



RIVER ACADEMY
Issue 1

Headteacher's Update

5 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, that is the end of Week 1!

It has been a glorious week in so many ways, and we have been delighted with the students from the very outset.

Wednesday dawned drizzly and blustery, but the rain just about held off as we greeted the students and got them into tutor groups and despite one wet lunchtime, we have been fortunate across the rest of the week. The week has culminated in a fantastic interhouse tournament in the sunshine as we continue to work on team building and our River value of 'community.'

The first few days at River Academy is very much about setting the standards, letting students in our secrets and how things work. We take time to rehearse and walk through our procedures, to orientate the students to the building and how we move and transition at busy times. By doing this we reduce the possibility of things going wrong when lessons begin and students have much of the uncertainty of secondary education removed by their presence and participation in these crucial days.

We know our dining is a different system, but we have given the students slightly extended lunches to get used to our system and it has been great to see them queueing up, tidying tables, and participating in our lunch activities with real gusto. I hope everyone who needs a ParentPay log in now has one so the students can enjoy our lovely, nutritious food and make the most of our River lunchtimes.

Thank you all for your work on uniforms, ensuring your sons and daughters are 'River ready.' As far as I can tell, we have just had a few earrings, one pair of shoes and a haircut to communicate with home about but other than that, the students have been attired incredibly smartly and have worn their uniform with the pride it deserves.

In every sense the new Year 7s have risen to every challenge we have presented. They have listened, they have sat alertly, they have said "Good Morning" and "Have a good evening" with incredible consistency, eye contact, and a smile. It is apparent that they and yourselves have taken time to read our information booklets, absorb our presentations and discuss our expectations. As a result, this year group are already standing out as young people who will be prepared to study hard, speak confidently, develop their characters, and become true River Academy citizens.

Dates for your diary

We will be holding a 'Welcome to Year 7 presentation event at 6pm on Wednesday 17th September at 6pm in the school hall. A letter from Miss Moore, the Head of Year 7, will confirm this and some other key details and

will be sent out next week but please do mark the date in your diary.

Car Park

Please can I ask that from Monday, parents do not use the school car park for drop offs unless there is a medical or mobility reason. Please use the Rivermead Garden Centre/ Rivermead overflow car par and walk round to school from there. From Monday, with the return of Year 8, the car park will be too busy. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday at 9.05am.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Andy Hartley

Headteacher