



# RIVER ACADEMY



RIVER ACADEMY | YEAR 7 2024 ~ 2025

TEMPEST  
PHOTOGRAPHS



Aim High

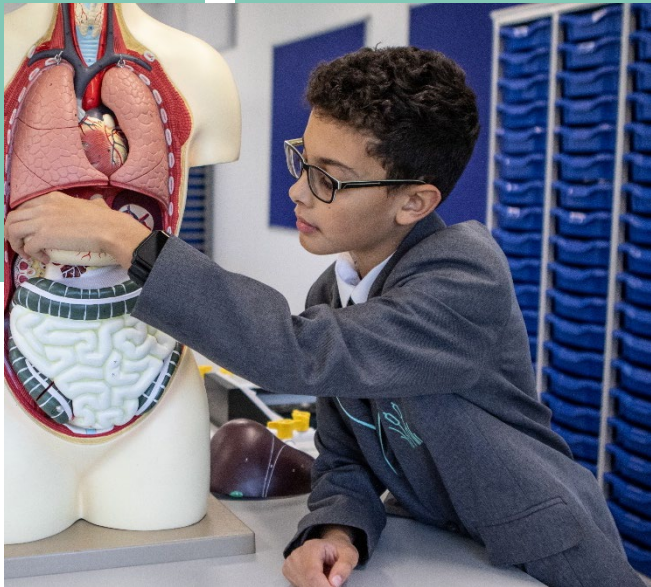
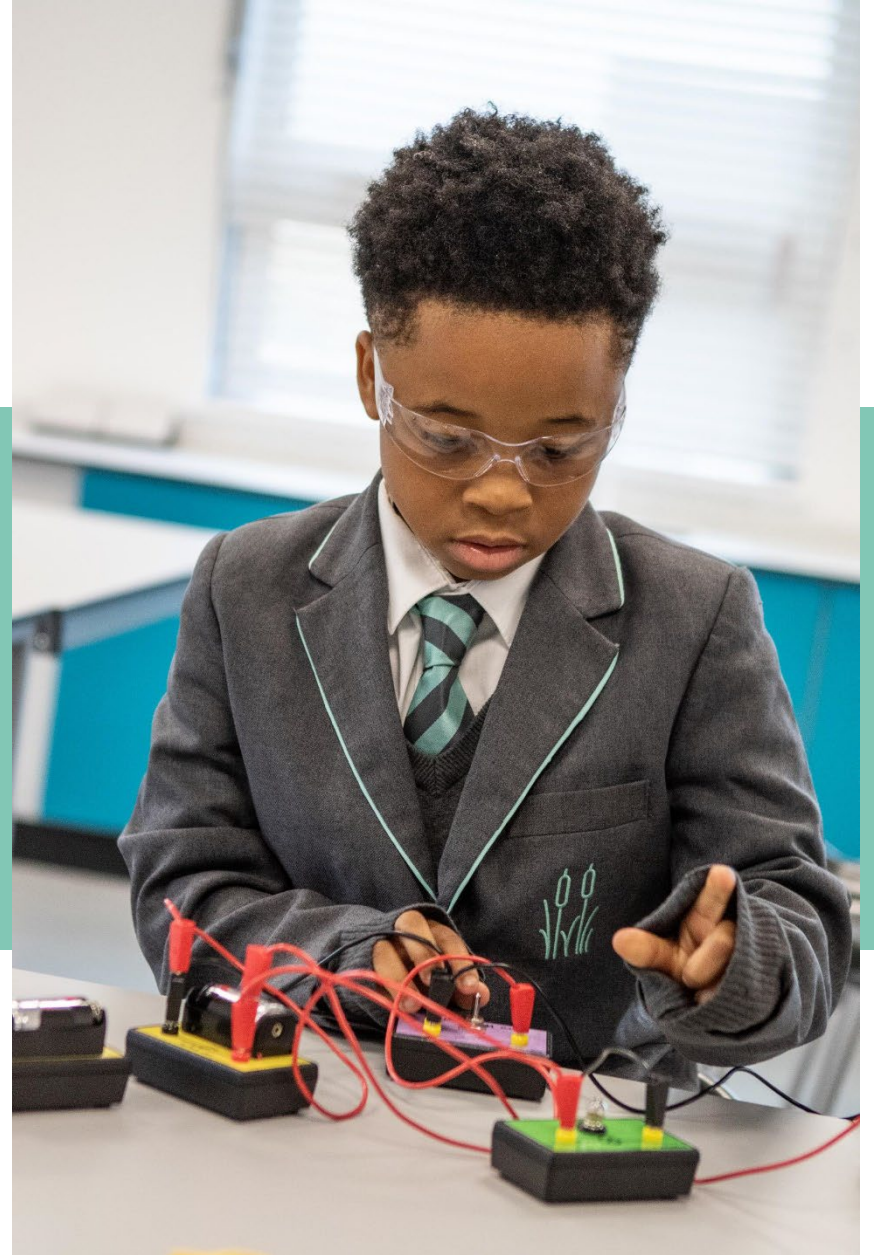


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Work Together















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# The plan for this morning

- Outcome: for you to see the school in action, to see our teachers teach, to see our students learn and witness the classroom systems in situ
- To understand the type of school River Academy is
- 20 minutes with me
- Tour for 30 / 40 minutes
- Back in here to ask/ answer any more questions you may have



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# Welcome to #TeamRiver





# My vision

- A school in the community and for the community
- High challenge in the classroom based on evidence-based research and case studies of success
- A place where staff want to come and work
- Simple systems for behaviour
- Removing barriers for learning and attendance
- Creating a sense of joy and belonging
- No Disadvantaged gap



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# River Academy Values





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# Systems and goals

“You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems. Your goal is your desired outcome. Your system is the collection of daily habits that will get you there.” James Clear

We practice and rehearse our ways until they become automatic

Sweat the small stuff – always - uniform, rules, classroom practice, consequences...



Steven Bartlett  
@SteveBartlettSC

If you don't care about tiny details you'll produce bad work because good work is the culmination of hundreds of tiny details.

The most successful people I know all sweat the small stuff.



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# Staffing

- Fully staffed
- Specialist teachers
- Well qualified
- Experienced
- Full time- with three shared members of staff



University of  
**Reading**



University of  
**BRISTOL**



**Durham**  
University



The University of Manchester



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**CAMBRIDGE**



# Culture

- High expectations of work, behaviour, readiness to learn
- Clear behaviour policy
- Celebration and rewards
- A clear uniform and identity
- Homework and study support

- Calm corridors and classrooms
- Clear 'Teaching and Learning' methodology
- Parent School agreement
- Oracy and respect at the forefront







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# Matriculation

- 4 days of 'Riverising'
- Assemblies- values, expectations, our poems
- Music and singing
- Sports and team events
- Rehearsals- line ups, walking around the building, dining, lesson conduct
- **Values!!!**





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# Line-ups

- Line-ups add calm structure to the school day:
  - Before school
  - After break-time
  - After lunchtime
  - End of day
- Teaching staff stand at head of line; other staff circulate, greet, support and hold students to account
- Prime opportunity to gather as a community, to set culture, re-enforce school values, to share news, to give notices; to check uniform; to collect/ return phones
- Held outside in courtyard; moved to canteen during inclement weather





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# Homework

- 100% - no-one falls behind, consistency and fairness
- Same day 45-minute detention for non-completion or poor-quality homework
- Homework Club on Tuesday and Thursday
- Catch Up Fridays- staff support
- The community moves forward together



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# Poems

- Invictus
- Why?
- Community, safety, memorisation, messages

## Invictus

William Ernest Henley - 1849-1903

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.



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# Family Dining

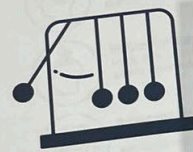
- Pre-set seating which changes frequently
- Everyone eats
- Poems, question of the day, gratitude and oracy
- Community
- Nourishing food
- No food consumed outside the canteen







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PHYSICS  
Yr7 Forces

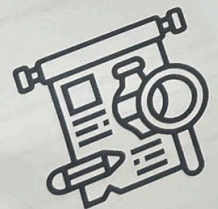


RIVER ACADEMY  
ENGLISH  
Yr7 Gothic Settings



NAME:  
.....  
TEA:  
.....

RIVER AC  
HISTO  
Yr7 An Introduction  
to History



NAME:  
.....  
TEACHER/CL:  
.....

RIVER AC  
R.P.E.

Yr7 What is Religion,  
Philosophy and Ethics?



NAME:  
.....  
TEACHER/CLASS:  
.....

RIVER ACADEMY  
TECHNOLOGY  
Yr7 Textiles



NAME:  
.....  
TEACHER/CLASS:  
.....



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# Cumulative Assessment Week





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# Clear Behaviour System

‘High expectations; low tolerance’

Catch them doing it right!- Clipboards and an emphasis on the positives

Merits and Demerits – 1000 vs 60 a day

Explicit, proactive and positive instruction- they know what’s expected of them

On Patrol and Reflections

Same Day Detentions

# Electives and Enrichment

Community

Empathy

Respect

Excellence

Determination





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# Inclusive Gifted and Talented

- Programme of lectures and workshops with all subjects covered going beyond the curriculum
- Data used to identify student participants, but everyone can sign up



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# Inclusive Gifted and Talented

## Beak Buffet

Free Event with staff from the University of Reading – 3:45-4:45pm, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



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# Oracy, SHAPE, STEPS and ABCQ

- Poetry
- Dining
- Manners-Posters
- Insistence by all
- Manners, public speaking and respect are ingrained into our systems by everyone

# The River Way

Developing our knowledge, skills and character...



...so that we can go on to lead happy, successful lives, as drivers of our own destinies.



## Manners and Oracy At River Academy

### STEPS

**Polite and Respectful**

- S Sir / Miss
- T Thank you
- E Excuse me
- P Please
- S Smile

### SHAPE

**Confident and Clear**

- S Sentences
- H Hands
- A Articulate
- P Projection
- E Eyes

### ABCQ

**Formal and Extended**

- A Add
- B Build
- C Contest
- Q Question

"It only takes one voice, at the right pitch,  
to start an avalanche."

Dianna Hardy

Sit like a **STAR** 



Sit up tall



Track the speaker



Ask and answer questions



Respect those around you



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# The Bridge – MLD Resource Base

- 7 EHCP MLD students
- 1 teacher, 2 TAs
- Core Curriculum subjects taught in class of 7
- Tech and PE lessons in mainstream
- Art, Computing, Music taught by subject specialist
- Bespoke interventions
- Attendance well over 90%
- Inclusion and integration into mainstream:
  - Line-ups and assemblies
  - Electives and extra-curricular
  - Social mixing out of lessons



**THE BRIDGE**

RIVER ACADEMY



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# SEND

- Quality First Teaching; teacher-led lessons via visualiser and bookletised curriculum
- Consistency, calm compliance, quiet focus increase access to taught content
- Maximising time spent in class, building resilience, self-esteem, good learning habits
- Teachers follow strategies on SEN Support Plans and Passports
- Teachers know and monitor students with SEND
- TAs not deployed in class; support with interventions building skills and resilience
- Students with SEND have equal access to broad offer of extra-curricular activities
- No anxiety spaces, all students expected to go to every lesson
- Interventions targeted around non-core lessons such as Supported Study



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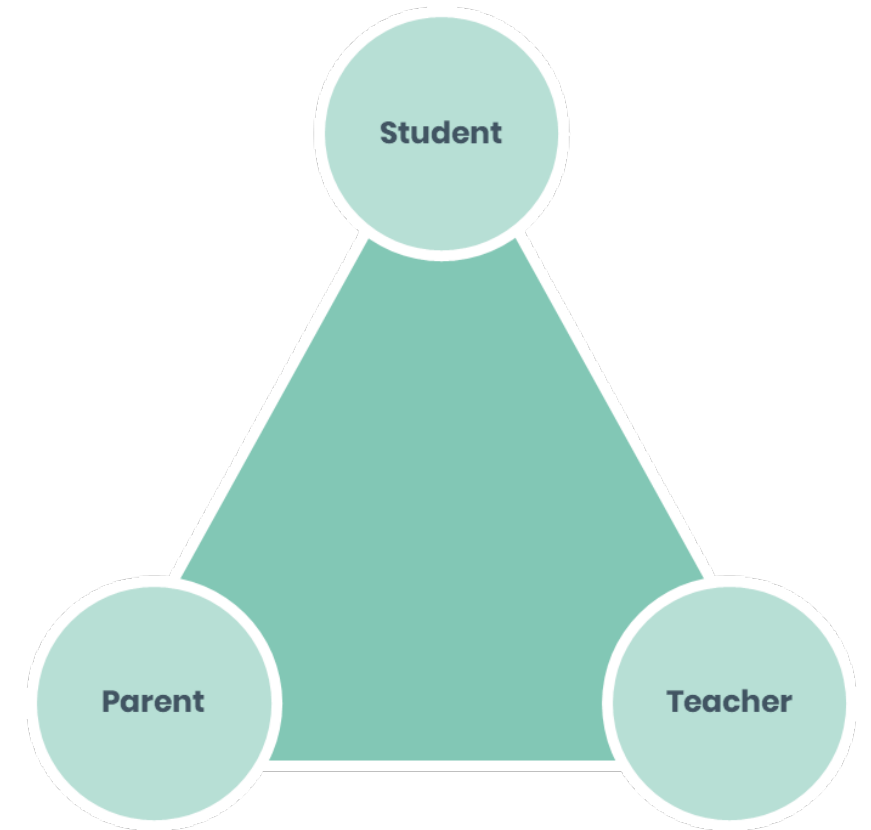
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# The Parents' Role

- 1:1 meeting before you begin 17-19 July
- Check the Homework App
- Ensure uniform is correct
- Clear communication if there are issues
- Be ready to come in to discuss matters face to face



< **Caversham Gossip Girls**  
Anonymous member · 8 Oct · 📷

Would really appreciate your insights on the new River Academy as nearing deadline for Year 7 applications for 2025!

👍 Like    💬 Comment    📧 Send

👍 5


All comments ▾

 **Lisa Russell**  
Top contributor

My daughter is absolutely loving it and settled well in The Bridge. Very strict on uniform and timings (they don't like lateness!) to get things done but I am finding the staff are very supportive, the teachers are very good and professional and head teacher is very approachable. It is very early days still but the school itself is lovely and they have a great ethos for helping each other when needed.


1w Like Reply 📷 📷 📷 6 👍

< **Caversham Gossip Girls**  
Anonymous member · 8 Oct · 📷

 **Claire Bray**  
Top contributor

I know that the Head used to be the head at Chilten Edge and he was amazing. He is strict but maybe I'm old fashioned but kids need it nowadays.


1w Like Reply 6 👍

 **Lucy Turner**

My son is absolutely loving it. The staff are a close knit team who have clearly enjoyed 'building' this new school. Like any workplace where the staff are happy and work well together, this has had a knock on effect to the children. It feels like everyone is proud of the school and are totally committed to making it work. My son says he can't think of anything negative to say about it at all and I am so so glad we were lucky enough to get a place for him at River. I'd say it's going to be a fight to get in next year with the amount of people there were viewing g it at the open evening. The head has had to put on extra open days as so many people are interested!

1w Like Reply 1 👍

< **Caversham Gossip Girls**  
Anonymous member · 8 Oct · 📷

 **Susan Jones**  
Top contributor

My daughter goes there and was really struggling in primary school. The strictness seems to work as the school is calm and kids know what to expect. Same teacher for all 3 humanities, she knows all the staff already, which is a massive bonus for her. Her only issue is making friends as all her friends went to Highdown, where my eldest is but school are helping with that. She does piano as the weds afternoon club

1w Like Reply 📷 📷 📷 3 ❤️

Previous attachment

< **Caversham Gossip Girls**  
Anonymous member · 8 Oct · 📷

 **Hayley Morris**

We love it. And our son loves it. It is strict, but it's about making sure the kids can focus on learning without disruption. I really like the ethos of the school and lots of things that they do differently.... A school poem, 'family dining' (discussions over lunch), compulsory after school club once a week. The facilities and teachers are fabulous.

1w Like Reply 📷 📷 📷 3 👍



Students:

What is the best thing about  
River Academy?





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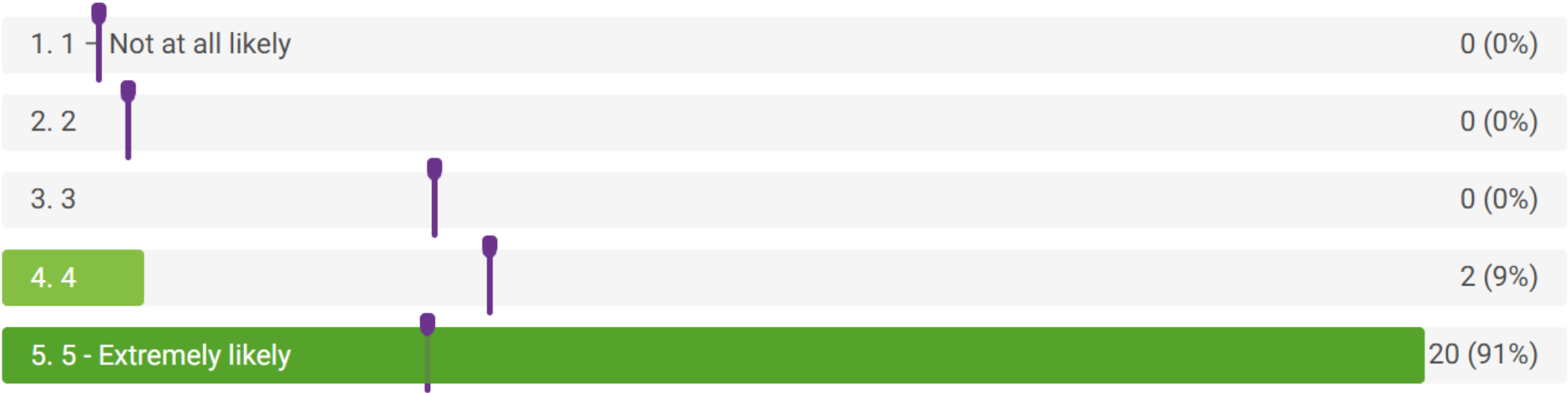
**RIVER**  
**ACADEMY**

# STAFF: What is the best thing about River Academy

- Everyone working to always be better
- Calm, ordered classrooms
- High level thinking
- We've pushed that rock up the hill together EVERY DAY
- The relationships I have started to build with the students
- Everyone following the River Way
- Every lesson being calm and productive
- Proud to part of such a supportive team
- Proud that I have built up my confidence in what I am doing
- Proud to have set up successful reception team
- The way that the River Way supports our SEN students through QFT
- The progress of the kids this half term
- How hard everyone has worked to make it happen
- Overcoming challenges
- Positive relationships with parents and students
- Building community relationships; B&K
- Upkeep of the building
- Set up SEN base and team to support our students

50) On a scale from 1-5, how likely are you to recommend this school to parents as a good place for their children to study?

Compare by subgroup ▼ ■ Maiden Erlegh Trust - Feb 2024 22 responses

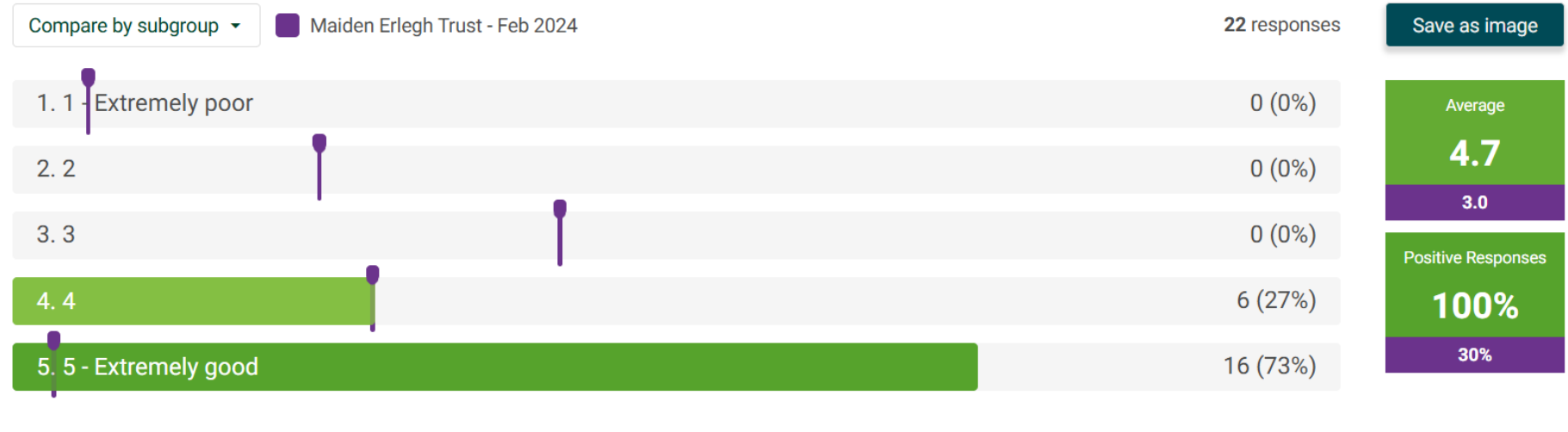


Save as image

Average  
**4.9**  
3.7

Positive Responses  
**100%**  
58%

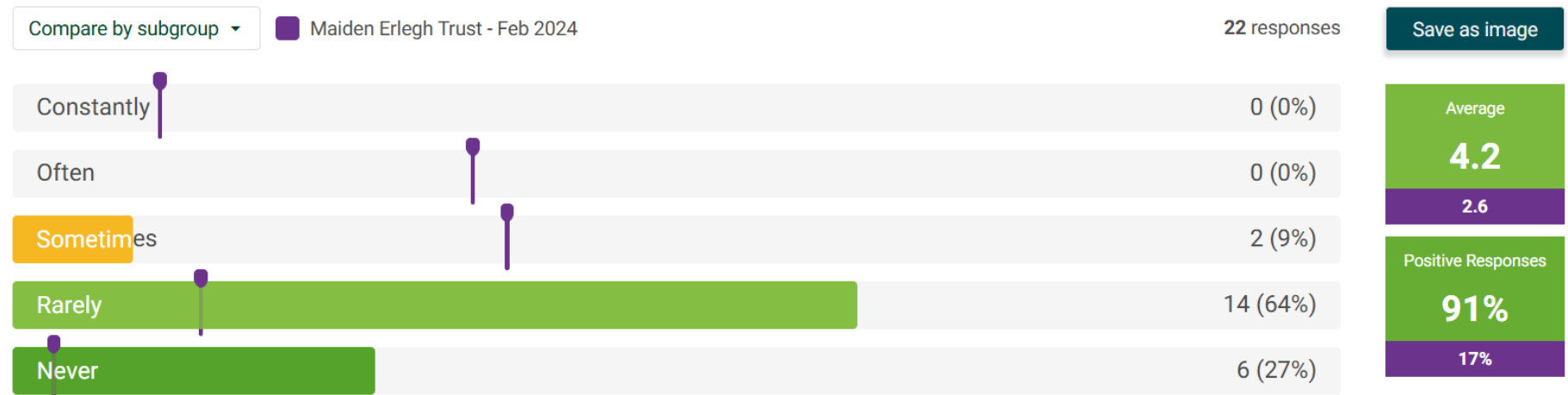
### 36) On a scale from 1-5, how would you describe student behaviour across the school?



Comments: 1

This question is loaded if respondent has answered "School staff" on question "1) Please indicate your role in Maiden Erlegh Trust."

### 37) How often is your work disrupted by poor student behaviour?



**Strengths: top three results ?**

<b>95%</b>	Informing parents 9) How informed do you feel with regard to your child's attendance?	<b>65%</b>	Parents' evenings 21) How easy or difficult is it for you to attend school events? Please comment to tell us why.
<b>94%</b>	Mutual trust and respect 28) How confident are you that your child's teachers are able to keep your child safe?	<b>51%</b>	School accessibility 18) How often do you see that your feedback to the school has impact?
<b>92%</b>	Pupil needs 26) How does the school's approach to attendance fit your child's needs?	<b>49%</b>	Informing parents 11) How informed do you feel with regard to how your child is doing socially at school?

**Weaknesses: bottom three results****Top three results, compared to benchmark ?**

<b>+39%</b>	Informing parents 7) How informed do you feel with regard to your child's homework?	<b>-1%</b>	Parental confidence 32) How interested would you be to receive suggestions on how to support your child's learning and development?
<b>+34%</b>	Informing parents 6) How informed do you feel with regard to your child's learning progress?	<b>-1%</b>	Parents' evenings 21) How easy or difficult is it for you to attend school events? Please comment to tell us why.
<b>+34%</b>	Relationship with the Trust 37) How confident are you that being part of the Maiden Erlegh Trust is beneficial for pupils?	<b>-1%</b>	Relationship with the Trust 35) Your child's school is part of a group of schools working together in a multi-academy trust. Are you aware of this?

**Bottom three results, compared to benchmark**

# Metrics



RIVER ACADEMY

- Very low staff absence – no external cover used all year
- Overall attendance – 95.2%
- SEND students thriving- attendance and progress
- Junior Maths Challenge- 66% of participants gained awards
- Student engagement in Sparx Maths/Sparx Reader – Top 5 in the country every week out of 2900 schools
- Girls' Sport – 65% turn out!
- Waiting list for September - 40+ and 13 appeals
- Very low parental complaints
- External interest – Visits most weeks from fellow educators

Listening and  
improving



Homework  
Sparx  
Dining  
Catch Up Club  
Electives  
Skirts

Any questions

