



**Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy**

YEAR 6 TRANSITION 2026



Dear Ormiston Rivers Academy Student,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to your new secondary school! We know that the transition from primary school to secondary school is a daunting one but also one that is incredibly exciting, we are honoured to be a part of your journey.

As you embark on this new chapter of your academic life, I want to assure you that you are not alone. You have a wonderful group of teachers, staff, and fellow students who are here to support you every step of the way. We are just as excited as you are!

At ORA, we value academic excellence, character development, and personal growth. We provide a challenging curriculum that will prepare you for the future and help you to achieve your potential.

As you settle into your new school, you will discover that there are many opportunities to get involved and make new friends. Our school has a strong sense of community, and we encourage you to participate in school events, clubs, and activities of which there are many! From sports to music to drama to STEM - we have something for everyone to ensure all students can explore their interests and develop their talents.

I want to assure you that we are committed to your success, both academically and personally. Our teachers are passionate about their subjects and dedicated to helping you achieve your best. They will challenge you, support you, and guide you as you navigate this new environment.

Finally, I want to remind you that secondary school is a time for growth and exploration. You will face challenges and obstacles, but we know that you are capable of overcoming them. Please be excited about the opportunities that await over the next 5 years or 7 years!

Embrace new experiences, learn from your mistakes, and enjoy this exciting new journey. Once again, welcome to your new secondary school! We are thrilled to have you here, and we look forward to getting to know you and watching you grow.

Best regards,

Mrs Piralic

Principal (Interim)



WELCOME FROM THE TRANSITION COORDINATOR

Dear Student,

Congratulations for gaining a place at Ormiston Rivers Academy. ORA as we call it here, is a very happy place. Our standards are very high. We expect all our students to show good self-discipline and respect for each other, the staff and the learning environment. This is the same as at your Primary school.

We expect you to leave us with a great set of qualifications and with excellent discipline and character. We want to prepare you fully for life beyond the Academy. For the majority of you, we will expect you to be heading to university. Nobody leaves ORA without a college place or apprenticeship – a fact that we are proud of.

Our Academy is all about learning and you will have a fantastic range of subjects which you will learn throughout your time with us. We are very proud of our enrichment programme in sports, drama, dance, STEM for example: these will allow you to access many different opportunities outside of normal academy time.

This is an academy where you really will be able to realise your potential, enjoy learning and fulfil your ambitions. Our staff are experienced and very friendly, they will make you feel safe and comfortable in your new environment, and you will make lasting friendships here.

In year 10, you will start your GCSE courses and therefore have two years to achieve the highest possible grades. This will provide you with a strong foundation for future success. Our Sixth is amazing and this will help guide your journey to university and the world of work.

We will help you shape the positive attitudes and behaviours you will need to become active citizens in your (ORA) community and beyond.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all and starting our journey of success.

Mr Marklew

Assistant Vice Principal, Transition Coordinator



VISIONS AND VALUES



Community - Ambition - Resilience – Respect - Excellence



Our values represent who we are, what we do and how we do things at ORA. At ORA, we demonstrate our **CARE** values:

Community is the sense that we are all working together with one main goal. We are connected by our uniform, our common values and a commitment to fostering a positive learning environment. It takes a community to be successful, courage to try new things, take risks, and pursue your dreams.

Ambition is the drive and motivation to achieve great things. It is the desire to constantly improve and challenge ourselves to be the best that we can be. Ambitious people are not content with mediocrity; they strive for excellence and want to achieve a bright future. ORA students are Ambitious.

Respect is the foundation of all healthy relationships. It involves treating others with kindness, empathy, and understanding, regardless of differences in opinions, beliefs, or backgrounds. When we show respect for others, we create an environment of trust and mutual appreciation. ORA students are Respectful.

Resilience is seen in the world all around us. When times get tough, or the work is challenging, we have to show resilience in order to achieve excellence. We will support you in trying and to achieve your full potential.

Excellence is the pursuit of the highest standards of quality and performance in everything we do. It means striving for perfection and adopting a mindset of continuous improvement. Excellence requires dedication, hard work, and a desire learn. ORA students are Excellent.

We use strategic pillars to keep us focused on what is most important to our school community.

Each pillar has its own vision that when achieved, will make ORA the best school it can be.

The Form Tutor is central to everything we do

Our Form tutors see their form groups every single morning – they are the professional parent in school. Their role is to guide you, support you and teach you about being a good ORA student. They should be the first point of call for all students.

Leadership and Development

Our vision is to ensure all members of the school community are intrinsically motivated to continually learn and develop, regardless of starting point.

Entitlement and Delivery

Our vision is to eradicate educational disadvantage within our context and ensure that all members of the school community receive the educational provision, opportunities and associated outcomes they deserve. This is their entitlement.

These vision and values act as our guiding principles. They shape the culture of the school and help to define what is important.

ORMISTON RIVERS ACADEMY

SCHOOL DAY

2026-27 School Day Structure

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Form Tutor 8:50-9:20	Form Tutor 8:50-9:20	Form Tutor 8:50-9:20	Form Tutor 8:50-9:20	Year 7 Assembly
Period 1 9:20-10:20	Period 1 9:20-10:20	Period 1 9:20-10:20	Period 1 9:20-10:20	Period 1 9:20-10:20
Period 2 10:20-11:20	Period 2 10:20-11:20	Period 2 10:20-11:20	Period 2 10:20-11:20	Period 2 10:20-11:20
Break 11:20-11:40	Break 11:20-11:40	Break 11:20-11:40	Break 11:20-11:40	Break 11:20-11:40
Period 3 11:40-12:40	Period 3 11:40-12:40	Period 3 11:40-12:40	Period 3 11:40-12:40	Period 3 11:40-12:40
Period 4 12:40-13:40	Period 4 12:40-13:40	Period 4 12:40-13:40	Period 4 12:40-13:40	Period 4 12:40-13:40
Lunch 13:40-14:20	Lunch 13:40-14:20	Lunch 13:40-14:20	Lunch 13:40-14:20	Lunch 13:40-14:20
Period 5 14:20-15:20	Period 5 14:20-15:20	Period 5 14:20-15:20	Period 5 14:20-15:20	Period 5 14:20-15:20

The school buses arrive and depart from the bus lane at the rear of the school,

Year 7 students line up in the Gym (PE department) before Form Time, after break and after lunch.

After school enrichment clubs start at 15:20pm at end at 16:20pm

MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT ORA IS...

"The enrichment clubs, because there are really fun and there are so many to choose from"

"The food because it is really tasty and there is so much choice!"

"The staff because they are helpful, and kind and they really care"

"The lessons, because we are taught by great teachers"

"Science, because you get to do lots of experiments"

"Performing Arts, because you get to perform for the school"

"The house competitions, because we get the chance to win really great prizes"

"The cookery lessons, because we make really tasty food"

"PE, because it is really fun and great exercise"

"The drama lessons because they are really exciting and fun"

"Spending time with my friends"

MY ADVICE TO NEW STUDENTS IS...

"Don't be nervous about coming to the academy, everyone is really helpful, and you will meet new friends"

"Always be polite and smile, always say please and thank you"

"Don't be afraid to ask for help because the staff are very friendly and helpful"

"Work hard and try your best"

"Make sure you wear black school shoes or Air Force 1's, not trainers"

"Always give 100%"

"Go to the enrichment clubs, they are great"

"Take part in the house competitions, they are lots of fun and you can win"

"Always listen to your teachers"

"Make sure you bring your school equipment in each day"

"Make sure your uniform is tidy"

"Treat people how you want to be treated"

EQUIPMENT

Essential Equipment at ORA

To support excellent teaching and learning, we expect all students to come to school with the equipment that they need to learn.

Form tutors will check that students have their equipment with them each day.

Teachers will also check in each lesson.

We believe that it is important that students at OIEA learn to take responsibility for their own equipment and to be organised. **Checking their equipment before coming to school each day is an expectation for all students.**

Students will need to bring the following with them each day:

- 2 x black pens – in case one runs out
- 1 x red pen – for editing and feedback
- 2 x pencils – mechanical or 'clickable' preferred
- 1 x ruler – 15cm or 30cm
- A pencil case – to store equipment neatly
- A scientific calculator – students will be told on transition days which model to get

! Please note - students do not need rubbers or pencil sharpeners.

It is also good to have:

- A small selection of coloured pencils
- A protractor
- Highlighter pens

Most homework is set online using an app called Class Charts. This reduces the amount of schoolwork that students need to carry to and from school. In most cases, exercise books are kept at school until they are finished or are needed at home for revision purposes. All students must bring a suitable school bag to carry their equipment and schoolwork.



UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Uniform Standards at Ormiston Rivers Academy

We are very proud of our uniform and have high expectations of our students in terms of standards of appearance. Wearing a uniform creates a **positive and professional atmosphere**, conveys a **strong image of our school**, and fosters a sense of **pride and belonging** in the ORA community.

The following dress code applies to all students, without exception:

- Academy blazer with logo
- Academy tie (clip on available)
- Black full-length tailored trousers or Academy pleated skirt only (knee length)
- White shirt (*tucked in*)
- Plain black leather shoes or Air Force 1's (not fabric)
- Academy jumper (optional)

The **academy blazer must be worn at all times** on and around the site, unless permission is given by a member of staff to remove it.

⚠ *Final decisions regarding the suitability of uniform will be made by the Assistant Principal for Behaviour.*

PE Kit

- Unisex Academy polo shirt with logo
 - Unisex Academy PE shorts
 - Academy hoodie with logo
 - Plain black tracksuit bottoms, or
 - Plain black sports leggings (*No logo's allowed*)
- Branded shorts, leggings and tracksuit bottoms are available from our supplier.

 Useful Links:

 **Uniform information:**
www.yourschoolwear.co.uk

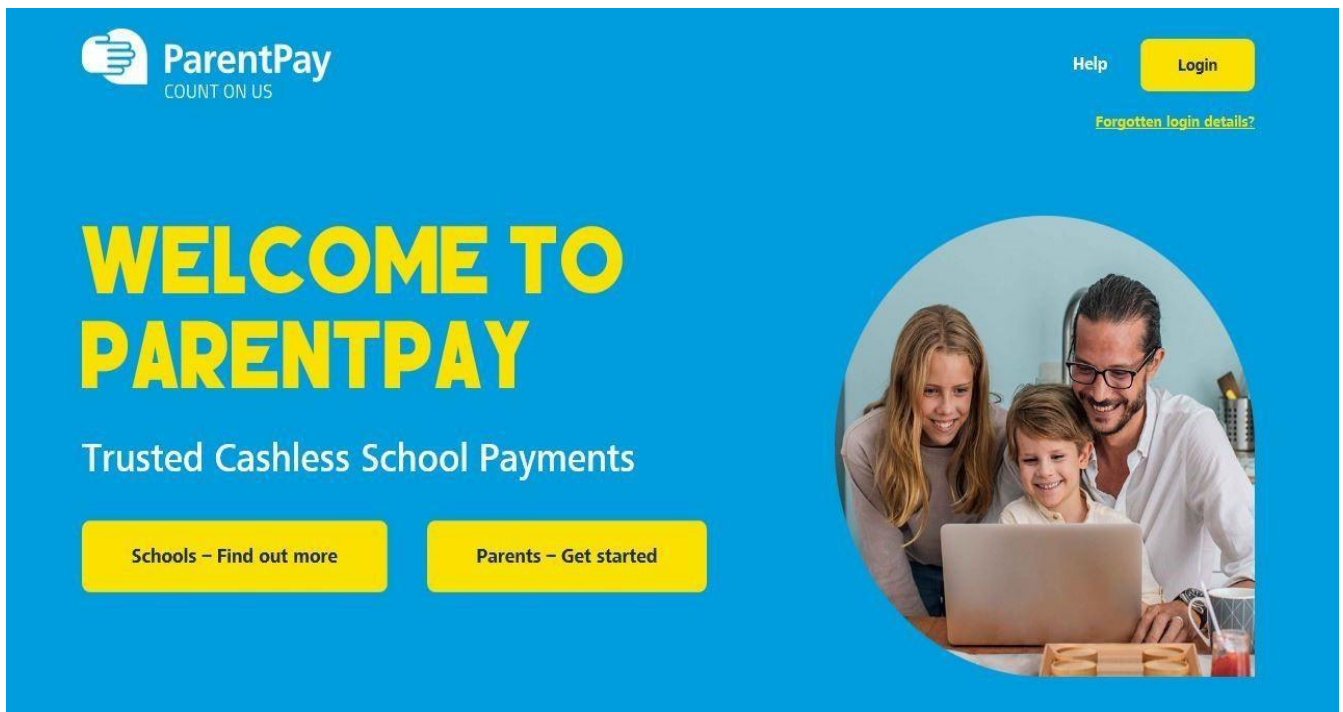
 **Uniform Policy:**
[ORA-Uniform-Policy-2025-26.pdf](#)

 **Uniform suppliers will be on site on Friday 19th June 2026, by appointment only**

PARENT PAY

At ORA we use a system called **Parent Pay**. This is a convenient way to pay for school meals, trips, after-school club, and much more.

This system means that children **do not need to carry money** around school, and it offers you the **freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like** ■ It is **straightforward**, and it holds **payment history** for you to view at a later date. We will be giving you your **unique Parent Pay account details** and **activation information** in **September**.



The image shows a screenshot of the ParentPay website landing page. The background is a solid blue color. In the top left corner, there is the ParentPay logo, which consists of a white hand icon with three fingers pointing up, followed by the text "ParentPay" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, and "COUNT ON US" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. In the top right corner, there is a "Help" link in white text and a yellow "Login" button with black text. Below the "Login" button is a yellow link that says "Forgotten login details?". The main content area features the text "WELCOME TO PARENTPAY" in large, bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, the text "Trusted Cashless School Payments" is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the main content area, there are two yellow buttons with black text: "Schools - Find out more" and "Parents - Get started". On the right side of the page, there is a circular inset image showing a family of three (a woman, a man, and a young child) smiling and looking at a laptop screen together. The overall design is clean and modern, with a focus on the blue and yellow color palette.



ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE MATTERS at Ormiston Rivers Academy

At ORA, we believe that every school day counts. Good attendance means more time for learning, building friendships, and developing the skills and knowledge that help students thrive—both now and in the future.

Why is Attendance So Important?

Missing school doesn't just mean missing lessons, it means missing out on learning that can be difficult to catch up on. Research shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve strong GCSE results, giving them the best chance of moving on to the college, apprenticeship, or career path of their choice. Even small dips in attendance can add up to big gaps in learning. Just 17 days of absence over a school year can result in a full GCSE grade drop.

What does Good Attendance look like?

	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
Good	97%	184 days	6	30
Cause for Concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
Critical	80%	152 days	38	190


What We Expect & How We Support

- **Our expectation:** All ORA students aim for at least **96% attendance**.
- **Punctuality matters:** Students should be on site by **8:45am** each day.
- **Reporting absences:** Please call the academy on **01621 787855** or Send a message on the Arbor App by 8:00am if your child is too unwell to attend.
- **Unreported absences:** If we don't hear from you, we will contact you to follow up.
- **Support plans:** If attendance drops, we'll work with you to put a support plan in place. Our goal is always to help, not punish.
- **Medical appointments:** Try to schedule these outside of school hours where possible. If unavoidable, students should attend school **before and/or after** the appointment. Please provide evidence such as an appointment card or prescription for the absence to be authorised.

EVERYDAY COUNTS!

We know that sometimes absences are unavoidable, but every day in school really does make a difference. Together, we can make sure your child has the best chance to succeed.

Mrs D Parry ~ Attendance Officer

 01621 782377


 attendance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk


★ Be Here. Be Ready. Be Proud. ★


QUALITY OF EDUCATION

At **Ormiston Rivers Academy** we offer an aspirational curriculum that provides all of our students with the opportunities to learn, succeed and enjoy. Our curriculum also covers the skills necessary for our students to succeed in school and adult life.

As an Academy, we reflect on our curriculum provision through the following areas:

 **Curriculum Intent** – we carefully map out the knowledge and skills that students need to develop at different stages as they progress through school.

 **Curriculum Implementation** – we continually reflect on how students are taught and assessed so that we can tweak and hone practice so that it fits the need of each individual student.

 **Curriculum Impact** – we measure how successful our curriculum has been against the outcomes which students achieve at the end of their time with us.

What Are Lessons Like at ORA?

Our lesson model adheres to the principals of Direct Instruction.

Direct Instruction is a teaching model that focuses on carefully planned and well-developed lessons created around clearly explained teaching tasks and small learning increments. Direct Instruction is based on the theory that clear instruction eliminates misinterpretations, which can greatly enhance and accelerate the learning process.

Key Aspects of our approach includes the following:

Retrieval Practice

Quizzing, recall and memory activities slow down the rate of forgetting. All lesson starts with a 'Do Now Activity' that focuses on the retrieval of important knowledge.

Setting the Scene

Students make connections more easily if they are provided with suitable context and understand how knowledge is connected within the bigger picture. At the start of each lesson, students are informed what the lesson is about and what they will know or be able to do by the end of the lesson.

Vocabulary Power

The teaching of new vocabulary is made explicit in every lesson. We subscribe to the see it, say it, write it approach whereby students encounter a word, write it down, and say it aloud to strengthen the connections made. Key vocabulary is defined and relevant morphology (the study of parts of words that create meaning) and etymology (the origins of words) is shared.

Activating Prior Knowledge

Our curriculum is well sequenced meaning new knowledge connects to previous knowledge taught. Students must remember what they already know in order to help build connections in their long-term memory and fully understand the new knowledge about to be taught.

Exploring New Knowledge

Students are taught something new through reading, teacher explanation, diagrams, listening to or watching something. This is teacher led as the teacher is the expert and our greatest resource in the classroom.

Guided Practice/ Processing knowledge

Students do something with their new knowledge to help understand it better. This will often be in collaboration with their teacher as they strengthen new skills. Teachers will scaffold the support accordingly to ensure all students understand the work and can achieve success.

A Independent Practice

Learning is defined as the alteration of long-term memory. For this to happen, students need to practice, rehearse and repeat. They therefore use their knowledge and understanding to complete appropriate tasks independently.

Reflect and Respond

Students are provided a number of opportunities throughout the lesson to reflect on their work and consider what went well and what needs to be done in order to improve further. This helps to strengthen connections made and reduce misconceptions.

LITERACY

READING

At ORA we prioritise reading – in fact, four out of five mornings in form time is dedicated to the pleasure and enjoyment of reading! Just like a ‘Class Reader’ (which you might have done at Primary School), everyone in your form reads the same book together, engages in discussion, makes predictions about the plot, shares opinions about characters, with the teacher reading aloud and you following along! This ensures that by the end of the academic year at least three whole books have been covered. This will equate to hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of words read!

YEAR 7'S THEME: BRAVERY AND BARRIERS

The novels you will read in form fit into the theme of new beginnings, facing new challenges, overcoming obstacles and challenges – all things you may encounter when starting a new school! From a mixture of Dystopian fiction set on another planet, with a young boy learning to grow up in a world where your thoughts can be heard out loud, to the autobiography of Malala Yousafzai, a brave young woman who was shot for wanting an education, to the diary of one of history’s most tragic young authors, Anne Frank, you are sure to learn lessons from our heroes’ bravery and barriers.

To prepare for the exciting ‘Reading Aloud’ programme in form time, we challenge you to read *at least 5 books over the Summer break.*

Year 7 curriculum: www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk – Curriculum - [Year-7-Overview.pdf](#)

ENRICHMENT

In addition to high levels of **academic progress** and **pastoral support**, you will also be guaranteed a **diverse and exciting enrichment offer** that will allow you opportunities to exhibit **courage, ambition, respect and excellence**. Enrichment is such an important aspect at ORA we have made it part of the school day. At ORA we have 5 Enrichment Pillars that the different clubs and activities fall into. Students are encouraged to select their options from all 5 pillars to ensure they are getting a board and diverse range of experiences.

<p>1. Body</p> <p>Enrichment activities, such as exercise, sports, and outdoor adventures, is crucial for maintaining optimal physical health. These activities help strengthen muscles, improve cardiovascular fitness, enhance flexibility, and promote overall well-being.</p>	<p>2. Mind</p> <p>enrichment activities beneficial for cognitive function and mental well-being involve engaging activities such as reading, puzzles, learning new skills, and creative pursuits. These stimulate the brain, improve memory retention, and enhance mental clarity.</p>
<p>3. Creativity</p> <p>Enrichment activities play a vital role in igniting and nurturing creativity. Painting, writing, playing musical instruments, and exploring new experiences can stimulate the imagination, inspire innovative thinking, and unlock new perspectives.</p>	<p>4. Community</p> <p>Enrichment activities not only benefits individuals personally but also contribute to the greater community. Activities such as volunteering, community events, and supporting local initiatives foster social connections, builds strong relationships, and promotes a sense of belonging.</p>
<p>5. Future</p> <p>Engaging in enrichment activities plays a crucial role in shaping a successful and fulfilling future. Activities such as continuous learning, skill development, goal-setting, and personal growth initiatives contribute to building a strong foundation for future success.</p>	<p>6. Wild Card</p> <p>If you are not sure what to choose, why not let us choose for you! Simply select 'Wild Card' I your options and we'll do the rest. Sometimes the best experience can come from places you didn't even expect.</p>

HOUSE SYSTEM

Our Vision for the House System at ORA

Our vision is that the **house system** offers students meaningful opportunities to demonstrate our core values of **CARE**.

It is a central part of promoting our school ethos, aiming to unite:

Community, Ambition, Respect, Resilience and **Excellence**

...to build a strong community—one that staff and students actively belong to and feel a shared responsibility to maintain.

Through a little healthy competition—such as the in-house competitions, the system fosters a strong sense of belonging and team spirit. It also provides a platform for individuals to excel and contribute based on their unique strengths. High standards, pride, equality, inclusivity, and diversity are actively celebrated within and between our four houses.

Educational studies show that **school house systems** offer both **academic** and **social-emotional** benefits.

Students who feel comfortable taking part in house events often develop the confidence to fully engage in their **classroom learning** as well.

Our house system consists of four houses,

- **AMAZON**
- **DANUBE**
- **MEKONG**
- **ZAMBEZI**

Each house has its own logo, a dedicated member of staff, and student leadership representatives, along with the wider student body. Students' ties will reflect their house affiliation.

Your child will be assigned to a house. Where possible, siblings are placed in the same house to help build family connections within our community.

FAQs

Frequently asked questions:

What is a form?

When you start at Ormiston Rivers Academy, you will be placed in a form group. If you don't know anybody just yet don't worry as you will start making friends straight away.

You will have a form tutor who will look after you and meet you every morning in our morning line up. Form tutors at our academy take their role very seriously; they know how important it is for you to have someone in academy you can trust and talk too. You will take part in form competitions and represent your form in different events.

What happens if I get lost?

You will be given a map, and you will go on a tour of the academy during transition day and on your first day in September. If you are still unsure, ask a member of staff, they are always happy to direct you.

Do we have assemblies?

Yes. We love assemblies at our academy. It's a time where we can get together as a whole year group. We learn and reflect on things together and celebrate our successes. You have an assembly every Friday after morning line up.

Where do I go if I need help?

All staff at Ormiston Rivers are here to help and support you. Your form tutor and Head of Year will support you daily, as will the Safeguarding and SEND teams. We have a student reception to answer your questions and go to if you feel unwell.

Will I see my friends from primary school?

Yes, if you are coming from a primary school where some of your friends are also coming from then we will always try and place you in a form with someone you know. Some of these friends might be in your lessons, but either way you will definitely be able to meet up with them at break and enrichment sessions.



Will I be given homework?

All subjects set homework. The amount that you will get set depends on how many lessons you have in a subject each week. For example, you will get set more homework in Maths, English and Science as you will have these subjects more frequently than others. This will be found on our Arbor App!

What is the food like?

Fabulous. Our brilliant canteen staff love cooking you a range of different foods: bacon baps, roast dinners, jacket potatoes, curries, pasta, sandwiches and wraps, salads, chicken fillet burgers to name but a few on the menu. Vegan, vegetarian and allergen aware options are available. We also have the Rivers Café, a Year 7 only eating hatch!

How many different teachers will I have?

You will have about 10 different teachers in your first year, but you will get to know many more through enrichment activities.

What does a lesson look like?

Lessons at ORA are very varied. You will experience everything from cooking in food technology, to acting in drama to doing experiments in science. What all lessons have in common is that they are planned to help you make excellent progress and to learn lots. All lessons start with a 'Do Now Activity' where you think about what you have learned in past lessons. Then you will go on to the main part of the lesson where your teachers will show you how to do something really well. You will then practice it as a class, before having a go at it on your own.

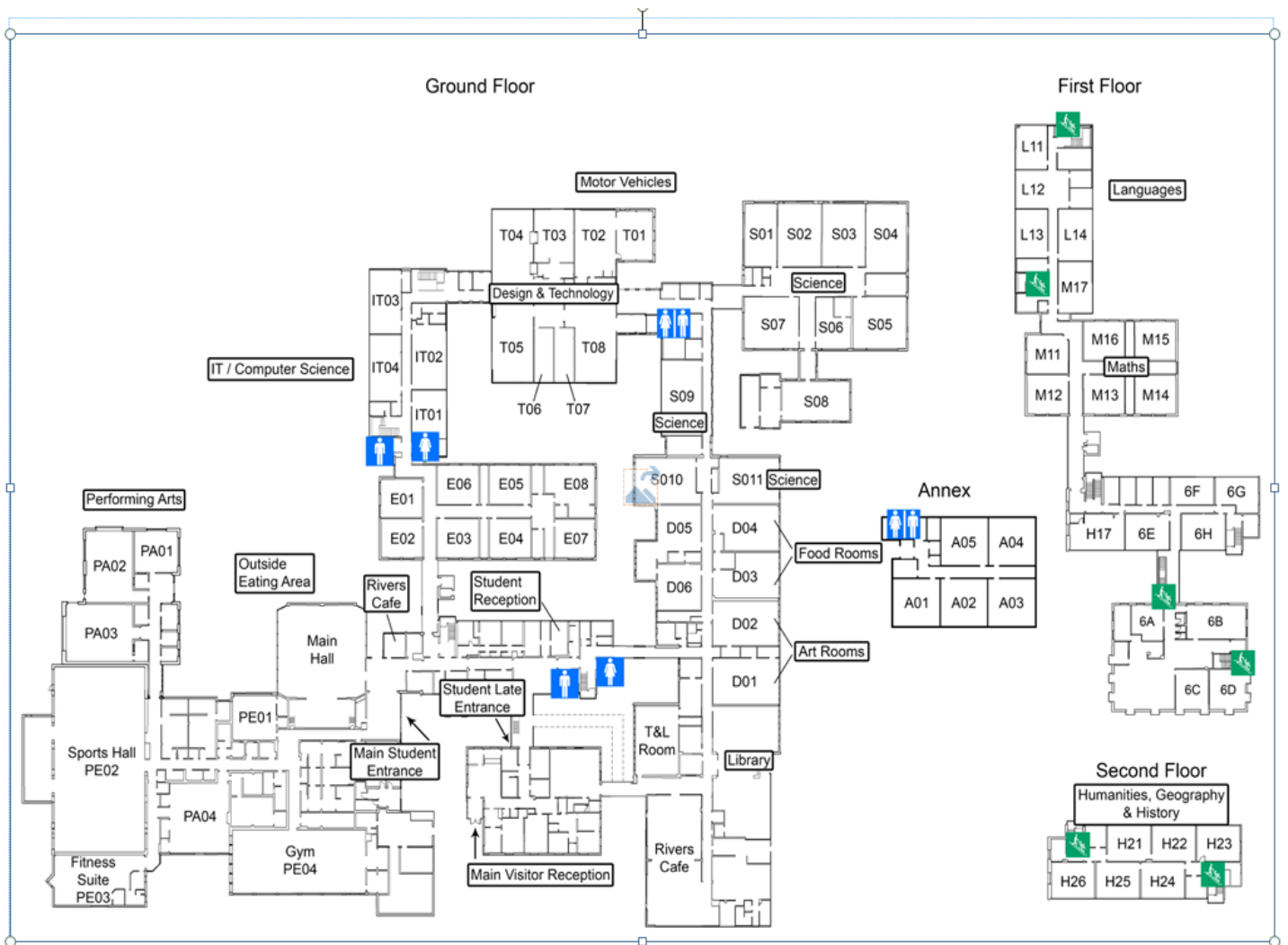
What will I learn?

In Years 7, 8 and 9, in every subject, you will learn and develop the knowledge, skills and understanding so that you can move successfully into studying for your GCSEs and vocational qualifications in Years 10 and 11.

Our website contains useful information and learning journeys for each subject.



SCHOOL MAP



We will provide you with a paper copy of this map in September.

KEY STAFF

Mr. J Daniels – Principal (September 2026)

Mrs D Piralic – Vice Principal

Ms. H Victory – Vice Principal

Mr. J Priddle – Vice Principal

Mr. D Marklew – Assistant Principal

Miss. Goodfellow - Assistant Principal/DSL

Ms. R Reynolds – SENDCo

Mrs A Coyle – Assistant SENDCo

Mrs. J Edwards – Admissions Officer

Mrs. D Parry – Attendance Officer





Ormiston Rivers Academy
Southminster Road
Burnham on Crouch
Essex
CM0 8QB

Main Reception: 01621 782377

Website: [Ormiston Rivers Academy](https://www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

2026/27 term dates: [Ormiston Rivers Academy - Term Dates](#)