



RIVER ACADEMY

## Student Bulletin

### What's on next week?

### Week 1

### 13-17 October 2025

#### School timings:

Please be reminded of our school timings below:

Mon, Tues & Thurs		Wed		Fri	
09:10-9:30	Tutor	09:10-09:30	Tutor	09:10-10:05	Lesson 1
09:30-10:30	Lesson 1	09:30-10:30	Lesson 1	10:05-11:00	Lesson 2
10:30-10:50	Break	10:30-10:50	Break	11:00-11:20	Break
10:50-11:50	Lesson 2	10:50-11:50	Lesson 2	11:20-12:15	Lesson 3
11:50-12:50	Lesson 3	11:50-12:50	Lesson 3	12:15-13:05	Lunch
12:50-13:40	Lunch	12:50-13:40	Lunch	13:05-14:00	Lesson 4
13:40-14:35	Lesson 4	13:40-14:35	Lesson 4	14:00-14:55	Lesson 5
14:35-15:35	Lesson 5	14:35-15:35	Lesson 5	14:55-15:15	Celebration Assembly
		15:35-16:30	Elective		

#### Canteen Menu:



RIVER ACADEMY

WEEK ONE



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main Course</b>	Pasta Bolognaise Garlic Bread Broccoli	Chicken Teriyaki Noodles Mixed Vegetables	Chicken Burger in a Bun Potato Wedges Sweetcorn	Pork Sausage Creamy Mash Carrots Gravy	Chip Shop Friday
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Pasta with a Tomato & Basil Sauce Garlic Bread Broccoli	Quorn & Vegetable Teriyaki Noodles Mixed Vegetables	Vegi Burger in a Bun Potato Wedges Sweetcorn	Quorn Sausage & Mash Carrots Gravy	Cheese & Onion Pastie
<b>Jackets</b>	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad
<b>Dessert of the Day</b>	Apple & Raspberry Crumble Custard	Iced Sponge	Chocolate Brownie Chocolate Sauce	Jam Sponge Custard	Jam Donuts
<b>Dessert Alternative</b>	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie

Please ask for more information if you have any allergies.

## PE Updates!

What a busy 7 days we have had here at River. By the time you have read this, we will have had 2 rugby fixtures, 1 girls football fixture, basketball club before school, badminton coaching and Reading Rockets!!

### In lesson reminders:

I am extremely happy with the way lessons are going so far this term. We have also been really lucky for a local coaching company to come in and deliver some rugby lessons for us and I know how well the children have received these coaches and learnt from their advice on how to improve.

Please remember that the kit expectations are either long **black** socks and shorts or black track-suit bottoms. With the weather turning colder, layers such as jumpers are encouraged.

### Year 8 Rugby continues the River flow!



In line up last week, Mrs Billingham challenged the Year 8 rugby team to follow in the footsteps of the Year 7's and they absolutely rose to the challenge! We faced off against two excellent rugby schools in the Willink and Forest, all with huge numbers in their year groups and with both schools having local access to external rugby clubs such as Reading and Tadley. This did not prevent the River team from going into the game with extremely high confidence and it certainly showed! A gritty draw against the Willink which could've

gone either way was a great start, but what followed, no one expected! Flying out of the blocks against Forest, we raced into an early 15-0 lead, with Nabil, Maks and Teodor showing excellent support play and wonderful running skills. As is the way in sport, nothing ever goes 100% your way and Forest scored two quick tries to get them back into the game. However, we did not let our heads drop and two tries later, again from Nabil and Chetan meant we ran out 25-15 winners. The defensive work rate as well as the support play in attack was exemplary and its so amazing to see some proper rugby being played (albeit touch)! By the time you've read this, we will have played Theale and MES, so stay tuned for updates next week!

### Year 7's pick up where they left off

On Tuesday of this week, we travelled to our local Trust rivals, MES, for another hard-fought victory. With some new faces in the team, they did not gel as well as last week and there were a few mistakes in our play, with knock-ons and forward passes. But it's a common phrase in sport that if you still win badly whilst playing well, you know you have the makings of a great team, and this is exactly what this River team does. Despite not being the most fluent, aesthetic or even co-ordinated game, we still found a way to score 4 tries and come out 20-15 winners against a strong sporting school in MES. Tries from Ed, Hussnain and Caleb meant we held our nerve to come through a tough game. Onto next week, where we host MES-A team, which will prove a stern test, as well as Piggot who are again a very strong sporting school.

Just as an FYI, we play a version of touch rugby called T1, which is an emerging game launched by the RFU. Any information on this can be found here:

[T1 Rugby \(Non-contact\) | Rugby Football Union](#)

### Girls Football Record Attendance!

37, yes 37, Year 7 and Year 8 girls attended football this Tuesday as their fixtures begin soon. What an amazing turn out and full credit must go to Miss Moore for creating such a warm and welcoming environment. I know Miss Moore has been working so hard on positioning and tactical play throughout her training sessions. Its important that the team understand special awareness and why when they're not on the ball or in possession, its still important they hold their position to create space on the pitch. This in turn allows the player in possession to either move into that space or to shoot. We are working hard with students to understand how the actions they perform impact the match. With our Year 8's starting their league campaign this week against Oakbank and local rivals Highdown, I am so excited to see how they will get on. A write-up will be included in next week's bulletin. The full set of fixtures can be seen below, of which there are loads!!!!

### Basketballers showcase new talent

Basketball club was lower in numbers this week which was disappointing to see, but full credit to those who get up early and come and shoot some hoops! This week, we looked at shooting and positioning off the ball. I was telling the students that even though they may not be in possession of the ball, they can still affect the game either through moving a defender out of position or through getting into space themselves to receive a pass. With fixtures starting at the end of November, it would be amazing to see as many students there as possible, so if you're an early riser please come along for an 8am start in your PE kit.

### Reading Rockets Take Off!

It has been amazing to see so many students show interest in our Reading Rockets program every Friday. I had 40+ applicants for a program that only can only have 20 max. I know how taken aback the coaches are with how awesome our students are, and full credit must go to them for their work ethics, manners and being generally great ambassadors for the school. The club will pass over to Year 8's next term and sign ups will be coming out in the coming weeks.

### Badminton a Smash Hit!

We are also extremely lucky to have a new club this year, with some of Year 8 students being fortunate enough to receive some professional badminton coaching every Tuesday after-school. Whilst myself, Mr Dukinfield and Miss Moore do a great job in lessons and in electives, the students are really benefitting from specialized coaching every week and it has again been wonderful to see the uptake in this being so strong and popular.

Here are the upcoming fixtures across the year. Netball and athletics have not yet been released.

### Fixture dates:

U12 Girls football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Oakbank/Maiden Erlegh/Bohunt	Oakbank
20 <sup>th</sup> November	JMA/Abbey/Maiden Erlegh School	JMA
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Denefield/Prospect/Maiden Erlegh	Denefield
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Wren/Little Heath A and B	Wren

U14 Girls football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Highdown/Oakbank	River
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Wren/Bohunt	Wren
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Blessed/Reading Girls	Blessed High
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Denefield/Little Heath-B	Denefield

U12 Basketball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
19 <sup>th</sup> November (requested to 18 <sup>th</sup> )	Oakbank	Oakbank
9 <sup>th</sup> December	BHF-A	River
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Denefield	Denefield
13 <sup>th</sup> January	BHF-B	River
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Bohunt	Bohunt
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Little Heath-A	Little Heath

U14 Basketball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Bohunt	Bohunt
4 <sup>th</sup> December	BHF	River
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Theale	River
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Prospect	River
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Denefield	River
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Little Heath	Little Heath

U12 Boys Football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Denefield/Highdown	Denefield
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Wren/Willink	Wren
17 <sup>th</sup> March	BHF/Little Heath	River
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Prospect/Theale	Prospect
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Finals/TBC	TBC

U13 Boys Football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Denefield/Highdown	River
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Willink/Wren	Willink
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Little Heath/BHF	Little Heath
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Prospect/Theale	River
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Semi's	TBC

# Achievements of the Week

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

## Attendance

7 Thames  
7 Bridge

99.6%  
98.7%

8 Loddon 96%  
8 Avon/Lamb 94%



## Top Merits

7 Loddon 1935 merits  
8 Loddon 1660 merits



## Sparx Heroes

Year 7

Year 8

Reader Science Maths

Alakai	Solomon	Saanvi M	Kai
Aniya	Sofia	Robbie	Nahrelle
Maisie	Aleema	Ruqayyah	Tymon
Charlie S	Izna	Hazel	Jacob D
Ruby	Tyrus	Arabella	Nahrelle
Sophie	Liora	Ruqayyah	Humzah
Niivedd	Pranav	Saanvi M	Jacob D
Nikita	Sofia	Alyssa	Rosalind
Katie	Elizabeth	Nabil	Benas
Lily-May		Kya	



## Subject Roll of Honour

Year 7

Year 8

Maths	Aashritha	Evelyn T
English	Maddi	Jacob D
Science	Evita	Aariz
History	Domenik	Scarlett P & Shakira
Geography	Vipul	Jake T
RPE	Inas	Rosalind
Art	Miri	
French	Deon	Cameron H
PE	Rijona	Rosalind
Digital Literacy	Holmes	Nabil



## Values Awards

Year 7

Year 8

Community	Shamim	Aimee
Empathy	Erin	Ethan T
Respect	Sofia	Theo L
Excellence	Joe	Nadia & Alman
Determination	Patric	Humzah

## SLT Award

Year 7

Year 8

Inas

Isaiah

#WorkHardPlayHard

# ☀ Morning Challenge! ☀



Start your day with some good vibes!  
Come find **Mr. Mo** in the canteen  
in the morning (**before 9:05am**)  
to say '**Good Morning!**' (better with a lovely smile)  
and share a little about **how your evening went.**



Just like Mx Bowler's secret task,  
you'll earn **1 merit** for spreading  
positivity and connection!

So bring your smiles, your stories,  
and your best morning energy.

Let's make mornings awesome! 😊 ✨



## School Clubs



### Tuesday

Girls football - Tuesday 15.35-16.35.

Y8 badminton – 15.35-17.00. This is sign up only and is now full for this term.

Choir- 15.45-16.45 in room 0.62 and all are welcome.

Homework Club- 15.35-16.30 in the LRC.

### Wednesday

Basketball – 08.00-08.45 every Wednesday morning and all are welcome.

### Thursday

Touch rugby – 15.35-16.30 every Thursday after-school and all are welcome.

Homework Club- 15.35-16.30 in the LRC.

Year 8 Book Club- 15.40-16.30 in room 1.24.

### Friday

Reading Rockets basketball - this is Y7 for this term and is fully signed up.

## Monthly Maths House Competition

The answer for September 2025 Maths Problem was 66 seconds (the first chime is at zero seconds).

### Maths Problem of the Month – October 25

Answer the question below. Submit your answer to your form tutor or Mrs Strong by the end of **Tuesday 21st October**. You can only submit one answer. All correct answers will be awarded 3 merits.

One day, Jack came home from the woods with a jar of spiders and beetles. He said that there were 8 creatures in the jar with a total of 54 legs.

3 How many were spiders and how many were beetles?



### Poetry Competition – open to Year 7 and 8!

Are you creative?

Do you love to write?

Do you want to be in with a chance to win some *amazing* prizes (including £250, the chance to have your work published and Apple Airpods)?

If you are interested in entering, get an entry pack from [Ms Myers](#).

All submissions needed to be handed in (handwritten) or emailed (typed) to Ms Myers by the 20th of October.



## Fourbears Reading Challenge! Year 7 - 9

Choose minimum *FIVE* boxes to complete by *1<sup>st</sup> December*. Once you have completed this, pop into Fourbears Books to collect your prize!



**PRIZE** - a free ticket to a private event at Fourbears where we will be decorating Gingerbread Men with free hot chocolate!

If you purchase your books at Fourbears, we will provide a 10% discount



Read a book about a character from a different background	Read " <i>When We Were Lost</i> " by Kevin Wignall	Read your parents favourite book from when they were a teenager	Read " <i>The Martian</i> " (young edition) by Andy Weir
Read " <i>Skulduggery Pleasant</i> " by Derek Landy	Read a book recommended by a teacher	Read " <i>Eragon</i> " by Christopher Paolini	Read a book from a genre you have never read before
Read a book published this year	Read " <i>Murder on a School Night</i> " by Kate Weston	Read a classic book	Read " <i>A Box Full of Murders</i> " by Janice Hallett
Read " <i>Robin Hood</i> " by Robert Muchamore	Read a non-fiction book	Read " <i>Silent Sister</i> " by Megan Davidhizar	Read a book with a colour or food in the title



info@fourbearsbooks.uk



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## Year 8 Book Club

Do you love to read and talk about books?

Come along to the Year 8 book club!

Where? 1.24 (Ms Myers' Year 7 classroom)

When? Thursdays from 3.40-4.30

Our first book will be *The Blue Book of Nebo* by Manon Steffan Ros.



# Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures  
Open to all!



Born twenty miles away in rural Hampshire, Jane Austen attended Reading's Abbey School as a girl, and remained a Thames Valley visitor all her life. Her readers have always noticed how odd it is that someone with a regional background and little formal education produced such brilliant, intelligent writing. How did she do it? And why are her novels still so popular after two and a half centuries? Paddy Bullard, who appeared on the recent BBC documentary 'Jane Austen: Rise of a Genius', will attempt to answer the question.

**Professor Paddy Bullard**  
University of Reading

**Lecture: Jane Austen: how a Reading girl invented the modern novel**

Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November**  
4-5pm  
Arrive by 3.45pm



# Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures  
Open to all!



Join Professor Steve Musson from the Department of Geography & Environmental Science at the University of Reading to explore the changing uses of town and city centres in the UK.

**Professor Steve Musson**  
University of Reading

**Lecture: Why are there so many new apartments in Reading? Exploring the changing uses of town and city centres in the UK**

Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!



**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
4-5pm  
Arrive by 3.45pm



This is a **secret** — AT THE END of your lesson next week with *Mx Bowler* say the **secret password "Robin"** to get a **merit** for reading the student bulletin.



*Taking place this term:*

**Make sure you are signing up to these amazing FREE opportunities!**

RIVER ACADEMY

Silver Programme

Description		Y7/Y8?	Date	Time
Climate Change workshop		Y7 ONLY	25/9/25	3.45-4.45pm
Introduction to Latin		Y8 ONLY	29/9/25	3.45-4.45pm
UKMT Group Challenge workshop (working in teams of 4 trying out Group Challenge sessions)		Y8 ONLY	14/10/25	3.45-4.30pm
Community Lecture: Why are there so many new apartments in Reading? Exploring the changing uses of town and city centres in the UK.		EVERYONE- including parents, carers, staff, students, members of our community.	06/11/25	4-5pm
Intro to sports analysis		Y8 ONLY	13/11/25	3.45-4.45pm
Community lecture: Jane Austen: how a Reading girl invented the modern novel		EVERYONE- including parents, carers, staff, students, members of our community.	27/11/25	4-5pm
Brains behind the brawn		Y7 ONLY	04/12/25	3.45-4.45pm

Speak to Miss Angell if you have any questions.

More details about each session will be shared in the bulletin.



# RIVER CHOIR – Tuesday 15.40 – 16.10

Room 0.63 – All abilities of singing and beatboxing welcome



**RIVER  
ACADEMY**



# 99% Completion Rates

<b>Sparx Reader:</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> out of 978 schools</b>
<b>Sparx Maths:</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> out of 2530 schools</b>
<b>Sparx Science:</b>	<b>99.5%</b>	