



18th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an excellent start to this academic year at Riverside School. Last summer's results achieved by 11 and 13 are as impressive as ever, ensuring young people at Riverside get the very best start in life. Riverside GCSE students in 2024 each achieved 7 grades more than the average student in this country. This year we are predicting an average grade of A at A-level, if achieved, this will place Riverside amongst the top sixth forms in the country. Currently, 10% of Year 13 students have secured interviews at Cambridge University, following a year-long programme generously led by Ms Watkins (thank you for all your time and energy), in addition to leading an excellent history department. We are excited to hear their outcomes. Moreover, this is part of enabling all Year 13 students to study degrees of their preferred discipline at the country's most prestigious universities.

Year 7 have settled in very well – an impressive first term! I'm particularly pleased with the way they have quickly adapted to secondary school; predicted excellent outcomes and are engaging in the full life of the school, not only lessons but House events and clubs too. Year 10 have made a strong start, working really hard on their GCSE courses 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 a big final push in their remaining 70 school days before their first GCSE or A-level examination. All tracking assessments for year 7-11 (TA1) will be published and sent home this week. We will write to year 11 parents separately to advise on a revision programme. Rest and relaxation are really important over the holiday, but it is also valuable time to continue studying. For exam years that will be revision and for other years some homework, plus 30min of reading for pleasure every day. Every student also has access to a wide range of online platforms from which they can choose to do optional tasks linked to their Riverside curricula, most are accessible through their Microsoft login, students know how to log in:

Maths: <https://sparxmaths.com/>

English: <https://sparxreader.com/>

Spanish: <https://www.languagenut.com/en-gb/>

Various: <https://www.century.tech/explore-century/secondary-schools/>

Science: <https://sparxscience.com/>

This Thursday is the Riverside School's Winterfest, when we will enjoy some wonderfully talented student performances to get us into the festive spirit and finish 2024 on a real high. Commitment and the quality of performance in rehearsals has been wonderful.

Riverside sports teams have had a brilliant year thus far. Year 7 Girls, Year 7 Boys and Year 8 Boys athletics teams all came out victorious in the Borough Indoor Athletics. On an individual basis, Shalom in Year 8 qualified for the Indoor Athletics National Championships 60m and 200m – congratulations - an exceptional achievement! The netball teams have been equally impressive as the U12, U13 and U14 first teams all remain unbeaten in the Borough League. The Year 7 boys football team are also showcasing their potential as they reach the last 16 of the National Cup and quarter finals of the London Cup. Strong performances by the basketball teams mean they have won over two thirds of their 50 fixtures this term. Thanks to Coach Stephen and Coach Stephron for their dedicated leadership of these 50 games since September, good to see all the hard work is starting to result in success!

Please do follow us on Riverside Campus [Instagram](#) and Riverside PE [Instagram](#) for updates on all school events and celebrate the Riverside students that go on to lead the world in academia, sport, cooking and performing arts! If your son or daughter does not attend a club before or after school they really are missing out, so please encourage them to get involved in one of the many great opportunities on offer. One of my favourite new clubs is the Riverside Running Club, who meet at 7:20am every Wednesday morning to run 3KM before school, with such great dedication these 25+ students from year 7 to 13 turn up whatever the weather, wonderfully modelling Riverside's value of discipline. It's also lovely to see the teachers leading them: Mr Bailey, Ms Fletcher, Ms Kaci and Dr Reade all regularly joining in. Mr Bailey says: 'all are welcome – staff and students alike'.

Similarly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Riverside SSLT and all student leaders who have done an amazing job this term, adding so much value to Riverside School, by showing such strong leadership, led superbly by Anthony and Michael, our Head Students, supported by Ms Fletcher and Eli. A proud example of student-staff collaboration and partnership for the benefit of us all – thank you! Here is a copy of their first publication: The Riverside [Gazette](#).

On **Friday 20th December 2024 students will be dismissed by 12:00 noon** for staff to attend an end of term review meeting. All students return to school on **Monday, January 6th 2025** for a normal **08.30am** start. Please note 08:30am is the time students must be in their form rooms and registered, so they need to be on-site by 08:20am at the very latest.

Friday 20th December is a non-uniform day, when students can donate £1 to not wear uniform on the last day.

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

Headteacher