



Headteacher's Update

14 March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you all in great spirits! Despite the chilly winds this week, the energy and enthusiasm of our students have been truly heartwarming. It's always inspiring to witness our school community come together, accomplishing so much with resilience and positivity!

Traffic

While the ongoing pavement widening scheme might cause temporary disruptions, it's exciting to think about the lasting benefits this will bring to our students and school environment. These essential works are paving the way for a safer, more accessible future for everyone and in the meantime we are not giving late students a detention.

Sport and Extra-Curricular



What a week of victories and accomplishments!

- Our amazing netball team has soared into the semi-finals with five straight wins—what an incredible streak! The determination and teamwork they've shown are truly inspiring. Let's cheer them

on to even greater heights—Let's go River, let's go!

- Our boys' footballers have demonstrated resilience and skill, bouncing back with victories against The Wren and The Willink. Semi-final dreams are alive and kicking—literally! A massive shout-out to the 39 students who stayed back for the UK Mathematics Trust challenge preparation session. Their enthusiasm for learning and problem-solving is a joy to see. Smiles and laughter filled the room as they tackled questions that go beyond the usual curriculum. We can't wait to celebrate their results soon!



With such a strong showing across sports and academics, our students truly exemplify the spirit of River!



Sparx Success

The response to the adjusted Sparx Reader and Maths programme has been phenomenal! An incredible 90 students earned extra merits for completing their work early—what an achievement! Beyond this, our 98%+ regular completion rate continues to be a shining example of what dedication can achieve. Our Sparx success story is spreading far and wide with Ms Billingham and Ms Myers leading traing sessions for new Sparx schools, and we are so proud to be leading by example across the country. Well done to everyone involved!



98.4% Completion Rates

Sparx Reader: 3rd out of 864 schools
Sparx Maths: 4th out of 2630 schools



Announcement!



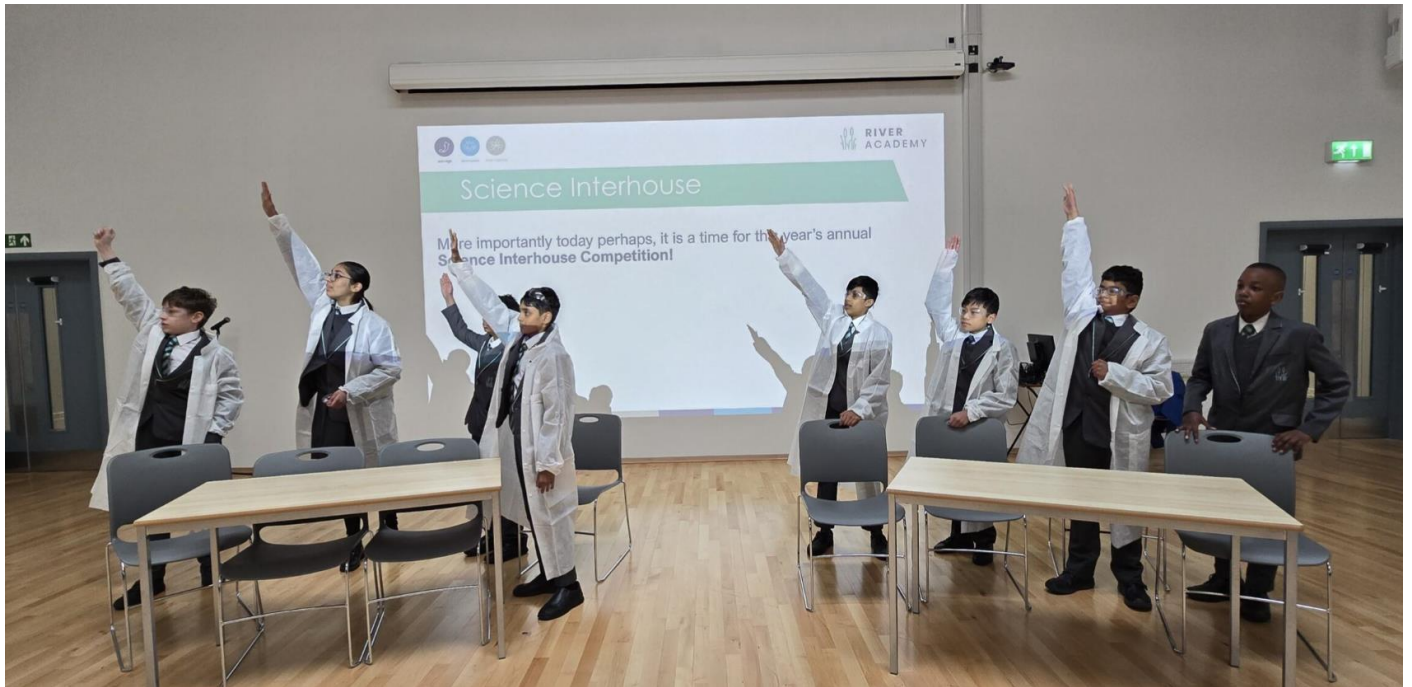
There are now extra rewards for your hard work in Sparx!

Early Completion Merits
Complete Sparx by Tues morning
5 merits

Extra Mile Merits
600 SRP / XP & Independent
5 merits

Science Assembly

A huge thank you to Dr Dukinfield and Mr Clare for their assembly celebrating British Science Week. As you can see from the picture, the assembly included the final of the interhouse Science competition. Well done to Saanvi M from Lambourne for her exhaustive and impressive knowledge that earned her victory.



PTA and Amazon Wishlist Gratitude

A heartfelt thank you to Carol and the entire PTA team for their tireless efforts in organizing upcoming events. Their commitment and creativity make such a difference in enriching our school life.

To all the parents who have supported our Amazon Wishlist for the library launch—you are helping to ignite a love for reading that will last a lifetime. Your generosity speaks volumes (quite literally!) about the power of community.

If you would like to contribute, please see the list here:

[Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



School field

We are pleased that we have been told that our field has been cleared to open after Easter. We will initially just have it open for PE lessons and then as the term progresses, we will allocate some space for lunchtimes and our eco and garden club areas.

The last bit of mud at the foot of the playground will also be seeded in the next week or so as the land had dried out and is ready for a tractor. These finishing touches are welcome and important part of our school journey.

Breakfast Club

Start the day right! Our Breakfast Club continues to serve up warm pastries, fresh fruit, and hearty porridge each morning. It's the perfect way to fuel our students for the day ahead, and we're thrilled to see so many taking advantage of this wonderful initiative.

Attendance and Determination

Thank you for your incredible push on attendance this week—it's paid off with a fantastic 97% rate! This wouldn't be possible without the shared commitment of our students and families.

A special mention goes to Alioune, who, despite battling chickenpox, completed all his homework and even asked for more! That kind of determination and love for learning is what makes River so special. Hats off to you, Alioune!

As we look forward to another week of growth and achievements, let's take a moment to celebrate how far we've come together as a community. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey—we couldn't do it without you.

Take care and best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Andy Hartley

Headteacher