



RIVER ACADEMY

Student Bulletin

What's on this week?

17th–21st February 2025

HALF TERM!!!

School timings:

Please be reminded of our school timings:

Mon, Tues & Thurs		Wed		Fri	
09:10-9:35	Tutor	09:10-09:35	Tutor	09:10-09:20	Tutor
09:35-10:35	Lesson 1	09:35-10:35	Lesson 1	09:20-10:15	Lesson 1
10:35-10:55	Break	10:35-10:55	Break	10:15-11:10	Lesson 2
10:55-11:55	Lesson 2	10:55-11:55	Lesson 2	11:10-11:30	Break
11:55-12:55	Lesson 3	11:55-12:55	Lesson 3	11:30-12:25	Lesson 3
12:55-13:35	Lunch	12:55-13:35	Lunch	12:25-13:00	Lunch
13:35-14:35	Lesson 4	13:35-14:35	Lesson 4	13:00-13:55	Lesson 4
14:35-15:35	Lesson 5	14:35-15:35	Lesson 5	13:55-14:50	Lesson 5
		15:35-16:30	Elective	14:50-15:15	Celebration Assembly



RIVER ACADEMY

WEEK Two



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course	Meat Ball Pasta Garlic Bread Carrots	Chicken Tika Masala Basmati Rice Mixed Vegetables	Lasagne Garlic Bread Sweetcorn	Chicken Fajita Wrap Salad	Chip Shop Friday
Vegetarian	Vegi Meat Ball Pasta Garlic Bread Carrots	Vegetable Korma Basmati Rice Mixed Vegetables	Vegi Lasagne Garlic Bread Sweetcorn	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread Salad	Vegan Sausage Roll
Jackets	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad
Dessert of the Day	Apple Crumble Custard	Syrup Sponge Custard	Chocolate Brownie Chocolate Sauce	Jam Sponge Custard	Donuts
Dessert Alternative	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie

Please ask for more information if you have any allergies.

PE update:

Lessons:

This term, the students have been learning netball and basketball. The reason these sports are together in the curriculum is due to the transferrable skills across both sports. The students have made a lot of progress in both activities, and I have been very impressed once again with the effort and skill level the students display. This has been evident in the end of term assessment lessons where the students put all their learned skills into a tournament and showed off exactly what they have learned and the progress they have made.

Next term in PE:

Next term sees the boys and girls split into single gender PE. This is because the boys have their football block, and the girls have their touch rugby block. Both boys and girls will also study handball too which is an exciting sport that I know the students will enjoy. The kit the students require is as follows:

Football – **football boots**, **shin pads**, long socks, shorts/tracksuit bottoms and a River PE top.

football boots and shin pads are compulsory and are necessary to keep students safe

Touch Rugby and Handball – trainers, long socks, shorts/tracksuit bottoms and a River PE top.

The table below shows the days on which students are studying each sport.

Boys		
House	Football	Handball
Kennet	Monday	Thursday
Pang	Monday	Thursday
Loddon	Monday	Friday
Lambourn	Monday	Friday
Thames	Tuesday	Friday
Avon	Tuesday	Friday

Girls		
House	Touch Rugby	Handball
Kennet	Thursday	Monday
Pang	Thursday	Monday
Loddon	Friday	Monday
Lambourn	Friday	Monday
Thames	Friday	Tuesday
Avon	Friday	Tuesday

National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships

An exciting opportunity has been presented to us from our friends at Reading Rowing Club. Between the 15th and 21st March, the National Indoor Rowing Championships are taking place virtually. The students must row as far as they can in 2 minutes and their results are recorded and compared to the rest of the country. The cost is a £2 entry fee, and the competition will happen at River Academy after-school once day next term. If your child is interested in participating in this, please email me on j.clare@maidenerleghtrust.org so I can put their name down for it. I will then be in touch with a time and date once I have all entries.

Primary Schools Outreach

On Friday 7th February we had 3 local primary schools come to River Academy to play in a bench ball tournament. St Anne's, Caversham and Thameside made the short trip to River to play against one another in a friendly tournament.

It was so lovely to see so many students play and enjoy sport and there was some great talent on display. We are looking to host some more primary school competitions later in the year which I am excited for. Thank you also to my sports ambassadors who helped and gained some valuable leadership experience.

Basketball Fixture

Our basketball team was in action once again against our local Trust rivals Maiden Erlegh Reading. We



raced into a 12-0 lead after the first quarter, with Julius and Maks being instrumental in us having such a positive start. Having survived a MER resurgence, we finished the game 21-7 winners after 40 minutes of very competitive basketball. The students were fantastic and excellent representatives of the school. We have another inter-trust tournament after HT which I am very much looking forward to.

Touch Rugby

We travelled to one of our neighbouring schools the Wren for a T1 rugby tournament. We picked up some great results, beating the Wren and drawing against Denefield. We struggled against Highdown and Prospect but learned some very valuable lessons in defensive structure and being efficient with the ball. It was lovely to see the students playing rugby again and picking up where they left off back in October. I hope the students enjoyed themselves and as always, they were a pleasure to take.



Netball

Our netball team had their second friendly fixture before the league starts after half term.

A well drilled and organised Prospect team made the short journey over to play our A and B team in separate games. Our A-Team performed well and ran out 2-1 winners, with Scarlett playing very well throughout. Our B-Team struggled somewhat and ended up losing 5-1. Both games were a great learning experience and its really important we play these games before the league starts so the team have time to gel and play together.

Boys football

As I write this, we have another boys football friendly tonight away at Denefield. We are taking a bus load of students so we can play 2x 8-a-side friendly games. Again this is to give students an opportunity to play some competitive sport and to also allow the students to play together and gel before our league campaign starts after half term



Well done to the Y7s who took part M's Uren's planning session for The Royal Academy young artists summer show. It was great to share ideas and start planning!



Beak Buffet

Free Event with staff from the University of Reading – 3:45-4:45pm, Thursday 27th February



In this session we look at adaptation and evolution. You will test out different bird 'beaks' and investigate how well different shapes of beak can extract and pick up different 'food sources'. The activity leads into a wider discussion about adaptation to different environments, and why this is important for all life on earth.



Sign up required – outside 1.21 (Miss Angell's Room)

This is a chance to learn more **Science** and **Geography!** **There are only 30 spaces!**

Speak to Miss Angell if you have any questions.

UK Maths Trust Preparation Session

Tuesday 11th March, 3.45-4.45pm. Room 1.23



The Junior Mathematical Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Sign up required – outside 1.23 (Mrs Strong's Room)

We would like all interested students on the Silver Programme, who are not already in classes 7x/Ma1 or 7y/Ma2 to sign up as soon as possible as we need to register students, so we can order the preprinted answers sheets and sufficient challenge papers for those taking part.

Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures open to all



Join Prof. Aston who will explore recent archaeological evidence to reconsider ancient Greek attitudes to animals and help us decide if Greek attitudes towards animals were not nearly as coldly practical as we may once have chosen to believe!

Professor Emma Aston
University of Reading

Lecture: The role of pets in ancient Greek life

Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!



Tuesday 25th March
4-5pm
Arrive by 3.45pm



Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures open to all

Lecture: The role of pets in ancient Greek life

Put the phrase 'pet stroller' into your favourite search-engine, and countless hits appear, most of them advertisements for comfy, stylish buggies in which your pet can ride in luxury as you push it through the streets or the park. Of course this phenomenon can meet practical requirements, as well as the disinclination of a pampered pug to let its paws touch the pavement, but overall it is a certainly a sign of the role of domestic animals in twenty-first century Britain: never have pets - dogs especially - been more intimately integrated into human households, as full family members, their value on a par with that of their human care-givers.

What would the ancient Greeks have thought of this? About twenty years ago, most historians have said. Not much. The ancient Greek attitude to animals used to be viewed through the lens of utility: either an animal was useful to humanity, or else it was a pest (and was dealt with accordingly). More recently, however, we have started to reconsider this assumption with regard to companion animals. Archaeological evidence has produced clear signs of pets being lovingly tended, far beyond what the principle of usefulness would seem to dictate: and we may look afresh at texts and artefacts which plainly represent an emotional bond between human and non-human animals, telling us that Greek attitudes towards animals were not nearly as coldly practical as we may once have chosen to believe.



Tuesday 25th March
4-5pm
Arrive by 3.45pm



Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures open to all



Join polar conservationist and leader of the "Seals from Space" research project Prem Gill to celebrate the Antarctic. Learn about its many animal inhabitants and how changes in this region are impacting our climate.

Prem Gill
University of Cambridge

Lecture: Seals from Space- how polar explorers use satellites to study Antarctic wildlife

Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!



Tuesday 29th April
4-5pm
Arrive by 3.45pm



Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures open to all

Lecture: Seals from Space- how polar explorers use satellites to study Antarctic wildlife

Join polar conservationist and leader of the "Seals from Space" research project Prem Gill to celebrate the Antarctic. Learn about its many animal inhabitants and how changes in this region are impacting our climate.

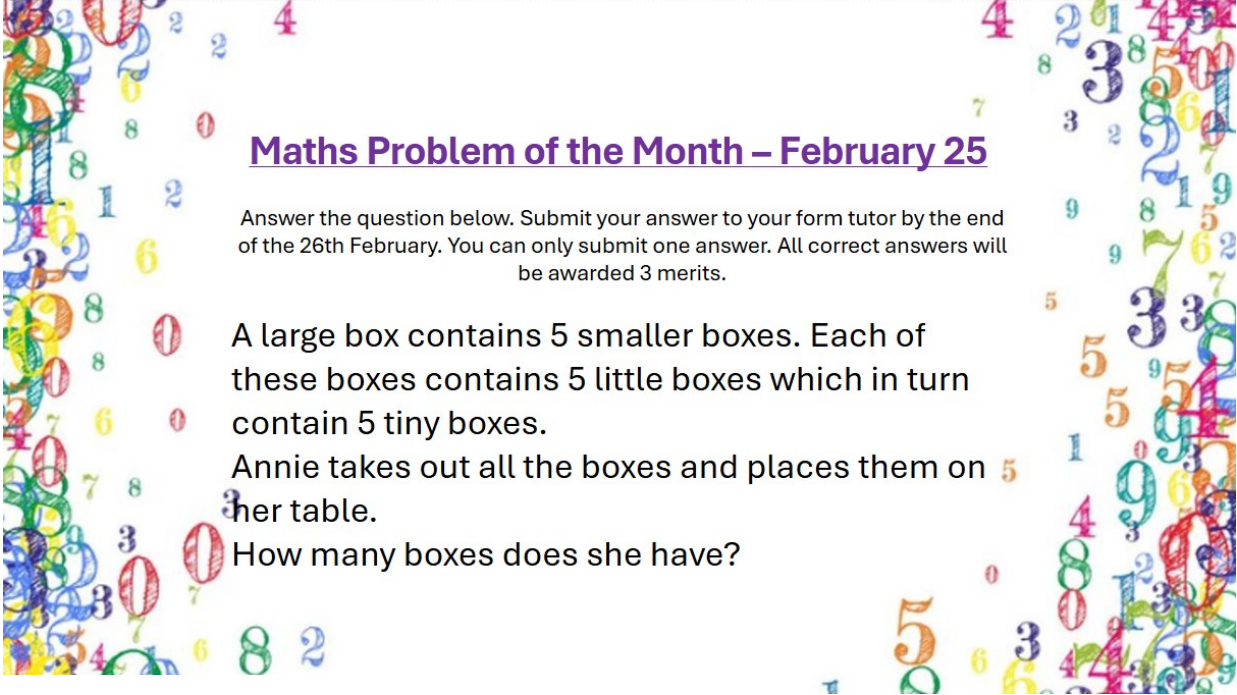
Antarctic ice seal populations can help show changes in the Antarctic ecosystem's status and health. But they live in an ever changing, hard to reach sea ice zone which makes them hard to study. Prem's research project "Seals from Space" meets that challenge in an unexpected way: he researches the seals and their habitat with high resolution satellite imagery. From examining pink poop stains left behind by giant penguin colonies to spotting a lone mother seal with her pup, Prem will show you how satellite images are used to study polar wildlife in the world's most remote and extreme continent, Antarctica.



Tuesday 29th April
4-5pm
Arrive by 3.45pm



Monthly Maths House Competition - February



Maths Problem of the Month – February 25

Answer the question below. Submit your answer to your form tutor by the end of the 26th February. You can only submit one answer. All correct answers will be awarded 3 merits.

A large box contains 5 smaller boxes. Each of these boxes contains 5 little boxes which in turn contain 5 tiny boxes.

Annie takes out all the boxes and places them on her table.

How many boxes does she have?

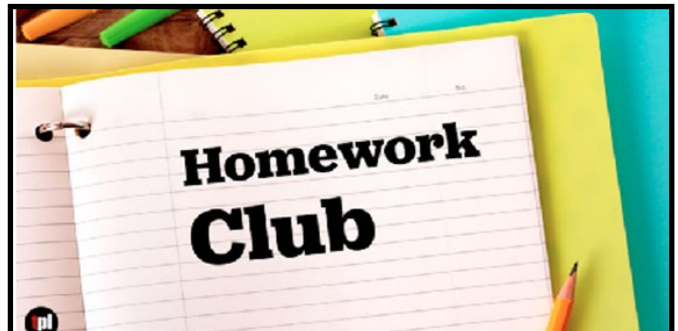


Maths - Kerboodle

A quick reminder that all students have access to the maths text book we use in school, online, via www.kerboodle.com.

Students have been given their user names and have set their own passwords. If a password reset is needed, students need to speak to their maths teacher. The institution code for the school is **dyu6**.

We are coming to the end of Chapter 4. If any student has missed anything in class or would like to go back through the work, having access to the text book online will be helpful. Please don't get ahead of lessons in school though.



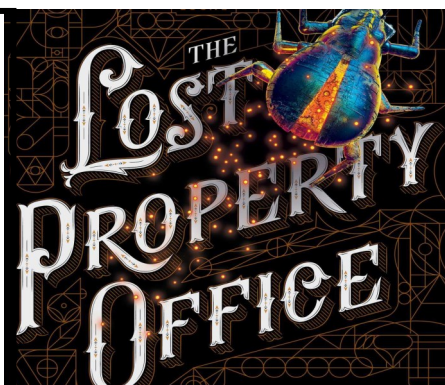
Homework club will run on Tuesday and Thursdays in the LRC from 3:35-4:30. It is a voluntary, supervised, drop-in session each time. Students need to let their parents know in advance that they will be staying and a register will be kept for students to sign in and out. Students need to bring booklets and equipment needed for them to complete their homework independently with adult support available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lost your blazer?

Cant find your tie?

Walked home in one shoe?!

Come and look in our Lost Property Box in Reception before or after school





We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support in providing ingredients each week for our Food Technology lessons. Your contributions have played a vital role in helping our students develop their cooking skills, and it has been truly amazing to see how far they have come over the past term and a half.

It is clear to see which students have been practicing at home—whether through food preparation or washing up—as their confidence in the kitchen has grown significantly. This reinforces the importance of applying their skills beyond the classroom, and we are incredibly proud of the progress they have made. We also sincerely thank you for allowing them to practice these skills at home, as it makes a huge difference in their development.

Please take a moment to admire some of the outstanding dishes our students have created this term. We hope they continue practicing their cooking and kitchen skills at home to retain and build on their learning as they move into Year 8.



Thank you once again for your support!

Have some serious fun on bikes

Spring
half term
2025

Sign up for a Bikeability course

Pick your time and place - book online

Prospect Park

Learn to ride

17 Feb
0930-1045
1100 - 1215
1330 - 1445

18 Feb
0900 - 1015
1030 - 1145
1315 - 1430

20 Feb
1000 - 1115
1130 - 1245
1400 - 1515

Highdown School

Level 1 & 2

18-19 Feb
All day

Level 3

20 Feb
0930 - 1500

Woodford Park

Level 1 & 2

17-18 Feb
All day

Jocks Lane
Bracknell

Level 1 & 2

18-19 Feb
All day



Please reserve your place online
avanticycling.co.uk/holiday-courses



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avanticycling.co.uk/holiday-courses

