



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank all parents and carers who attended the Year 7 Parents' Evening this week. It was a pleasure to welcome so many families into school. The positive and constructive conversations between home and school play a vital role in helping our Year 7 students settle confidently into secondary school and ensure they continue to make strong progress both academically and pastorally.

This week, eight of our exceptionally talented sporting students attended the MESSA Athletics Trials at Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre. They were fantastic ambassadors for the academy, demonstrating commitment, determination and great sportsmanship throughout the event. We are really proud of the way they represented the academy and gave their absolute best and they are a real credit to themselves and the school.

We have received a number of concerns from parents and carers regarding road safety during drop-off and collection times. We would like to remind everyone that these times can be particularly busy and any unsafe parking or stopping in restricted areas can put our staff and students at risk. We kindly ask all parents and carers to park considerately, follow road signage and take extra care when driving near the school, helping us keep our community safe.

Over recent weeks, we have noticed an increase in students bringing energy drinks with them. These drinks often contain high levels of caffeine and sugar, which can have a negative impact on children's health, wellbeing, concentration and behaviour during the school day. For this reason, we do not permit energy drinks nor fizzy drinks in school and to help us promote a healthy learning environment, we kindly ask that you support us by ensuring your child does not bring those from home or purchase them on the way to school.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that fidget toys are not permitted in school, as they can be distracting and disruptive to learning. The only exception is where a fidget aid has been specifically agreed as part of a student's individual needs and is recorded in their Pupil Passport in consultation with our SENDCo.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It is deeply appreciated and plays a vital role in helping our school community continue to thrive.

Warm regards,

**Dijana Piralic
Principal (Interim)**



Dates for your Diary

Friday 22 May 2026

Confirmation of Year 9 Options

Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May 2026

Half Term Holiday

Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July 2026

Year 12 Work Experience

Wednesday 1 July 2026

Staff INSET Day – academy closed to students

Tuesday 7 July 2026

Y11 Prom

Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 July 2026

Cym & Dance Show

Monday 20th July - Friday 24th July

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 20th July 2026

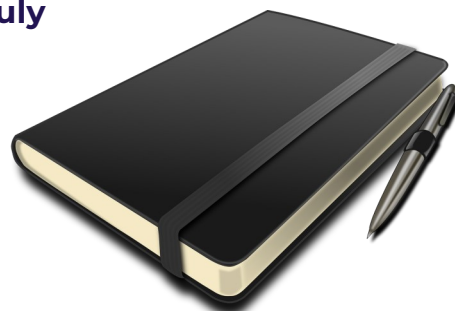
Academy Sports Day

Tuesday 21st July 2026

Year Group Trips

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Academy closes at 1.50pm for Summer Holiday





Attendance Matters

100%

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

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

Year 7
7D2

Year 9
9M1

Year 8
8A2

Year 10
10Z1



Year 11
11A1

Absence Reporting

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

- MyEd Messaging App
- Attendance line: 01621 787855



Teaching Behaviours

Keeping Our Students Safe: Important Reminders for Parents and Carers

As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety and wellbeing, we would like to remind all parents, carers and students of two key areas where your support is vital—road safety and safe use of school buses.

Road Safety – Staying Alert and Responsible

With many of our students walking, cycling, or travelling independently to and from school, it is essential that they understand how to stay safe on the roads.

Please reinforce the following messages at home:

- **Stay alert at all times** – avoid distractions such as mobile phones or headphones when crossing roads.
- **Use safe crossing points** such as pedestrian crossings, zebra crossings, or traffic lights wherever possible.
- **Look both ways carefully** and make eye contact with drivers before crossing.
- **Be visible** – especially during darker mornings or evenings; wearing bright or reflective clothing can make a big difference.
- **Cycle safely** – students should wear helmets and follow road rules at all times.

We regularly remind students in school about these expectations, but your support at home is key to helping them develop safe habits. There have been reports that students have not paid attention and we want everyone to be safe.

School Bus Safety – Travel Prepared and Ready

For students who travel by school bus, we are keen to ensure journeys are safe, smooth, and fair for everyone.

Please remind your child of the following:

- **Bus passes are essential** – students must have their bus pass with them every day to access transport. Without a valid pass, they may not be able to travel.
- **Arrive on time** at the bus stop and wait safely away from the road.
- **Respect others** – behaviour on the bus should be calm, respectful, and considerate of both the driver and fellow passengers.
- **Follow the driver's instructions** at all times to ensure a safe journey.
- Students should **remain seated** at all times and not walk up/down the stairs when the bus is moving.

Having a bus pass ready helps reduce delays and ensures all entitled students can travel home safely. The bus company will not allow students to travel without a bus pass.

Working Together

By working together—school, parents, carers, and students—we can help ensure that every journey to and from school is a safe one.

Thank you for your continued support.



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 "**Applicable**".

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

Say it: uh·pli·kuh·bl

Spell it: Ap·plic·able

Applicable

(Stem) **Apply**

(adjective)

(Suffix) **able** - capable

Stem: applic:-relevant

Understand it

Capable of being applied, relevant, suitable or appropriate.

Maldon Mud Race 2026

A massive congratulations to Caleb (11A1) for coming 2nd in the Maldon Mud Run this year.

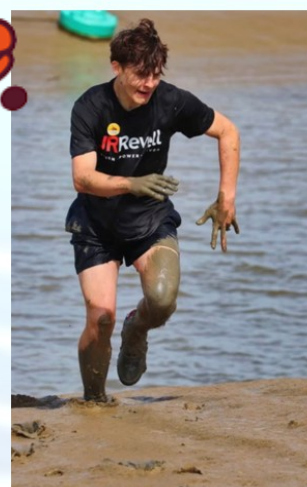
By taking part he has helped to raise money for many worthwhile charities, including Great Ormand Street Hospital, Farleigh Hospice and the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance to name but a few.

We are extremely proud of him and for the ambition and resilience he showed in taking part and getting through it, to the excellence in achieving 2nd place out of a whopping 334 entrants.

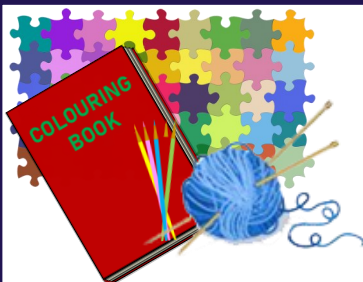
Well done Caleb!



Caleb



**Maldon Mud Race 2026
2nd Place**



HOBBY CLUB

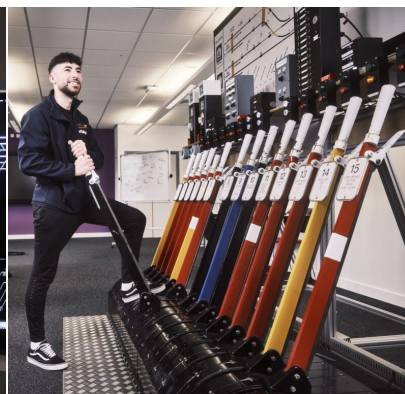
Don't forget that Hobby Club is open to all students in years 7, 8 and 9 on Fridays in D05. We have some things for you to do, but please feel free to make suggestions or bring in your own hobby to share with the group.

CAREERS
WORK
JOB

Careers Spotlight

Career of the week

Railway Signaller



Apprenticeship Hub Live Webinar - Travel and Logistics

The next event is next Wednesday, we welcome students, parents and carers to attend. We'll hear from those working in the tourism sector, rail and air. We look forward to welcoming you next Wednesday. [Click here to book.](#)

MAY 2025
BRITISH ARMY CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter shares helpful updates, resources, and opportunities from the British Army to support young people as they explore career options and build skills. - British Army Supporting Education

SPRING/SUMMER 26
BRITISH ARMY OFFICER NEWSLETTER

From bursaries and scholarships to fully funded degrees, we help ambitious people reach their goals. Join our Officer Open Days to explore leadership roles and speak directly with serving officers.

APPRENTICESHIPS & CAREERS GET SKILLED QUALIFIED CONFIDENT STARTED

HR SPECIALIST

The Staff and Personnel Support Branch helps keep the Army ready to deploy by managing people, finances and information. You will also gain a Level 3 Business Administration apprenticeship as part of your training.

GOLDEN HELLO

Get an extra **£5,250** with a Golden Hello when you join as a Regular Army HR Specialist. Talk to a recruiter to find out if you're eligible for this financial incentive.

MASTER YOUR CRAFT

LEAD AND LEARN AS AN OFFICER

ARMY OFFICER

Army officers lead from day one, managing teams, making decisions and planning operations. They manage resources and are responsible for their soldiers' training, discipline and wellbeing.

TRAINING

When you join as an officer, everyone trains at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. With three intakes each year, you'll complete 42 weeks of world-class leadership and management training.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

GAME ON: Army Careers for Women in Rugby

MONDAY 11 MAY 18:00 - 19:00

[BOOK YOUR PLACE](#)

GAME ON: Breaking Down the Army Assessment

TUESDAY 26 MAY 18:00 - 19:00

[SAVE YOUR PLACE](#)

HOW TO JOIN SERIES: Officer

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 18:00 - 19:00

[JOIN THIS EVENT](#)

RESOURCES

Help students explore VE Day through real stories and source material, hearing first-hand experiences from Commonwealth soldiers, British prisoners of war, auxiliary workers and German civilians.

[ADD TO YOUR CURRICULUM](#)

OPEN DAYS

Are your students considering becoming an Army officer? You can now attend an Army Officer Open Day at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst or in York. Book your place today spaces fill quickly. All attendees must be aged 16 or over.

SANDHURST

JUN 11

[BOOK YOUR SPACE](#)

CLASSROOM SUBJECTS TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

DENTAL NURSE

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SUPPORTS THIS ROLE BY DEVELOPING:

- Practical care and reassurance
- Knowledge of hygiene, infection control and safety
- Organisation, record-keeping and feedback

VS

IN THE ARMY, DENTAL NURSES:

- Support dentists during treatments
- Help look after soldiers' oral health at home and on operations
- Work in clinics, medical centres and deployable medical facilities

[DENTAL NURSE](#)

HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SUPPORTS THIS ROLE BY BUILDING:

- Practical care skills and empathy
- An understanding of health needs and wellbeing
- Confidence working with people in challenging situations

VS

IN THE ARMY, HEALTHCARE ASSISTANTS:

- Support doctors, nurses and dentists
- Help care for injured or unwell personnel
- Work in medical centres, field hospitals and on deployment

[HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT](#)

UNIVERSITY OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (UOTC) FIND YOUR LOCAL UOTC

WHAT IS UOTC?

The University Officers' Training Corps (UOTC) is not your average university society. It's where university students have the opportunity to undertake Reserve Officer's training modules designed to fit around their degrees.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

As a member, you will have amazing adventures, develop transferable skills, sporting opportunities and a great social life. It provides a standard of experience and training that is well respected within the Army, and highly sought after by numerous civilian employers.

LIFE AFTER UOTC

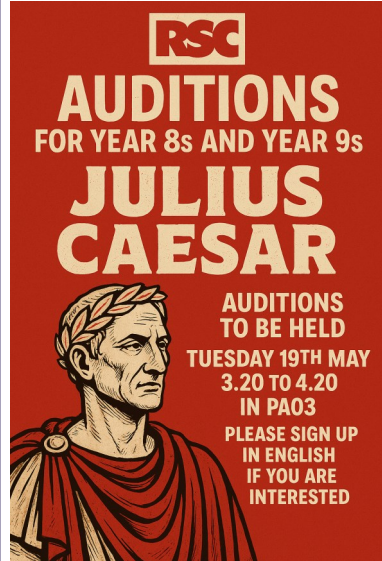
After experiencing the camaraderie and wealth of opportunity that being part of the UOTC brings, you might decide a career in the Army is for you. There are numerous Army Officer bursaries available to support you through university, helping you to reach your full potential.

SEARCH ARMY JOBS | WANT TO BOOK A TALK, REQUEST MATERIALS OR ASK A QUESTION? | SEARCH ARMY JOBS

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BRITISH ARMY CAREERS NEWSLETTER

BRITISH ARMY OFFICER NEWSLETTER

RSC
AUDITIONS
FOR YEAR 8s AND YEAR 9s
JULIUS CAESAR

AUDITIONS TO BE HELD
TUESDAY 19TH MAY
3.20 TO 4.20
IN PA03
PLEASE SIGN UP
IN ENGLISH
IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED

Y8 and Y9 RSC Production Julius Caesar

Year 8 and Year 9 students have been given the opportunity to perform an excerpt of Julius Caesar at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester with the Royal Shakespeare Company. This is an incredible opportunity to take part in a production on a professional stage and work with professional actors and actresses. Students can either perform on stage or work backstage in costumes, props, set design etc.

Auditions will take place on Tuesday 19th May from 3.20 to 4.20pm in PA03. Please sign up for either acting roles or backstage roles on the sign up sheet on E06.



On Friday 1st May our NT Connections company took their production of Ride or Die by Florence Espeut-Nickless to The Queens Theatre, Hornchurch. The cast spent the morning in technical and dress rehearsals where their professional conduct was praised by our mentor director and the staff at Queens. In the afternoon they engaged in a workshop led by Andy Whement, a director from the National Theatre, exploring characterisation and ensemble work. Then in the evening they gave an amazing performance for an audience of family, friends

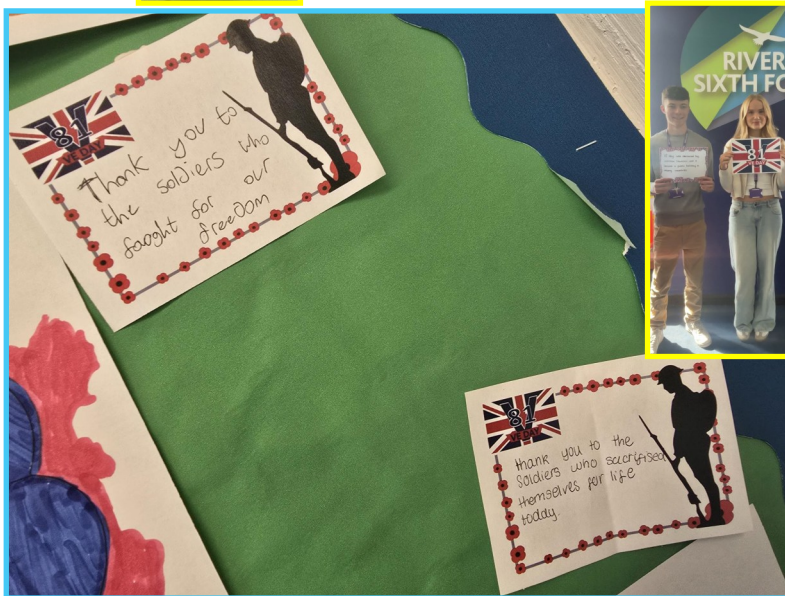
and theatre industry professionals. Ms Goodfellow and Ms Turnnidge were so proud of each and every one of them.





VE Day 2026 - 81st Anniversary

Today as a school we recognised VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), which marks the end of World War II in Europe on 8th May 1945. It is an important opportunity for us to reflect on the sacrifices made during the war and to promote messages of peace, unity and remembrance. Students decorated poppies and wrote short messages of peace, gratitude, remembrance or reflection.





Year 7 - Mr Adair

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Year 7 Parents' Evening on Thursday. It was a lovely evening filled with positive energy, and it was wonderful to share in the progress and enthusiasm of our students.

In English, Year 7 pupils have been exploring the world of William Shakespeare through *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, developing their understanding of characters, relationships, and themes. As part of this work, students have written and performed their own speeches from the perspective of one of the main characters, considering how those characters relate to others within the play.

In Geography, students have been building key map-reading and navigational skills, learning how to interpret symbols, use scale, and understand direction. These essential skills may soon prove useful, particularly for those looking ahead to completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award with Mrs Coulson.

Meanwhile, in Drama, students have been studying *Commedia dell'Arte*, a form of European street theatre from the 16th to 18th century. Through this work they are developing their performance skills through physical gesture, non-verbal communication and the use of stock characters.

We are extremely proud of the engagement, creativity, and curiosity shown by our Year 7 students across all subjects and thank you for your continued support.

Year 7 top merit earners:

1st: Charlie W 7M2

2nd: Maci B 7M2

Tied 3rd: Esme C 7D2, Shay E 7M1, Leo F 7D1, Mila M 7Z1 and Kimi R 7D2

Contact: cadair@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 8 - Mr Moon

This week, Year 8 had a fantastic assembly led by a guest speaker from First Give, who introduced an exciting opportunity that students will be taking part in during their PSHE lessons next half term. Students will be working in groups to research and present on charities that have a positive impact on our local community, before planning and delivering their own fundraising projects. This is a brilliant chance for students to develop teamwork, communication and leadership skills, while also making a real difference. The winning group will receive an incredible £1,000 for their chosen charity, and we are very much looking forward to seeing the creativity and enthusiasm this inspires across the year group.

It has also been great to see the positive learning taking place in lessons this week. During lesson visits, I have seen students in maths developing their understanding of angles and applying this knowledge with confidence, while in textiles, students have been focusing on the importance of safety when using equipment, building the foundations needed to work responsibly and effectively in the subject.

Looking ahead, we have another cricket fixture next week at home against Plume Academy, and we look forward to sharing the results with you in next week's update.

A big well done to our top merit earners this week:

In first place, we have Tristan (8M1) with an impressive 28 merits. In joint second place are Zhani (8M2) and Mia (8A2) with 20 merits each, and in joint third place are Archie (8A1) and Alex (8D1) with 18 merits.

It is fantastic to see so many students being recognised for their consistent effort and positive attitude.

Finally, we hope all of our Year 8 students and families have a restful and enjoyable weekend. Thank you, as always, for your continued support from the Year 8 team.

Contact: smoon@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 9 – Mr Chapman

Learning Highlights

While moving around the school, I have been particularly impressed by the resilience and hard work shown by Year 9 students in Humanities and English. At the moment in history, classes are completing presentations on terrorism in the modern world, and it has been encouraging to see students working collaboratively and showing confidence by presenting their work to the class. This is a challenging topic, and students should be proud of the maturity and teamwork they are demonstrating.

Top Merits This Week

Well done to Sam (9A2), Emily (9M2) and Mia (9D2), who are joint first for merits this week. A fantastic achievement.

Top Merits This Year (So Far)

The current top three for total merits this year are Ava (9A2), James (9D2) and Mia (9D2). The overall rankings are becoming very close, with many students making significant gains in recent weeks. Keep up the excellent effort.

Contact: rchapman@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Year 10 - Mr Field

As our Year 11 students begin their GCSE examinations this week, it serves as a timely reminder for our current Year 10 pupils that they are now just one year away from sitting their own exams. Over the next twelve months, there are several key habits that can make a significant difference to success — and importantly, these require no special talent.

We will shortly be starting to get the applications for the position of school prefects. Listen out for notices about how to apply and when interviews will be held. As our Y11 move into exam season we will be acting as role models for our younger students

Punctuality is crucial. Arriving on time to school and lessons ensures pupils do not miss vital recaps of previous learning or introductions to new content. Similarly, strong attendance is essential. Being present every day gives pupils the best possible chance to succeed. As a reminder, 90% attendance equates to missing approximately 14 days of school, or around 70 lessons, across an academic year. With examinations approaching, pupils simply cannot afford to miss valuable learning time.

During assembly this week, pupils explored the theme of how we speak to and treat one another. Volunteers helped illustrate the powerful message that once words are said, they are very difficult to take back — much like toothpaste once it has been squeezed out of the tube. This visual analogy left a strong impression and reinforced the importance of kindness and respect in our school community.



Finally, congratulations to the pupils who achieved the highest number of positive points this week:

Emily T, Mirella B, Connie P, Cheri P, Maisie P, Molly B, Kaitlin F, Jenson H, Evie H, Daisy N, Elsie W and Viole B.

Well done to all of them — please keep up the excellent work.

Contact: sfield@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Year 11 – Ms Taylor

As the formal GCSE exams begin, I would like to draw your attention to the warmup arrangements we will be running before each exam. These sessions provide students with a valuable opportunity to revisit key knowledge, settle nerves before exams, and receive final guidance from subject specialists immediately prior to entering the exam hall.

For all morning exams, the canteen will be open from 8:00am, where a subject specialist will be available to provide support and guidance to students ahead of the exam.

For all 1:00pm exams, students will go to the canteen at 12:20pm (part way through Period 3), where they will have an opportunity to eat and attend a warm-up session with a subject specialist before moving to the Main Hall at 12:50pm for bag drop and exam entry procedures.

All morning exams start at 9am and all afternoon exams start at 1pm. Students should be at the exam hall 10 mins before the exam starts. When students are not in exams they will be in their usual timetabled lessons where they will be supported by their teachers.

Next week, there are the following exams:

Monday 11 May - English Literature Paper 1 - am

Monday 11 May - Business Studies Paper 1 - pm

Tuesday 12 May - Combined Science Trilogy - Biology Paper 1 - pm

Tuesday 12 May - Biology Paper 1 - 1pm

Wednesday 13 May - Geography Paper 1 - 9am

Wednesday 13 May - Computer Science 1pm

Thursday 14 May - Maths Paper 1 (non-calculator) - 9am

Friday 15 May - History Paper 1 - 9am.

Please do let us know if there is anything we can do to support them during this time. It will be important for them to keep regular bedtimes and to eat a breakfast to support them during the exam period.

Merit shout outs this week go to:

Harrison A - 11M1

Ella C - 11Z2

Matthew C - 11M2

Mia A - 11Z2

Edward A - 11A2

Henry A - 11Z2

Emily B - 11A1

Holly B - 11Z1

Max C - 11D1

Harry L - 11M2

Livvie S - 11A1

Ronnie S - 11M1

Summer T - 11D1

Damien WB - 11Z1

Contact: staylor@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



RIVERS SIXTH FORM

Year 12 & 13 - Mrs Wilkins

It may have been a shorter week in Rivers Sixth Form, but it has still been filled with some wonderful moments as a community. This week, students and staff came together to recognise VE Day with a respectful minute's silence during tutor time, taking a moment to reflect and remember. We also loved seeing so many students stop to appreciate their teachers in honour of National Teacher Appreciation Week, with kind words and gestures shared across the Sixth Form. Meanwhile, our EPQ students completed their final presentations this week and we were incredibly impressed by the confidence, maturity and professionalism shown in both their delivery and research.

Student Shout Out

Year 12 – Zac P - For consistently working hard within the Sixth Form and for being the very first student to volunteer and record a message for National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Year 13 – Libby B - For her outstanding commitment and contribution to cheerleading, competing at The Worlds in Florida and then returning the very next day to complete her A Level coursework, an incredible example of dedication and resilience.

Sixth Form in the Community

Race for Life 5K

This weekend, Mrs Penberthy will be taking part in the Race for Life 5K in support of Cancer Research UK.



This is a fantastic cause that raises vital funds to help support life-saving research and those affected by cancer. If any students, staff or families would like to show their support, whether through donations, encouragement or cheering her on, it would be hugely appreciated.

Good luck Mrs P, the whole Sixth Form community is behind you! -

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/terri-penberthys-race-for-life>

Year 13 Leavers Information

Full attendance to all timetabled lessons is expected over the next four weeks as students prepare for their final exams. Please note that PSHE sessions have now concluded, and Monday tutor time will be given back to students to support their independent revision.

Assemblies will continue during this period as detailed below. As part of our celebrations, students are invited to send in photos capturing friendships and memories from their time at Ormiston - please see email sent.



The remaining assemblies will include:

- Life Skills 101
- Life Skills 101
- Leavers' Assembly

We look forward to supporting and celebrating our Year 13 students over the coming weeks as they approach the end of their Sixth Form journey.

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
- House competitions
- Year 13 Leavers Assembly - Friday 22nd May 2026 1-3pm in the main hall
- Summer Ball 3rd July 2026 - letters coming out next week

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.

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

As the weather begins to get warmer, we would like to remind all Sixth Form students to continue to adhere to the Sixth Form dress code. Thank you for maintaining the high standards expected within our Sixth Form community. 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.

Exams/Study

Mrs Penberthy will continue to host an optional revision session in the Sixth Form area titled "Pemboodle's Revision". She provides snacks and light background music to create a warm and inviting environment. This session will run every Wednesday 3:20 - 4:20pm.

The Rivers Sixth Form Team

 mwilkins@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk  sixthform@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Absent reporting to Mrs Penberthy: 01621 787882



Follow us on Instagram: @RiversSixthForm



Visit: www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Catering



Menu

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

Nut Allergies

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

Parentpay

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

Free School Meals

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

Catering Cards

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

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



Rivers Academy Shop

Academy Shop

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

Equipment:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 x black pens | Maths set (including a scientific calculator) |
| 1 x purple biro for assessment feedback | Student Planner (student organiser) |
| 2 x pencils | Reading book |
| 1 x 30cm ruler | Books / folders for the days lessons |
| Coloured pencils (not felt tips) | Water bottle |
| Eraser | Basic art equipment |
| Pencil sharpener | |

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

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. Our 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.

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'.



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Teamwork • Respect • Enjoyment • Discipline • Sportsmanship

Join Burnham on Crouch RUFC and be part of something truly special! Our youth program helps develop skills, build long lasting friendships, and shape strong character both on and off the pitch. We pride ourselves on being a welcoming, friendly club with a competitive edge, bringing rugby and the local community together.



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- BOYS AND GIRLS
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- LINKS TO SARACENS ACADEMY PATHWAY
- NEW TO RUGBY? NO PROBLEM





Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy

Weekly
Newsletter

Issue # 29 - 8th May 2026



SARACENS SUMMER RUGBY CAMP



29th-30th July

BURNHAM ON CROUCH RUFC



SARACENS

SARACENS JUNIOR RUGBY CAMPS

Saracens Rugby Camps provide a unique experience for young people that they will never forget.



10am - 3pm U7-U14s

Age group as per start of 26/27 season
U7-U8s is half day

BOOK NOW!

<https://saracens.com/community/junior-rugby-camps/>

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BRASS BAND CONCERT



Performed by
The London North-East Fellowship
Band of the Salvation Army

29th May 2026

**The United Reformed Church,
Station Road, Burnham.**

Adults £10, Under 16's £5

7:00 PM

Purchase tickets at –

Greys Soft Furnishings Ltd, 173, Station Road

TOPAZ Hair Salon 122, Station Road

Tickets available at the door.

Or contact Dennis

Email: dennisbloomfield@outlook.com

Call: 07902 899 991

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