

FAQs

Q. Will you be working with any charities, so pupils can volunteer?

Yes, as a part of our House system we will be developing links with charities and asking the students to raise money and develop fundraising and awareness raising strategies.

Q. Bullying is a difficult situation for all schools. How do you hope to deal with bullying to ensure the victim is safe in school?

Bullying will not be tolerated at River Academy, and we will work hard on our proactive strategy of ensuring the students develop the skills to manage and navigate relationships and social interactions with each other. We will also work on systems of reporting poor behaviour towards each other as well as ensuring there is a robust CCTV system in place. However, adolescents can sometimes be mean to each other wherever they go to school, but what is important is how we deal with it and support all those involved.

Q. Will River Academy be a nut/peanut free school?

Yes

Q. Do you expect the children to achieve the same grades as children in other Maiden Erlegh Trust schools or are expectations overall lower academically?

We definitely expect our students to make as much progress as students at other Maiden Erlegh Trust schools

Q. What are the plans for vocational training and what alternatives for more academic children?

There will be some vocational options in our KS4 and especially Post 16 offer (but to be confirmed at this early stage) that will sit alongside our academic curriculum. Our most able will have the options of our High Ability Student programme, to participate in academic extra-curricular options and to take our most academic pathways with options such as Triple Science and two languages.

Q. How many hours homework per week do you expect children to do.

We expect there to be 2-3 pieces of homework across the week for Year 7 (30 minutes a day).

Q. Will River Academy inform both parents about the child's learning or issues if parents are separated?

Yes, as long as we are not breaching any police or court orders we will send information to non-resident parents.

Q. What percentage of SENCO children will there be?

Until we have a confirmed list we will not know the answer to this, but everything suggests it will be around 5% which is close to the national average.

Q. Will there be a Reading programme conducted in the morning during tutor time? What will tutor/pastoral time involve?

Yes, three mornings a week. In addition, there will be an assembly and a day of getting ready for the week. It will start on Monday mornings with checks of planners, uniform, pencil cases etc.

Q. Will there be a breakfast club provision for an early start?

The canteen will be open before school but there will not be a Breakfast Club. There will be a range of extra-curricular activities.

Q. Living close to the school Richfield Avenue is a busy road, will there be a crossing outside the school.

Yes, one is scheduled to be constructed before we open in September.

Q. Will you have any way to check if pupils are carrying knives or dangerous objects?

We will have the power to search any student for banned items including knives. We, like all Reading schools, will work closely with Thames Valley Police to ensure our students understand how to keep safe and they will be performing high profile visits on a regular basis.

Q. Are there any bus routes?

Yes, Reading Buses and RBC have informed us that a new service, the BUZZ18, will be in service from Easter 2024. More information will be available on our website in due course.

Q. Will girls be able to wear headcovers/trousers as part of their religious beliefs?

Yes, as with other Maiden Erlegh Trust schools, religious head coverings will be permitted as set out in our school uniform list.