



## Headteacher's Update

9 May 2025

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all the parents (80) who completed the parent survey. The surveying of parents, students, and staff is an invaluable undertaking, completed each year, and it provides us with lots of data and commentary on the offer we provide to the River Academy community.

Running a secondary school is a fine balancing act, where we must balance the welfare and progress of students with that of staff, along with the running of a business and community facility. While we may not be able to satisfy every stakeholder, every piece of feedback is incredibly useful in our reflections and forward planning.

The survey of parents, staff, and students was overwhelmingly positive, and our scores are well above the Trust and national benchmarks. This is a fantastic affirmation of our efforts, both in terms of individual questions and overall.

Below are some of the key positives we took from the survey responses from parents, students and staff regarding questions where the school was considerably higher than the national and Trust benchmarks.

### Parents

- Communication from the school
- Confidence in the school
- Trust in the school
- Accessibility of staff
- Keeping parents informed
- Homework and how it is communicated
- A positive view of the Maiden Erlegh Trust
- Parents engaged in the school

### Students

- They are happy at school
- They like our extra-curricular offer
- They feel safe at school
- The students are well behaved
- Our students work hard in class
- They have positive relationships with staff
- There are clear expectations
- There is an interesting curriculum

**Staff**

- Student behaviour is excellent
- Communication from the leadership team is good
- Job satisfaction is high
- The leadership team provide a strong vision and ethos for the school
- Workload is manageable
- Teamwork is excellent at River Academy
- They would recommend the school to parents

Attached to this email are our responses to some of the constructive feedback we received from parents, which have been heard and form a key part of our plans for next year.

My leadership team and I will be reflecting on all the surveys over the next few weeks as we plan our Year 2 of River Academy.

Thank you once again for your contributions and support.

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 to the left of the typed name and title.

Andy Hartley

Headteacher