



**RIVER ACADEMY**  
Issue 4

## Headteacher's Update

26 September 2025

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope you've had a good week and enjoyed the fresh, cool mornings.

It's been a fantastic week at River Academy, with many positives to take into the weekend.

### Year 8 Welcome Event

Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 8 Welcome Evening on Thursday. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout. For those who couldn't make it, the presentation slides are included in this mailshot.

The key message of the evening was clear: Year 8 achieved a great deal last year, and we are committed to building on that success. While many schools accept the so-called "Year 8 dip" as part of the secondary journey, we are determined to ensure this year becomes a springboard for even greater academic and personal growth.

One exciting part of our Year 8 offer is the **Year 8 Baccalaureate**, which focuses on developing students' character and transferable skills alongside academic achievement. Mr Rosser will be in touch with more details soon.

### Technology Donations & Ingredients Payments

Thank you for your fantastic engagement with our food technology initiative. Over 300 of our 374 pupils have opted in, allowing us to purchase ingredients centrally. We'll be contacting families who haven't yet contributed to confirm how they'd like to proceed.

[River Academy - Year 7](#)

[River Academy - Year 8](#)

### PTA Relaunch

Our PTA is gearing up for the new school year and will hold its first meeting on **Tuesday, October 14th**

at 6pm at school. We'll be discussing fundraising ideas for the year ahead. If you'd like to get involved, please contact our chair, Carol, at [riveracademypta@gmail.com](mailto:riveracademypta@gmail.com). All funds raised go directly to student-focused initiatives, and any support is warmly appreciated.

## Dining Arrangements

We've continued refining our dining setup and are pleased with how things are running. I've had a few queries from parents and want to reassure you that you're welcome to visit and see our lunchtime arrangements in action. If interested, please contact the office via the River Academy email address to arrange a suitable time.

## Open Evening – Wednesday

Thank you to all parents who have allowed their children to help at next week's Open Evening. This is a key event in our calendar, and we're grateful for student support in showcasing our school. **Please note: school will close at 1.30pm on Wednesday** to allow staff time to prepare. We encourage your child to sign up as a helper using the link on the Open Evening Student Permission Letter here:

[River Academy - Whole School Letters](#)

## Communication with School

A gentle reminder: when contacting the school, please ensure your tone remains respectful. Our staff work incredibly hard and care deeply about every child's welfare and success. While differing opinions are natural, raising voices or being rude is not acceptable. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## Silver Programme Events

It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout for our first after-school **Silver Programme** event. Thank you to Dr Dukinfield for leading the Year 7 climate change workshop.



Next up: **Year 8 students are invited to an “Introduction to Latin” workshop on Monday, September 29th.** This is a great opportunity for those curious about careers in law, medicine, science, history—or anyone simply interested in exploring this ancient language.

# Latin for Beginners

Monday 29th September 3:45pm–4:45pm, Room 1.66

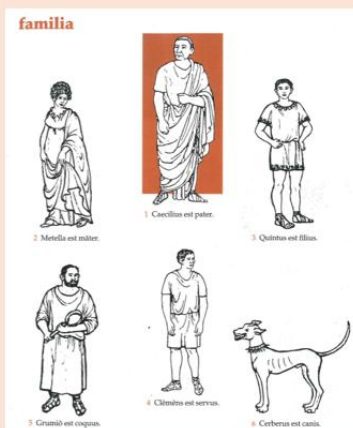


Silver Programme

Interested in the history of the English language? Keen to make connections with other languages? Come along and learn about the language and culture of Caecilius and his Roman family in this Latin for Beginners' session!

Sign up required – outside 1.66

Free event!



Y8 ONLY



The front of Caecilius' house. The spaces on either side of the door were shops he probably owned.

## Caecilius

Caecilius lived in Italy during the first century A.D. in the town of Pompeii. The town was situated at the foot of Mount Vesuvius on the coast of the Bay of Naples, and may have had a population of about 10,000. Caecilius was a rich Pompeian banker. When archaeologists excavated his house they discovered his accounts in a strong-box. These documents tell us that he was also an auctioneer, tax-collector, farmer and money-lender.

Speak to Mrs Clarke if you have any questions.

Wishing you a restful weekend and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

**Andy Hartley**

Headteacher