



12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exceptionally good start to the year at Riverside School. Last summer's results achieved by year 11 and 13 were some of our best results ever. Young people at Riverside are getting the very best start in life. Riverside GCSE students on average in 2025 each achieved 10 grades higher than the average student in this country. Riverside is now listed as one of the top sixth forms in the country by 'The Telegraph: UK's best sixth forms' with 63% of all students gaining a place at a top 30 university and rated 'very good' overall – the highest category. At Riverside we are committed to enabling all Year 13 students to study degrees at the country's most prestigious universities or achieve top graduate apprenticeships with world leading employers like Shell and Bellway Homes like in 2025.

Year 7 have made a great start to their secondary education! I'm particularly pleased with the way they have quickly adapted to the high standards of Riverside School; huge thanks to their excellent head of year, Ms Gilberte. Homework was paused for year 7 to help them settle-in and to participate in the 70+ weekly clubs at Riverside School, from January we will slowly start to introduce homework beginning with maths, Mr Wylde will write to give you further details before any homework is set. Year 10 have made a positive start to their GCSEs and year 11 and 13 have both just achieved the **best ever** set of mock results, on-track to achieve Riverside's best exam results this summer! Year 11 and 13 now need that big final push in the 75 school days before their first GCSE or A-level examination, with vocational exams as early as January 2026 for WJEC hospitality & catering and BTEC sport. During the holiday it is important exam year students take a short break from studying to recharge but also vitally important they revise hard, using a daily schedule, so that they achieve the top grades to access the utmost opportunity for their next steps in education or training.

All tracking assessments for year 7-10 (TA1) will be published and sent home next week, year 11 on Thursday 18th December at Parents Evening. We will write to Yr10-13 parents to advise on a study or revision programme. For all other years no *additional* holiday homework will be set. Most importantly, please support your child to read for pleasure for at least 30 minutes every day. Research shows reading daily has a huge impact on how well students perform at school and in exams. Regular reading for pleasure is a very strong indicator of future success in life.

Thursday was the Riverside School's Winterfest, we really enjoyed some wonderfully talented student performances to get us into the festive spirit and finish 2025 on a real high. A massive thank you to all the staff and students whose time, energy and commitment made for such a great evening!

A huge congratulations to students in year 7&8 who recently won the regional Poetry Recital competition held at Jo Richardson School, winning the individual, group and overall winning school categories.

The hospitality and catering year 10 students had an amazing visit to BDC [@barkingdagenhamcollege](#), stepping into the future of food at the '[Young Innovators Food Conference 2025](#)'.

Cultural arts visits this term include Woolwich Works Careers in Creative Arts, The Portrait Gallery, The Courtauld Gallery, The Cartoon Museum and the Barbican, engaging students in a broad range of artworks and collections. Year 10 music students attended a masterclass at the Guildhall School with digital music producer and DJ Aya Sinclair.

Riverside has enjoyed an outstanding term of sporting successes. In athletics, our Year 7 boys and girls, along with the Year 8 boys, triumphed in the Borough Sportshall Athletics competition, and went on to represent Barking and Dagenham in the London Youth Games semi-finals, the second year that we advanced to this stage. On the football pitch, Year 8 and 9 boys have reached the fifth round of the National Cup, the Year 11 boys are progressing to the fourth round, and the U13 girls to the third round. The U14 girls have made it to the third round of the Essex Cup. Riverside Rugby has had an incredible start to its first year, with both girls' and boys' teams passionately led by Mr Luxmoore and Miss Marshall. They have already competed in several tournaments, achieving astounding results: the Year 8 boys have reached the prestigious Waterfall Plate Final, by beating some of the top schools in Essex, while the Year 7 girls made history by entering their first Essex tournament and winning it. A fantastic start for Riverside Rugby! In netball, Year 10 and 11 remain unbeaten in the Borough League, showcasing consistency and teamwork at its finest. Thank you to you *all* in PE and other staff (too many to mention) for your skill, dedication and commitment to our young peoples' sporting successes and a massive well done to those students representing, with both dignity and pride, Riverside School in sports.

Follow Riverside Campus [Instagram](#) for all these school events and celebrate Riverside students leading in academia, sport and performing arts. If your son or daughter does not attend a club they are missing out, so please encourage them to get involved in any one of the many fully funded opportunities on offer.

Similarly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Riverside SSLT and all 190 student leaders who have done a great job this term, adding so much value to Riverside School, superbly led by Adam and Andrew, our Head Students. Here is a copy of the students' publication to enjoy reading over the holiday: The [Riverside Gazette](#).

As always, thank you for your continued support. May I wish you and your family a safe and restful break and a Happy New Year from all of us at Riverside School.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. Roberts

Executive Headteacher