



## Headteacher's Update

3 October 2025

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope you are all well and have had a good week.

### Open Evening

We had another very busy Open Evening this week, with hundreds of families visiting the school. One of the most pleasing aspects was the incredible number of student volunteers—around 150—who helped us throughout the event. Their enthusiasm and pride in wearing the River Academy badge were truly heart-warming.

Many parents commented on how impressive our student guides were. A special thank you goes to **Marios** and **Jacinth**, who played the piano and harp respectively as families arrived, creating a beautiful atmosphere. I'd also like to commend **Nadia** and **Alman** for their outstanding speeches about why they love River Academy. Their oracy and writing were exceptional, and I listened with great pride each time they spoke.



### Break-times

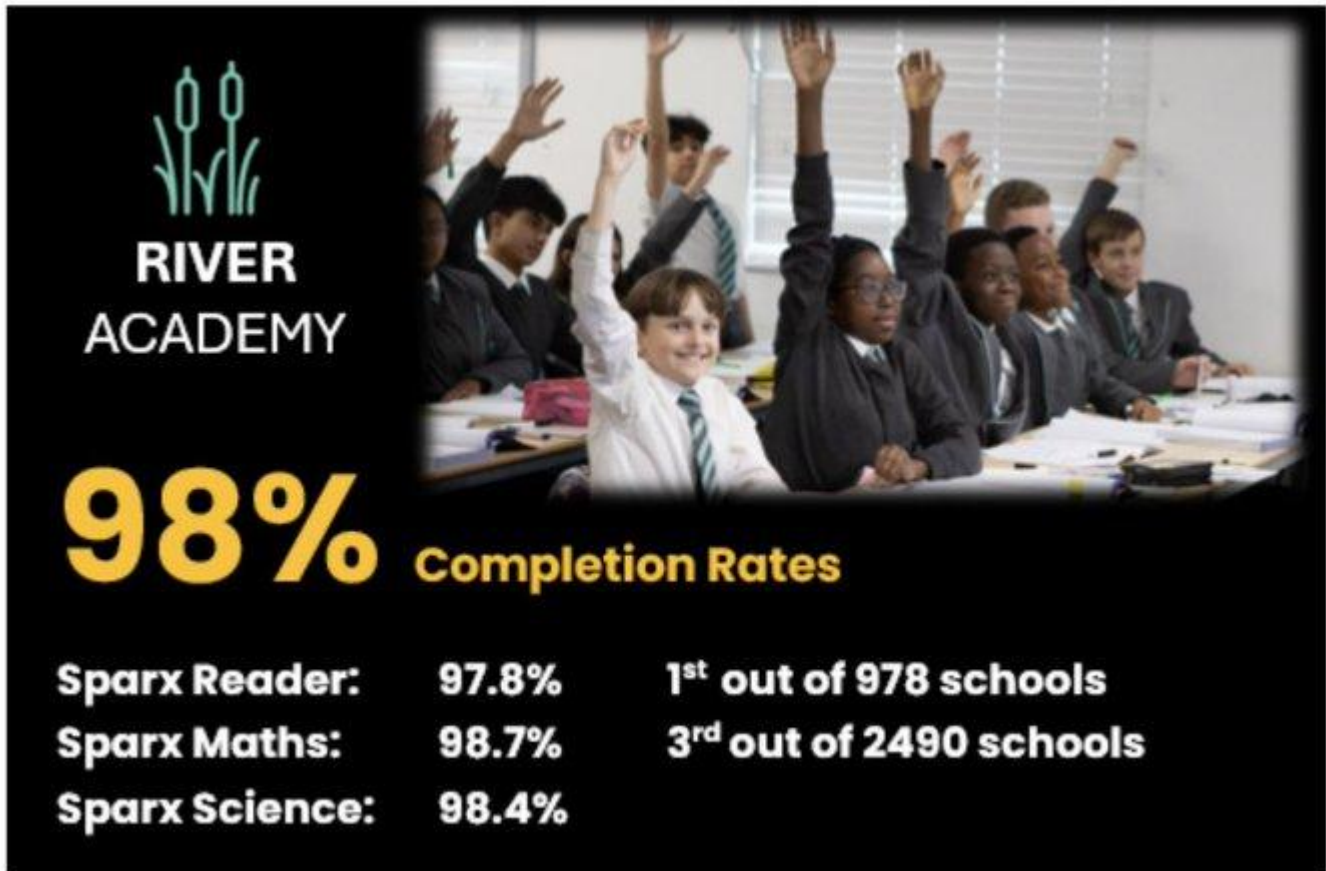
We've used a small amount of leftover budget from last year to purchase chess sets, a badminton net, and basketball hoops for students to enjoy during break and lunch. It's lovely to see so many students engaged in these activities—having fun, relaxing, and letting off steam.

One of our new staff members described break and lunchtimes as "joyous," especially compared to the "edgy" atmosphere at her previous school!



## Sparx

Thank you to everyone—parents, students, and staff—who supported the big relaunch of **Sparx**. River Academy's performance in last week's league tables was as strong as ever. This regular practice, retrieval, and consolidation leads to excellent growth and improvement, as shown in last year's cross-trust assessment scores.



## Half-Term Dates

Just to clarify: the last day of school for students is **Tuesday 21st October**, and they return on **Monday 3rd November**. This extended half-term, adopted across all Maiden Erlegh schools, is designed to support both staff and students through the long autumn term.

## Rugby and Clubs

The first rugby fixtures of the season took place this week:

- **Year 7 boys** were clear winners against St Crispin's School, Wokingham, and Reading School.
- **Year 8 boys** beat The Forest School and drew with The Willink—an unbeaten week!

Next week, the girls kick off their football fixtures, which promises to be exciting



Club attendance has been fantastic, and it's a pleasure to see so many students participating. Please check the student bulletin to ensure your child isn't missing out on any opportunities.

### **Meet the Tutor evening – Year 7- October 16<sup>th</sup>**

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Meet the Tutor evening in a couple of weeks. A separate communication has gone home regarding this matter. This event will provide you with a brief snapshot of how each child is settling into secondary school and it is a good opportunity to make the connection with your child's tutor.

### **PTA Meeting**

Don't forget our first **PTA meeting** of the year: 📅 **October 14th at 6 pm**

📍 In school

**Have a fantastic weekend, whatever the weather brings!**

Warm regards,

**Andy Hartley**

Headteacher