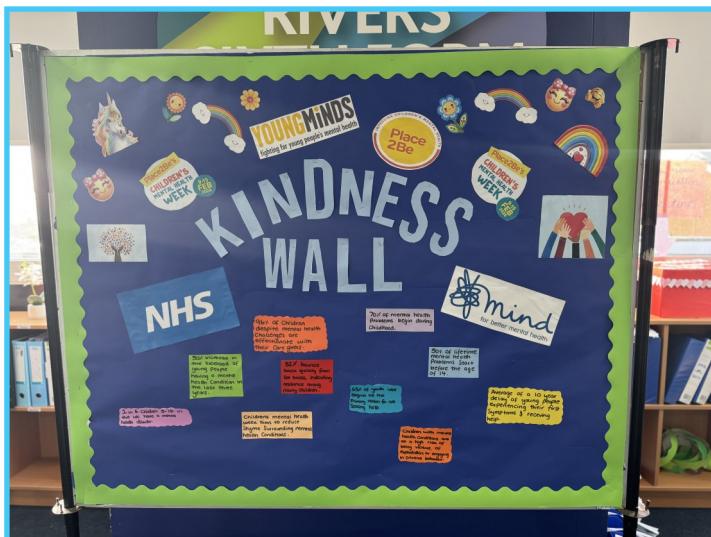


This week we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week with students and staff taking part in activities across the school, engaging in conversations, and reflecting on what helps us feel safe, supported and understood.

With this year's theme, "This Is My Place," we have been encouraging everyone to think about the spaces, physical or emotional, where they feel most themselves. Whether that's a classroom, the sports hall, the drama studio, the library, or simply being with friends, having a place where you feel a sense of belonging is so important for positive mental health.

Throughout the week, students have shared their thoughts, taken part in wellbeing activities and supported one another in meaningful discussions. It has been wonderful to see such openness, kindness and respect shown across the school community.

Because everyone deserves to have a place where they can pause, recharge and feel confident to be who they truly are.





International Day of Women and Girls in STEM 2026

Today we celebrate the incredible women at Ormiston Rivers Academy who inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and innovators every single day.

Our STEM teachers do more than teach formulas, experiments, and code, they open doors, challenge stereotypes, and show our students that curiosity, resilience and creativity belong in every classroom.

Through their passion and dedication, they are proving that STEM is for everyone. They are role models, mentors and champions for girls who may one day design sustainable cities, develop life-saving medicines, explore space, or lead technological breakthroughs.

Thank you to the inspiring women in our STEM team for making learning exciting, ambitious, and empowering.

Let's continue to encourage every girl at ORA to see herself as a future leader in STEM.

International Day of Women and Girls in STEM 2026

Name: Ms Cawthon
Role: Mathematics Teacher
Degree: Physical Education and Science
First STEM job: Teaching science

Studying a male-dominated subject taught me that curiosity and determination can overcome stereotypes. I love teaching maths due to the problem solving aspect that transcends all the STEM subjects. It's important to have an appreciation of the world around me. I am a firm believer that we can all make a difference in the real world. It's nice to have some role models that represent us. Everybody can problem solve no matter who they are and hopefully we can have some impact in breaking down the barriers for the future.

International Day of Women and Girls in STEM 2026

Name: Mrs Gibson
Role: Head of Computer Science/ Business Administration Principal
Degree: Computing
First STEM job: Computer and Laptop Repair

Having a passion for computers should never be down to gender; the world is literally at your fingertips. Don't wait for men to create apps/programs for us, we can do it ourselves to meet our needs.

International Day of Women and Girls in STEM 2026

Name: Jade Mason
Role: Maths/Performing arts teacher
Degree: Dance education
First STEM job: Maths teacher

I love teaching Maths because the young people make it worth it. Seeing them discover that maths can be fun, creative and exciting is what inspires me every day

International Day of Women and Girls in STEM 2026

Name: Ms Price
Role: Principle of Ormiston Rivers Academy
Degree: Mathematics and Physics
First STEM job: Teacher of Computer Science in a grammar school

Teaching maths feels like teaching the very architecture of thinking. I love the way that it can be applied to so many different situations when a pattern clicks or a puzzle suddenly reveals its hidden logic. Maths isn't just numbers on a page, it's the rhythm behind science, the music in music, the language in art, and the beauty in nature. Maths is music to me. I love bringing that to life, showing students that maths is not just a subject, it's a way of life. I believe that there is a chance to help them realize that mathematical thinking isn't about being good at numbers, it's about being good at problem solving, and discovering what they're capable of.

International Day of Women and Girls in STEM 2026

Name: Ms Hoare
Role: Science Teacher
Degree: Biochemistry
First STEM job: Science Teacher

Studying biochemistry allowed me the opportunity to further understand the chemistry of biological systems. I have enjoyed learning about how the decisions made about treatments for diseases have been informed by what we have learned in the lab. I am so grateful for the opportunities I have had to contribute to this day. Our lives are all impacted by medicine and technology. I want to encourage all students to believe they can have a role to play in this.

International Day of Women and Girls in STEM 2026

Name: Ms Cox
Role: Head of Science
Degree: Geology - Palaeobiology and Evolution
First STEM job: Marine Biologist at an aquarium

Studying a male-dominated subject taught me that curiosity and determination matter more than stereotypes. I love teaching science because it lets me share real-world STEM experiences and show students that there's no single path, or person, who belongs in science.

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 **"Ecological"**.

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

Say it: ee-kuh-lo-juh-kl

Spell it: E-co-log-i-c-al

(Prefix) **eco** - home, environment
(Suffix) **ical** - to do with, like
(Suffix) **ology** - study of

Ecological
(adjective)

Stem: eco: / home

Understand it

Relating to the relationship of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.



Library News

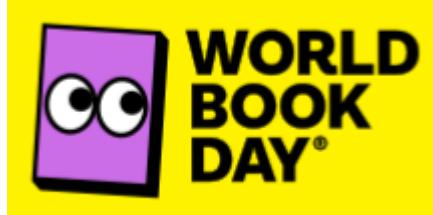
World Book Day is Thursday 5th March 2026 and we are looking forward to celebrating the event with exciting activities across the school - more information to follow after half-term!



This week, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 can get their £1 World Book Day Book Token via their Form Tutors.

Students in other year groups can collect a WBD book token from the school library if they also wish to participate.

Please encourage your child to take this opportunity to choose one of the free £1 books which are available from participating retailers. This year's books suitable for secondary school students are written by popular authors and cover a wide range of genres and interests - more information is available at www.worldbookday.com.





Careers Spotlight

Job of the Week

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #227 - PERFUMER](#)

Year 10 and 12 Work Experience



Please continue to look for possible placements with your child. Once the placement has been agreed with the employer the students will need to log this information on Unifrog. They all have a user account and guidelines for completing this can be found on the school website [Ormiston Rivers Academy - Work Experience](#)

Careers Adviser - Fliss Compton

Fliss is available for Careers Meetings on Wednesdays - if you would like your child to have a careers meeting, please email on fcompton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Many Thanks

Exams News



Spring Mock Exams

Our February/March mock exams begin for Year 11 on the first morning back after half term and continue through to the final week before Easter for our year 11,12 and 13 students. All students have now received their individual timetables. Students should continue to attend promptly, every day as usual.

Our [Exams Handbook](#) is available on our website to guide students and parents through this process. The exams team are taking a few days off over half-term but will try to answer any queries via the email address Exams@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk before students return on 24th February.

Certificates are still available to collect during school hours from main reception. Please allow a little more time to collect during the exam season as we are often away from our locked store.

Good Luck to everyone taking exams next half-term.



French Crêpe Challenge Mardi Gras 17 February 2026



The MFL department challenge you to the Crêpe Challenge

We will be judging how well they are made AND your presentation skills



Email photos to
Ecompton@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



We can't wait to see what you come up with! Bonne Chance!



HOBBY CLUB

Don't forget that Hobby Club is open to all students in years 7, 8 and 9 on Fridays in D05. We have some things for you to do, but please feel free to make suggestions or bring in your own hobby to share with the group.

Performing Arts Theatre Trip

Yesterday our GCSE and A Level Drama students travelled to London to watch Into The Woods at the incredible Bridge Theatre.

Seeing live theatre in such an inspiring venue is an invaluable experience for our students, bringing their studies to life and giving them the opportunity to analyse performance, staging and storytelling at the highest level.

A fantastic trip enjoyed by all!



Year 7 - Mr Adair

As we come to the end of this half term, I want to say a huge well done to all our Year 7 students for getting through these past few weeks, especially with the cold, dark weather that can make this time of year feel particularly challenging. Their resilience, positivity, and willingness to keep pushing forward have been brilliant to see.

A special congratulations goes to Zambezi House for leading the way in the inter-house competition—an outstanding achievement that reflects real teamwork and commitment.

We are also incredibly proud of our Year 7 cohort for performing above average in their Ormiston Literacy assessments, a fantastic indication of their hard work and growing confidence across the curriculum. On top of this, Year 7 continue to shine as the top merit earners in the entire school, setting a wonderful example for all year groups.

Our recent gym and dance show auditions were another highlight, with so many students demonstrating courage, creativity, and impressive talent. And of course, a big well done to those determined students who managed to beat Mr Adair in badminton club—no small feat and certainly a moment worth celebrating.

As we wrap up the half term, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership. It makes a tremendous difference, and we truly appreciate everything you do. I look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break and to another exciting, productive half term ahead.

Contact: cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 8 - Mr Moon

Year 8 News – Final Week of the Half Term

As we wrap up the last week of this half term, Year 8 have continued to demonstrate great energy, commitment, and pride in everything they do. This week saw our House Assemblies take place, and a huge well done goes to Zambezi for leading the way with fantastic engagement and spirit.

A special congratulations must also go to our Year 8 boys' football team, who secured an impressive victory against Great Baddow. The teamwork, determination, and resilience shown on the pitch were brilliant—well done to everyone involved!

Across lessons, pupils have been working hard completing a number of assessments. As we head into the break, please take a moment to ask your child how they got on and celebrate the effort they've put in this half term.

Wishing everyone a restful and well deserved break.

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 9 – Mr Chapman

Top Merits of the Week

A huge congratulations to our three standout students who earned the most merits this week:

James (9D2)
Evie (9Z2)
Jude (9D1)

Fantastic effort—keep it up.

Top Merits of the Year (so far)

Well done to our current Year 9 merit leaders:

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

Your consistency and commitment are brilliant to see.

Club Zero Celebration

Today we celebrated Club Zero, recognising all students who achieved 100% attendance and/or zero negative behaviour points this half term. It was wonderful to see so many of you being rewarded—well done for setting such a strong example.

Ski Trip Departure

A very exciting day as our ski trip group sets off for Italy.

We hope you all have an incredible week away. Enjoy the snow, make great memories, and best of luck to all the beginners taking to the slopes for the first time.

A Well-Deserved Break

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable half term. Take time to recharge, spend time with family and friends, and come back ready for a brilliant second half of the term. Looking forward to seeing you all again on the first Tuesday back.

Contact: rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 10 - Mr Field

This week has been a fantastic one for our Year 10 pupils, filled with enriching experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

Our Year 10 Geographers spent the day at Walton-on-the-Naze completing the fieldwork element of their course. Pupils investigated coastal erosion on the beach and explored the management schemes currently in place to reduce the impact of the sea on the coastline. Their behaviour and engagement were excellent throughout the trip.



Drama pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Bridge Theatre to watch the musical *Into the Woods*. Experiencing live theatre will be hugely beneficial as they continue their studies, giving them valuable insight into performance, staging, and production elements. The group had a brilliant time and represented the school superbly.

It was wonderful to see so many pupils wearing non-school uniform as a reward for achieving 100% attendance and receiving zero negative points. Congratulations to everyone who earned this privilege — your commitment and attitude are commendable.

A huge well done to the pupils who achieved the highest positive points this week: Sam W, Finley B, Samuel S, Tegan B, Mirella B, Lully C, Amber H, Dexter K, Cherri P, Oliver P, Lily B and Ben C

Keep up the fantastic work — your positive attitude sets a great example for the rest of the year group.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 11 – Ms Taylor

As we end the half term, I would like to congratulate the year 11s who have been on Geography and Drama trips this week, and wish all year 11s who are going on the ski trip today a lovely time - I am very jealous.

Straight after the half term break, PPE exams will run for 2 weeks. There will be no catch up sessions - just as in the real GCSEs - and so it is important that students are in school. This is the final time they will complete exams before the real thing - and the feedback they will get will be vital. Revision should be ongoing and increasing after the break. Following the exams, they have 7 school weeks until the exams start.

We continue to assess students against the criteria for prom invites - and I hope to send more out after the break. A reminder that the criteria is:

- 95% attendance in school
- attendance to lessons
- good conduct in school

Congratulations to the top merit earners of this week:

Kayden T (11D1), Jayden W (11A2), Bobby B (11D1), Zoe N (11M2), Tia O (11D1), Florence S (11Z1), Maria W (11M1), Riley W (11D1), Sienna B (11D1), Freya C (11D1), Holly D (11Z1), Tylor E (11D1), Kyla L (11D1), Hollie P (11D1), Molly P (11D1), Amelia T (11Z1) and Bella W (11M2)

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

We have certainly finished this half term on a high, with a wide range of events and initiatives bringing our Sixth Form community together. From Mrs Penberthy announcing that she will be taking part in Race for Life, to engaging discussions around National Apprenticeship Week, it has been a busy and inspiring few weeks. We marked Children's Mental Health Week by recognising the importance of our safe space, welcomed the Leadership Team as they delivered LGBTQ+ assemblies, and enjoyed the return of the much-loved Great Rivers Valentine's Bake-Off. We were also delighted to host our local MP in the Sixth Form, see our student Leadership Team lead whole-school meetings, and round off the half term by celebrating 100% attendance with well-deserved cookies.



Student Shout Out

Year 12 – Scarlette - For her fantastic support with social media and her contributions during Children's Mental Health Week. Your dedication and initiative are greatly appreciated.

Year 13 – George H - For consistently working hard and showing real commitment to your studies.

Sixth Form in the Community



Great Rivers Bake Off

Today saw the return of The Great Rivers Valentine's Bake-Off, and it was an absolute hit! It was fantastic to see so many staff and Sixth Form students gathered in the Sixth Form Centre, socialising and celebrating the end of term together. The event not only showcased some impressive baking skills, but also provided a valuable opportunity to connect, unwind and have open conversations about wellbeing as we head into the next half term.

RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Race For Life

Our very own Mrs Penberthy will be taking part in Race for Life on 10th May 2026 in loving memory of Audrey, her best friend's mum, who sadly lost her life to cancer last year. If you would like to support Mrs Penberthy and help raise funds for Cancer Research UK, please consider making a donation via the link below. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



Children's Mental Health Week

Our Sixth Form community came together to highlight the importance of wellbeing and supporting one another. Students created a Kindness Wall filled with positive messages and reflections, and shared stories about their own safe spaces, offering advice on managing stress and anxiety, particularly as we approach exam season. Our Sixth Form students also spent time around the school speaking with younger students about the importance of feeling safe and heard. In addition, our Leadership Team made themselves visible and available as another layer of support, reinforcing the message that no one has to face challenges alone.

LGBTQ+ History Month

As part of LGBTQ+ History Month, George, our Sixth Form Leadership Team representative for Equality and Diversity, confidently delivered a whole-school assembly. He led an engaging and informative session, educating students on the importance of inclusion, representation and understanding, while highlighting key moments in LGBTQ+ history. George spoke with confidence and clarity, encouraging our school community to continue celebrating diversity and fostering an environment of respect and equality for all.



House Assemblies

This week, our House Captains proudly led the whole-school House Assemblies. It has been fantastic to see them come together, demonstrating real leadership and a strong sense of team spirit. Their confidence and collaboration truly reflect the positive example they set for the wider school community.



Sixth Form Leadership Team

This week, our Sixth Form Leadership Team met with aspiring student leaders from the lower school to begin planning projects across the whole school. It was a valuable opportunity for younger students to visit the Sixth Form area, share their ideas, and have their voices heard. The collaboration between year groups was fantastic to see and reflects our commitment to developing student leadership at every level.



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Rivers Sixth Form Applications - Year 11 Interviews Update

Year 11 interviews have now concluded and offer letters have now been sent to students' school email addresses. These letters contain important information about the next steps in the application process. Students are asked to check their email carefully and respond to their offer as soon as possible.

100% Attendance

It is wonderful to celebrate 100% attendance with so many of our Sixth Form students. Consistent attendance in Sixth Form is crucial, not only for academic success but also for developing key skills such as responsibility, time management, and self-discipline. Being present every day ensures students don't miss out on vital lessons, opportunities for discussion, and the chance to fully engage in the Sixth Form community. Well done to all those who achieved this mile



What's Coming Up

- Year 12 Work Experience - W/C 29th June 2026 - Upload to Unifrog
- Charlie Dix leading sessions on Finance and Future Careers
- LGBTQ+ Month
- House competitions
- Summer Ball 3rd July 2026

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Rivers Sixth Form operates a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy. The laptop trolley has been removed from the Sixth Form area, meaning students will need to bring their own devices into Sixth Form sooner than planned. If any students do not currently have access to a laptop or suitable device, please speak to a member of the Sixth Form team so that appropriate support can be arranged. Alternatively, there are 10 laptops available in the LRC for Sixth Form students to rent for the day.

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!

Sixth Form Dress Code

We would like to take a moment to recognise our students who have gone above and beyond in following the new Sixth Form dress code – we are very proud of how smart and professional they all look. Thank you for setting such a positive example.

Please continue to follow the dress code carefully, and if you are ever unsure about what is appropriate, don't hesitate to check with the Sixth Form team.

Please note: Following a first warning, students who do not meet the dress code expectations will be asked to return home to change before rejoining lessons. Thank you for your cooperation and continued high standards.

Exams/Study

Mrs Penberthy will continue to host an optional revision session in the Sixth Form area titled "Pemboodle's Revision". She provides snacks and light background music to create a warm and inviting environment.

This session will run every Wednesday 3:20 - 4:20pm.

The Rivers Sixth Form Team

 mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

 sixthform@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

 Absent reporting to Mrs Penberthy: 01621 787882

 Follow us on Instagram: @RiversSixthForm

 Visit: www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Mental Health Awareness

[NELFT Essex MHST Events - 27 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

FREE WEBINARS EDUCATION STAFF

**supporting you and your students'
mental health and wellbeing**

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team
@EssexMHST_and_SETeamhs

bit.ly/4ryG6wY



**Coming up
in February...**

**Spotting Signs of Mental Health
10th February 3:30 pm**

**Helping Neurodivergent Young
People with Burnout
25th February 3:30 pm**





Catering



Menu

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

Nut Allergies

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

Parentpay

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

Free School Meals

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

Catering Cards

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

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



Rivers Academy Shop

Academy Shop

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

Equipment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Absence Reporting

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

MyEd Messaging App

ConnectED absence line: 0845 355 8104

Attendance line: 01621 787855

Change of Personal Details

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

Lost Property

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



Essex County Council

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

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

Who may be fined?

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

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

National Threshold

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

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

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

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

First Offence

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

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

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

Second Offence

(within 3 years)

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

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

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

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

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

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



Parent / Carer Login

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

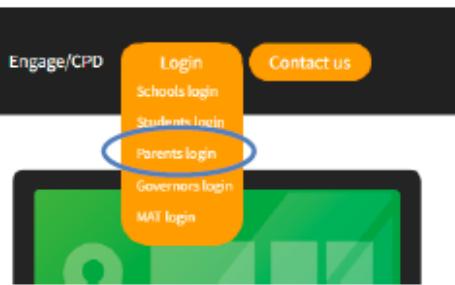
1 – www.Go4schools.com through any web browser.



Welcome to GO 4 Schools

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

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



Overview

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



Attendance

Behaviour positive and negative points.



Behaviour

Homework see what homework has been set.



Homework

Inbox messages from the school will be displayed here.



Inbox

Progress grades for assessments taken over the academic year.



Progress

Reports Annual written communication including strengths and next steps.



Reports

Timetable full academic timetable.



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](#)

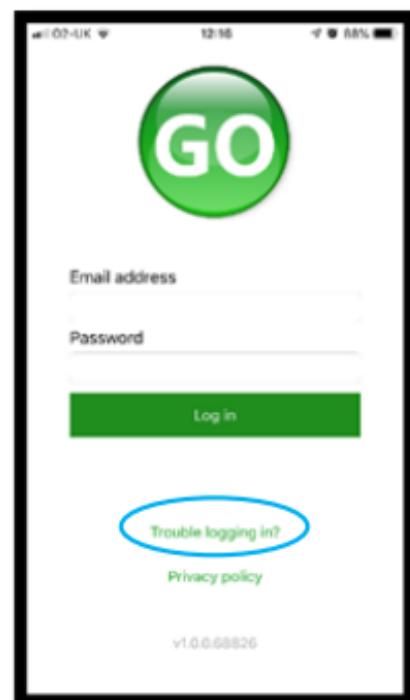
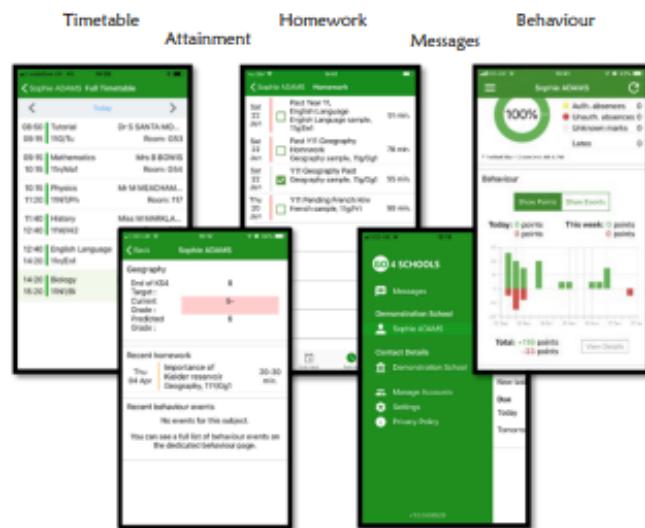


[Click here](#)

2 – Type in your school email address.

3 – Type in your password.

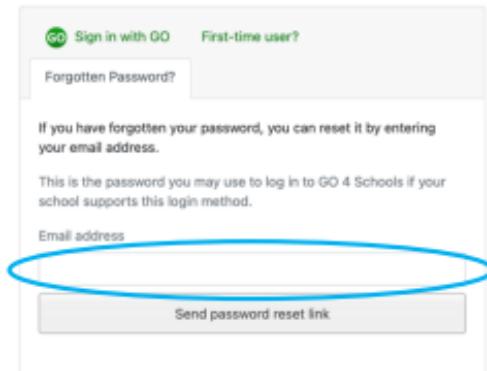
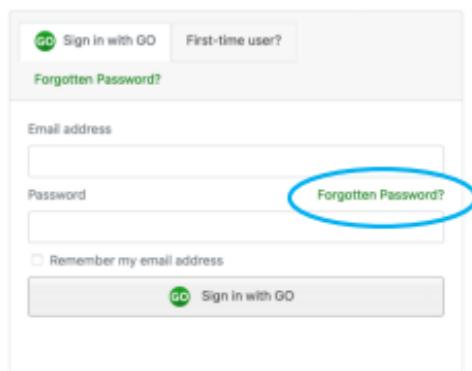
This is the password you have already set in go4schools.



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.



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.



Be the future of
health and care
in Essex

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE

with Mid and South Essex
Health & Care Academy



The Health & Care Academy is working with Medical Mavericks to provide a fantastic hands on workshop where you can explore careers in the NHS whilst getting the opportunity to practice your skills and take basic medical obs!

Activities include...

- Record and print an ECG from your heart
- Use a needle to take fake blood from a dummy arm
- Try your hand at keyhole surgery
- See inside your body with an ultrasound machine.
- Scan your retina with a ophthalmoscope.
- Listen to your pulse with a pulse doppler.
- See your veins under a vein scanner.
- Take basic medical obs.



This opportunity is available to students in
Years 10 - 13, who are thinking of a career
in healthcare.

**Tuesday 17th February
2026
(am) 9.30am - 12pm**



**Tuesday 17th February
2026
(pm) 1pm - 3.30pm**



**Wednesday 18th
February 2026
(am) 9.30am - 12pm**



**Wednesday 18th
February 2026
(pm) 1pm - 3.30pm**

