



**RIVER ACADEMY**  
**Issue 16**

**Headteacher's Update**

16 January 2026

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope everyone has had a productive week despite the very soggy weather.



**Attendance Achievement**

We are thrilled to announce an outstanding **97.3% attendance rate** for this week! Thank you to all our students and families for prioritising education and ensuring that learning remains at the heart of everything we do. This achievement has been particularly welcomed as it has meant so few Year 8s have missed their assessments across the week. They have shown huge amounts of our values of excellence and determination across the week



**Recognition for Student Satisfaction**

I am delighted to announce our school has been recognised with an award by **Edurio Surveys** for its **high levels of student satisfaction** in the survey undertaken by all Year 7 students last March. Our scores were a long way above their national benchmarks. Edurio work with over 2000 schools nationally so to be recognised for standing out in such a large dataset is most pleasing. This is a testament to the incredible work of our staff and the positive, supportive environment we strive to create every day.



**Leadership Interest**

We are delighted to share that we received **35 applications** for our expansion post of Assistant Head Teacher vacancy! This is a huge amount of interest and of those 33 were good applications and this has presented us with the headache of having to long list and screening interviews before shortlisting next week. Having spent the last two days on these long list conversations the strong reputation has been a key piece of feedback, and it is clear many talented professionals who want to join us on our journey of excellence.



**Year 8 Success**

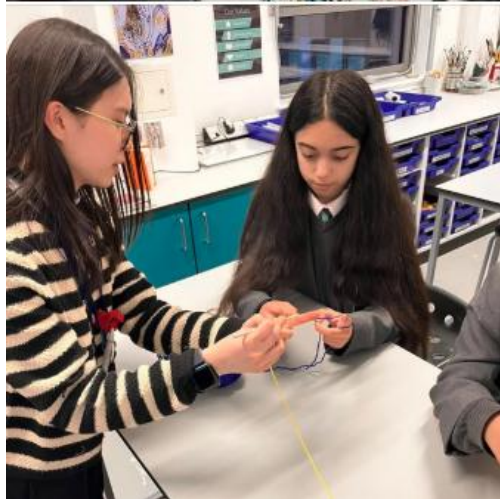
A huge congratulations to our **Year 8 students** for their hard work in recent assessments and their continued use of **SharePoint** throughout the week to access revision resources provided by the school. Your dedication and resilience are truly commendable, and we can't wait to see the results in a few weeks!

## Electives in Action

This week has seen an incredible range of electives taking place, including:

- Trampolining
- Badminton
- Coaching
- Crochet
- Biscuit Making
- Chat and Colour
- Table Tennis
- Boardgames
- Chess

Thank you to all staff and students for making these experiences so enriching and enjoyable. Our Electives programme is a little different, but it is clear from the smiling faces and enthusiastic attitudes just how much our students enjoy this different aspect of the school week.



## Important Reminder for Parents

I was disappointed that our attendance on the first day back after the Christmas holidays was so poor (just over 90%). A lot of time and care is spent preparing materials for our re-set sessions that give the students time to recalibrate and get updates on our expectations or their timetable. It was clear many of those absences were due to students still being on holiday.

Therefore, please be reminded that the **Autumn Term 2026 begins on September 10th for Years 8 and 9**. The later start back is because of Reading Festival being later this year. This later start back should also provide all families with the opportunity to travel at when flights and breaks are a little cheaper. Hence, please can I ask that all families ensure that they are back in time for the start of term.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Have a great weekend

**Best wishes,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a dark grey or black ink on a white background.

**Andy Hartley**

Headteacher