



16th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support throughout this year. Most importantly, thank you for ensuring that your child attends school regularly, arrives on time, and is ready to learn each day.

We are delighted that Riverside has been selected by the Department for Education as a **RISE Lead Attendance and Behaviour Hub**, one of only a small number of secondary schools nationally chosen to share their expertise and support other schools in strengthening attendance, behaviour, culture and systems.

As we approach the summer holidays, we are also looking forward to this year's examination results days. It has been an exceptional year, and we are incredibly proud of the commitment, resilience and achievements of our students. We look forward to celebrating their successes with them in August. Thank you once again for your partnership and support throughout the year.

Please note the dates and times to collect exam results over the summer holidays:

Yr13 A-level and BTEC L3 Results Day | Thursday 13th August

Year 13 collect their results between **8am-10am** on Thursday 13th August. Senior staff will be on site to support students in securing their preferred university places. Students **MUST** bring their UCAS username and login with them.

Yr11 GCSE Results Day | Thursday 20th August

Year 11 can collect their results on Thursday 20th August and enrol for Riverside Sixth Form College. We will stagger the release times, so please arrive at:

9am-10am: **R&I** students to collect their results

10am-11am: **V, E&S** students to collect their results

Sporting Achievements

This year has been another outstanding one for sport at Riverside. A particular highlight was the introduction of rugby, with our Year 7 boys and girls making an immediate impact by winning the 7s Essex Plate Competition. Our students have achieved exceptional success across a wide range of sports. In football, the Year 8 boys were crowned London Cup Champions, while the Year 10 boys became Borough Champions. In athletics, the Year 7 and 8 boys won the Borough Sports Hall Athletics competition, with the Year 8 team going on to secure the prestigious London Youth Games title.

Our U16 girls were crowned Borough Netball Champions, and our basketball teams enjoyed a great year. The Year 7 boys became both Borough Champions and Junior NBA Champions, while the Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11 girls all won Borough titles. The Year 10 girls completed an exceptional season by becoming Junior NBA 3x3 Champions.

These achievements are testament to the talent, commitment and resilience of our students, as well as the dedication of our staff. We congratulate everyone involved on another fantastic year of sporting success and look forward to building on these achievements in the years ahead.

Sports Day

Monday 13 July marked Riverside's annual Sports Day, following a year of outstanding sporting achievements. Students demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm, determination and team spirit throughout the day, creating a fantastic atmosphere from start to finish.

A huge thank you goes to Ms Fletcher, our Senior Student Leaders, and the PE Department, whose hard work and organisation ensured another highly successful event. Sports Day is always a team effort and celebration of the values that make Riverside such a wonderful school.

Enjoy the [highlights](#) from the day and, after a year of vibrant competition, we are delighted to announce that the 2026 Sports Day and overall House Champions are [click here](#)!

Duke of Edinburgh Award

A record 164 students completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year, including 13 who will achieve the prestigious [gold award](#), 64 silver, and 87 bronze. Congratulations to all who passed. A massive thank you to Ms Reid who leads DofE superbly, and the 20 staff volunteers who generously gave their time and expertise to make this possible.

Personal Development

This year has been another exceptional one for personal development, creativity and student leadership at Riverside, providing students with a wealth of opportunities to learn, contribute and thrive beyond the classroom.

All Year 7 students took part in a Ben Kinsella Trust workshop and educational visit, developing their understanding of personal safety, the dangers of knife crime and the importance of speaking up about concerns. Building on this experience, our Ben Kinsella Ambassadors, Shawna and Abid, were invited to meet the Minister of State for Policing and Crime, Sarah Jones, to discuss these important issues and share the perspectives of young people.

During Empathy Week, Year 9 students Shalom and Charlotte met poet John Bernard at an Amnesty International event. Inspired by his work, they invited him to Riverside School to deliver an assembly, perform his poetry and lead discussions on social justice, youth empowerment and finding purpose.

The Music Department celebrated another excellent year, with 34 students taking graded music and singing examinations. An impressive 87% achieved either Merit or Distinction, reflecting their talent and dedication.

Students also enjoyed unique opportunities to work alongside leading professionals from the creative industries. Year 10 Drama and Music students collaborated with acclaimed composer Hannah Conway and theatre director Jude Christian on 'How to Leave', a creative project that will help shape a forthcoming professional performance.

Creativity was further explored through the Year 7 cross-curricular project, which culminated in the creation of 'We Are Connected', a song exploring students' relationships with local green spaces. Working alongside composer Aga Serugo-Lugo and choreographer Natasha Khamjani, the entire year group helped create and perform the piece, as well as produce an accompanying music video. [Please click here.](#)

Our Social Enterprise Club continued to make a positive impact beyond the school community by producing a second video for the [Black Swimming Association](#), helping to promote water safety and raise awareness of safe behaviour in and around water.

Preparing students for their future careers also remained a key priority. All Year 9 students participated in a RISE careers workshop, where they met employers, explored a range of career pathways and developed essential employability skills, including communication, teamwork and problem-solving.

These experiences exemplify Riverside's commitment to developing confident, compassionate and ambitious young people who are equipped to make a positive contribution to their communities and the wider world.

During July, Riverside celebrated Culture Week, underpinning one of our strongest values: 'to celebrate our diversity'. Culture Week gives us a great sense of community, togetherness and pride. [Take a look](#) at the week's events and impressive performance to end the celebration.

Also during July, students from Riverside's Mandarin Excellence Programme embarked on a ten-day immersive visit to Beijing, China. The trip provided students with invaluable opportunities to practise their Mandarin in authentic contexts while developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of Chinese history, culture and daily life. Alongside enhancing their language skills, students created lasting memories, forged new friendships and gained experiences that will stay with them for years to come. Sincere thanks to Mr Benjamin, Ms Mortimer and Ms Li, whose leadership made this exceptional opportunity possible.

Clubs, Trips and Student Leadership

Riverside students have continued to embrace the wide range of opportunities available beyond the classroom. This term, students enthusiastically took on their Heads of Year's challenge to try something new, with younger students enjoying clubs such as History Hunters, Manga Club and Textiles, while other students explored future career pathways through Law, Medicine and STEM Societies.

One of the highlights of the year was Riverside's inaugural 3K Mini Marathon, held alongside the London Marathon. Twenty-five students arrived before school to take part in the 7.30am race, demonstrating remarkable determination and commitment. Congratulations to Ibrahim (9R2) and Lena (7I2), who recorded the fastest times of 13:21 and 13:54 respectively.

Creative writing and poetry have flourished this year through the Poet Laureate Club, Write Back Club and Journaling Club. Students achieved notable success, with work published through the 'Write Back' project, while members of the Poet Laureate Club received high praise from organisers.

Educational visits have continued to play an important role in enriching learning and broadening horizons. Year 7 geographers developed their fieldwork skills on a curriculum visit, while the History Department organised a range of memorable experiences, including visits to the British Library for Year 8, the National Maritime Museum for Year 9 and the Golden Hinde for Year 10. Meanwhile, Year 12 students expanded their aspirations through university visits and a trip to Bletchley Park, deepening their subject knowledge and supporting their future ambitions.

Student leadership remains a cornerstone of life at Riverside with over 200 student leaders now in post. Last year, Adam and Andrew have represented the student body with distinction as Head Students. Through their leadership, commitment and advocacy, they have made a valued contribution to the school community and served as excellent role models for their peers. This coming year, after three exceptionally strong applications and a highly competitive interview process, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Maxim as Head Student for 2026–27, supported by Azeezat and Miruna as Associate Head Students. Throughout the selection process, all three candidates demonstrated outstanding leadership, maturity and commitment to the Riverside community. We look forward to working together as they represent the student body and continue to make a positive contribution to school life over the coming year.

Progress Reports | Issued Friday 17th July 2026

You will receive your child's Progress Report before the end of term, please contact their Head of Year should you wish to discuss their progress in more detail in September.

New School Year 2026-27

We have a staggered start to autumn term to allow year 7s induction on the first day:

- **Year 7 ONLY:** Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- **Years 8-13:** Thursday 3rd September 2026

Students should **arrive by 8:15 for an 8:30 start**. Library open from 7:30am. Free breakfast daily.

The Summer Term edition of the [Riverside Gazette](#) has now been published by our student leadership team. The Gazette showcases the breadth of opportunities, achievements and experiences that our students have enjoyed throughout the year, providing a wonderful insight into life at Riverside both inside and beyond the classroom. Congratulations to the student editors and contributors whose hard work and creativity have produced such an engaging and impressive publication. It is a fitting celebration of another exceptional year at Riverside and testimony to the talent and leadership of our students.

From all of us here at Riverside School may I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer break and thank you once again for your partnership and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. Roberts
Executive Headteacher