



RIVER ACADEMY

Offers Day Update

Tuesday 05 March 2024



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together

Welcome and outline of this evening

- Updates
- Admissions
- Questions - the Q&A function will be open!

So much progress!

- Staffing
- Site
- The Department of Education input
- Behaviour expectations
- Teaching and Learning
- The Additional Resource Base and EHCP applications
- The River parent- your role!
- Community work
- The School Advisory Board
- The school day
- Admissions and what next

Headteacher – Andy Hartley



- Full time from 1 January 2024
- Very busy!!

Department for Education

- 30 January 2024 - Pre-opening checkpoint meeting
- 22 February 2024 - Pre-funding agreement signed off



Department
for Education

Staffing – Deputy Headteacher

We would like to welcome Laura Billingham, as our new Deputy Headteacher.

Laura is currently at The Hurst School in Tadley and has a wealth of experience in leading curriculum development, subject leadership and teaching and learning. In a very strong field, Laura impressed everyone on the interview day with a combination of her technical knowledge, wide understanding of education and the current issues in this sector, her passion for the River Academy project and her positive personality.



Staffing – Assistant Headteacher

We are thrilled to announce Becky Clarke was appointed as Assistant Headteacher.

Becky will lead our SEND department, oversee our Additional Resource Base and act as Designated Safeguarding Lead. Becky comes to the River Academy project after over 8 years at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading where she has been SENCO and has performed the role with zest, zeal, and great aplomb at all times. Throughout the interview process Becky demonstrated her knowledge of all things SEND, her love of working with young people, her ability to lead change and get results.



Staffing – Head of Year 7

River Academy is delighted to announce Christina Moore has been appointed to be our new Head of Year 7.

Christina is a skilled pastoral leader who brings enthusiasm, energy and a long track record of success to her new role. We know that our first intake of students will not only be in safe hands, they will also be pushed to be the very best version of themselves under Christina's experienced leadership.



Staffing

- Head of Maths
- Head of English
- Head of Science
- Head of Technology
- Head of PE
- Head of Humanities

Site

Outside

Inside

Flooding















Ark Soane
Academy

Visits to other schools

- Michaela School- Wembley Park
- Bedford Free School- Central Bedford
- The Swan School- Oxford- serving one of the most deprived areas
- Ark Soanes Academy- Gunnersbury Park
- Park House School- Newbury- serving Greenham and the Willows
- Inspiration, methodology, commonality, leadership styles, student attitudes



MICHAELA
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Behaviour systems

- Clear routines / high expectations
- Silent working
- An expectation to work and engage in each lesson
- 2 warnings and reflection
- Calm corridors
- Line-ups
- Equipment and uniform expectations

Teaching and Learning

- Booklets to ensure consistency of delivery and outcomes
- Stand-up desks for visualisers / modelling and scaffolds
- Whole class feedback
- Do now
- Learn key facts and retrieval practice
- First thoughts/Silent solo
- Turn and talk
- No hands-up questioning
- Cold calling
- Repeat questioning
- Instructions questioning
- Mini white boards
- Ratio
- I/We/You
- Eyes on me / Give me your best
- Choral responses
- Active observation
- Rewards- notice the good stuff!

Homework

- Learning material from the lessons - explain, analyse and evaluate impossible otherwise
- Understand key vocabulary
- Sparx Maths
- 1 hour a week of supported study in school
- Everyone keeps up!
- Catch Up Club - Friday

Celebration Fridays

- 55-minute lessons
- Shorter lunch
- Earlier finish
- Finish with an assembly where we celebrate the week



Support

- Uniform
- Tools for Learning
- Behaviour Mentor
- Family Liaison Officer
- Attendance Officer
- TAs
- Communication will be the key



The school day and 'Electives'

- Monday , Tuesday and Thursday:
9.10am - 3.35pm
- Wednesday: 9.10am - 4.30pm
- Friday: 9.10am - 3.15pm

WEEK
at a glance

Mon	
Tue	
Wed	
Thurs	
Fri	

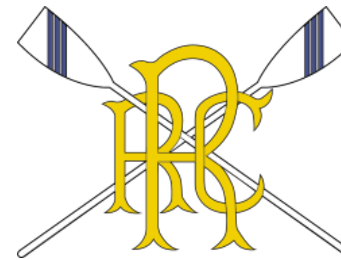
Building belonging and community rapid interventions

- House system
- Family dining
- Meet and greet
- Manners matter
- House points
- Active observation
- Celebration assemblies each week - 55-minute Friday
- Golden phone calls each week x2
- Same day detention system
- Reflection space
- Catch-up club on a Friday



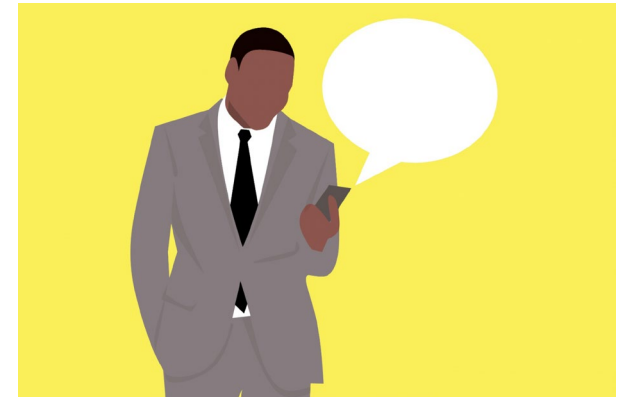
Community relations – a school for the community

- Rivermead
- Reading Rowing Club
- Readipop
- Abu Bakr Mosque
- Sports Clubs- BJBA, Reading Rockets, Berkshire Cricket
- Ethical Reading
- Local religious communities
- Neighbourhood Associations
- Councillors and the local MP



Key messages to parents

- Inclusive but highly aspirational
- A 'Maiden Erlegh' school - curriculum, ethos, support, achievement
- Strong behaviour culture
- A defined pedagogical style with participation and contribution expected
- Not an SEN school
- Extra-curricular opportunity - the 'Electives' programme
- Expect to be involved!



Phones

- They will not be allowed to be visible in the school day
- If confiscated there will be a system of parents having to collect



Parental community involvement

- We will be looking for parents to be involved in our SAB and will be sending something out after Easter.
- PTA - Reading Festival stall / quiz nights etc



September Week 1 and 2 – Matriculation

- Transition – **Tuesday 9 July 2024** with parent meeting in the same week
- Week 1 and timetable freedoms
- Assemblies
- Rehearsals for each stage of the day including lesson start and ends
- Drip feeding - daily line ups, screens, assemblies, newsletters, Monday morning slides
- Line-ups, calm transitions, meet and greet, tools for learning, uniform
- In the classroom - clear expectations and clear sanction systems modelled
- Ice breakers and team events
- Group singing , sports afternoon
- Biometrics, log ins, photos
- Family dining
- Codifying our key messages
- Letting parents in on the secret- 1:1 meetings with each family
- Outdoor education visit- team building and fun

Additional Resource Base and EHCPs

- 7 students per year
- Moderate Learning Difficulties (Year 3 levels for example)
- On the River Academy site but in a separate space
- Resource Base students will come to some lessons
- Part of our community
- The admission process is entirely separate

Questions?

Victoria Hannington from Brighter Futures for Children is here to talk about admissions and will answer any generic queries about the admissions process.

Before I hand over to her, do you have any questions about what has been covered so far?



Admissions

Victoria Hannington - Admissions Manager - Brighter Futures for Children



School Admissions

Parents who submitted an on-time application received 1 of 3 emails:

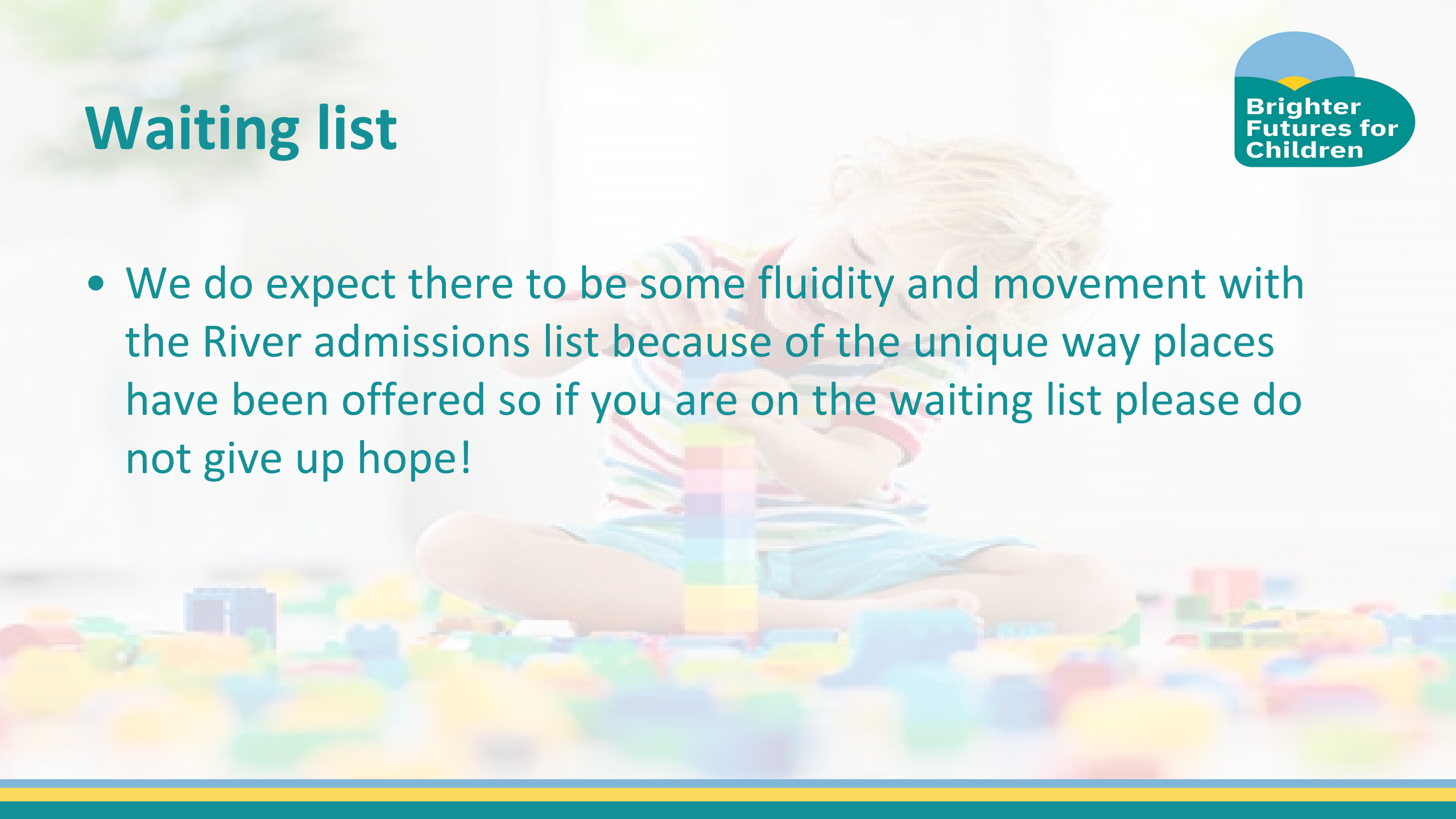
- Dual offer of a place at River and a place at a school listed on their main Local Authority Application
- An offer just at River Academy
- No offer email for River Academy

- Anyone who had an offer at River Academy has until the 15 March to accept the offer.
- Children not offered a place at River Academy are automatically added to the waiting list for the school. Parents can email admissions@brighterfuturesforchildren.org if they wish to be removed from the waiting list

Waiting list



- We do expect there to be some fluidity and movement with the River admissions list because of the unique way places have been offered so if you are on the waiting list please do not give up hope!



**Thank you and any generic
questions?
We are unable to answer
individual queries**