



27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another brilliant year at Riverside School. Students are, once again, excelling in the classroom, in the arts and on the sports field, the [Riverside Gazette](#) tells the story beautifully! Please read this excellent publication written and edited by the talented student senior leadership team. Vocational results are in for year 11: BTEC Sport and WJEC Food and Hospitality performed incredibly well once again with over half the students achieving the very top grade. An excellent start to the exam season and what looks to be an exceptional year's results! Year 13 and 11 have been working superbly and success is now not so far away when they collect their results on Thursday 13th and 20th August respectively.

This year's sporting successes to-date are the most impressive ever! A huge congratulations to all involved, your commitment and dedication, students and staff alike, is totally inspiring! Our football teams have made excellent progress this term. The U13 Girls have reached the London Cup semi-finals, while the boys have also enjoyed strong cup runs: the U12 Boys are in the London Cup quarter-finals, the U13 Boys have reached both the Essex Cup semi-finals and London Cup quarter-finals, and the U15 Boys have progressed to the London Cup semi-finals. The U16 Boys also made school history by advancing to Round 5 of the ESFA, the furthest any U16 team has ever gone. It has also been an amazing term for basketball, with numerous teams excelling locally and nationally. The Year 7 Girls remain unbeaten, and both the Year 7 and 8 Boys and Girls have been selected for the Junior NBA, with the Year 8 Boys currently undefeated in the competition. The Year 9 Boys reached both the Essex Cup semi-finals and the national quarter-finals, while the Year 10 and 11 Girls secured places in the Essex Cup finals. Our RBA programme has also enjoyed great success, with the U17 Boys reaching the national playoffs and the U17 Girls advancing to the national semi-finals. Riverside indoor athletics teams delivered outstanding results at the London finals. The Year 8 Boys were crowned London Champions, the Year 7 Boys achieved an excellent 3rd place, and the Year 7 Girls finished strongly in 4th. Earlier in the season, our Year 7 and 8 Boys became East London Champions, with the Year 7 Girls finishing joint second to secure their place at the London Finals. It has been an excellent season for rugby across all age groups. The Year 7 Boys won the Shield at the Essex 7s, while the Year 8 Girls finished as runners-up in their Shield competition. The Year 7 Girls remained unbeaten in all fixtures, establishing themselves as one of the top teams in Essex. The Year 8 teams also performed strongly throughout the season, showing impressive progress and commitment. Girls' netball teams continue to impress, with the U16s remaining undefeated in the Borough League. The U16B team also impressed, winning the Borough Rally.

Year 7 are now fully immersed in the life of the school and contributing strongly to our huge successes, notably these excellent sporting outcomes, but also in the broader life of the school. It's wonderful to see so many students engaging in music lessons, over 140 per week, and music clubs offered at Riverside. Singing, orchestra and band clubs are well attended and bring so much energy and happiness to the school day as performance goes from strength to strength. Riverside's third Artmark emphasises literacy and creative expression through cross-curricular projects such as Year 7 lyric writing on environmental themes, while the [Riverside Gazette](#), and the *Write Back* project, both support students to publish their creative writing. All Year 10 students participated in the 'Speak Out Challenge' to build confidence in public speaking, with two students progressing to the borough final, well-done Leon-Shaban and Kayla - a great achievement! Other students engaged with cultural institutions and industry professionals through visits to BAFTA, the BFI, the National Gallery, the Tower of London and The Globe Theatre, alongside collaborative projects such as a swimming safety film with the Black Swimming Association.

Riverside always aims to enrich the cultural capital of our students by engaging in the arts. 30 year 8 students participated in [Young City Poets | National Literacy Trust](#) programme. They have attended expert-led workshops and visited the Museum of London Docklands, drawing inspiration for their own poems on London's landscape and history. We are thrilled that five of our poets have been selected for publication in the anthology, alongside the opportunity to perform their poems at an awards ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral: congratulations Parisa M, Ethan-Thomas S, Eva A, Ayana Z and Arissa A! Riverside celebrated World Book Day in March, as part of a week-long celebration of reading. Throughout the week, students shared their love of reading in form time, and a number volunteered to read their favourite books in assembly. On World Book Day itself, Year 7 and 8 students read the first

chapter of *The Hunger Games* throughout the day. We hope this enthusiasm for reading will continue throughout the year and inspire students to keep discovering new books long after the celebrations have ended. Thank you to Ms Tagg, as Riverside's newly appointed Literacy Coordinator, for organising these wonderful events.

Our Mandarin students and Year 10 Spanish students had the pleasure of experiencing foreign language theatre courtesy of [Onatti](#). Performed entirely in the target language, the productions offered students a unique and fully immersive experience that brought language learning to life. The performances helped to strengthen listening skills, deepen cultural understanding and inspire genuine enthusiasm for language learning.

We now look forward to this summer's examinations starting in 4 school weeks' time on Friday 8th May 2026. Our latest mock examinations for GCSE and A-level are predicting exceptional results, even improving on last years! Both students and staff have worked incredibly hard and deserve huge successes. Reports will be sent home with ALL students on the last day of term. If your child is in year 11 or 13 please support them by using these next two weeks to revise well before this year's public examinations begin. All year groups will have work set to complete over the break. In addition, ALL students are expected to read their library books daily for both pleasure and learning.

From all of us at Riverside School, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and restful break over the holiday. Happy Easter to our Christian families. Thank you all for your continued support throughout, what has been, an excellent year at Riverside School.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Roberts'.

Mr A Roberts
Executive Headteacher