



RIVER ACADEMY

Student Bulletin

What's on next week?

Week 1

2nd - 6th February 2026

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:



WEEK TWO



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course	Chicken Korma Rice & Naan Bread Carrots	Macaroni Cheese with Crispy Bacon Garlic Bread Salad	Roast Chicken Thigh Roast Potatoes Yorkshire Pudding Broccoli	Tex Mex Beef Chilli Rice & Nachos Peas & Sweetcorn	Chip Shop Friday
Vegetarian	Quorn Korma Rice & Naan Bread Carrots	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread Salad	Creamy Vegetable Bake Roast Potatoes Broccoli	Quorn & Mixed Bean Chilli Rice & Nachos	Vegan Sausage Roll
Jackets	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
Dessert of the Day	Pear Crumble Custard	Jam Sponge & Custard	Chocolate Brownie Chocolate Sauce	Pancakes & Syrup	Ring Donuts
Dessert Alternative	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 – 30/1/26

Apologies for the delay in-between editions, but the PE bulletin is back this week. We have been so busy in PE with clubs, events and fixtures so please read on to find out!

In lessons

This term, students have been learning badminton and health and fitness/teambuilding. I have been so happy with the way in which students have expressed themselves so far this term, particularly in fitness lessons which can sometimes be quite challenging. Instead of taking the traditional health and fitness approach where students do burpees and sit ups and press ups, we have been exploring the different positions our body can get into, how to support our own body weight and how to exercise using a partner. We have also looked at teambuilding and working together to overcome challenges. In badminton, students in Y7 have been focusing on nailing the fundamentals of serving, overhead and underarm shots. Having watched some of these lessons, it has been great to see how the students are absorbing information and improving as a result. In year 8, students have been exploring doubles play and the rules and regulations of that. They have also been looking at positioning on the court and how the shots they choose impact their opponents and therefore the overall match.

Basketball

Basketball season has been in full swing this term, with training and fixtures happening almost every day of the week! I have been so impressed with the turn out from Year 7 to Reading Rockets club every Friday. The numbers have been at maximum capacity, and it's so great to see so many young people there taking these opportunities and learning more. In terms of our weekly before school club on a Wednesday, we have been focusing on attacking play, trying to improve the success rates of our shots and working on some set plays including screening. We have had some real success on the court, with our Year 8's currently standing at 3 wins out of 5 and our Year 7's sitting at 1 win and 1 defeat so far. Last week, our Year 8's went two from two, beating Denefield and Blessed Hugh Faringdon, with Maks, Mana, Teodor, Julius and Alman all starring. Our Year 7's face Bohunt this week, which is sure to be a stern test, but I am confident that we have the players to get a positive result from that game.

Netball

Miss Moore has been working incredibly hard with the netballers this term and has had to make some tough calls when it came to selecting the squad for this season. I believe Miss told me it was the 'hardest decision of her career' having to choose the players. They have been training every Tuesday since Christmas and despite the horrendous wet and cold weather we have had, the girls still turn up in their numbers and train. With the season starting soon and River having a strong reputation from our performances last year, I am so excited for them to go out and give it their best in the league this year.

Football

Our Y8 boys had their 5-a-side tournament this week at Denefield and despite winning the group and progressing through, we lost against Bohunt 1-0 in the quarter finals. Some great saves from Luke throughout, fantastic defending from Jayon and Shean and some great shooting from Alman and Feybian were the standouts for me. A bit disappointing that we didn't progress further, but some really encouraging signs from the players as we too head into our season in March.

Outreach work

Over the next few weeks, we will be hosting some local primary schools in a basketball tournament. EP Collier, Thameside and Caversham Primary will all be coming up over two days to work with us here at River. I cannot wait to meet them and see if we have any future NBA players!

Interhouse

This term's interhouse will be football for both boys and girls. The Y7 interhouse is Tuesday 10th February and the Y8 interhouse will be the 13th February. With Avon and Pang having a particularly strong showing before Christmas, can anyone knock them off their perches?

Upcoming Fixtures

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

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

U12 Netball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
Thursday 26 th Feb	Highdown and BHF	River
Thursday 5 th March	Prospect, Little Heath, MER	River
Thursday 12 th March	MER, DF and Kendrick	River
Thursday 19 th March	Reading Girls	River
Thursday 26 th March	Finals	TBC

U13 Netball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
Wednesday 25 th February	Reading Girls, Highdown	River
Wednesday 4 th March	Kendrick and Little Heath	River
Wednesday 11 th March	Denefield and Wren	River
Wednesday 18 th March	Prospect and BHF	River



How Does Mythology Impact Our Modern World?

Tuesday 3rd February/3:45/1.56



Ever wondered why we are so obsessed with myths? Why the days of the week are called what they are? What it means when someone calls you a narcissist? Come along to explore how exciting mythological stories from hundreds and thousands of years ago still impact our life today! Let's talk about heroes, gods and monsters!

Free event!



WHO IS IT FOR?
Y7 & Y8

Sign up required – outside 1.56

Speak to Mr Rosser if you have any questions.

Taking place this term:

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



Description		Y7/Y8?	Date	Time
Italian for Beginners		Y7 ONLY	8/1/26	3.45-4.30pm
Linguistics Olympiad		Y7 & Y8	13/1/26	3.45-4.30pm
Community Lecture: Victorian Reading		EVERYONE- including parents, carers, staff, students, members of our community.	20/1/26	4-5pm
Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration		Y7 & Y8	27/1/26	3.40-4.45pm
Classics for All Day (invite only)		Y8 ONLY (invite only)	29/1/26	All Day
How Does Mythology Impact Our Modern World?		Y7 & Y8	3/2/26	3.45-4.30pm
Community Lecture: Planetary Defence		EVERYONE- including parents, carers, staff, students, members of our community.	10/2/26	4-5pm
Villains- why do we love them so much?		Y7 ONLY	2/3/26	3.45-4.30pm
Maths Challenge Preparation		Y7 ONLY	19/3/26	3.45-4.30pm
Science Masterclass: Heart dissections		Y8 ONLY	19/3/26	3.45-4.30pm
What did the Romans do for fun?		Y7 ONLY	DATE TBC	3.45-4.30pm

Speak to Miss Angell if you have any questions.

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

★ Mr. Mo's Morning Challenge (Year 7 ONLY) ★



📖 It's Year 7 Mastery Showcase Week

🔥 Mr. Mo's Morning Challenge 🔥

📍 Find me in the canteen before 🕒 09:05

👋 Come over and say good morning

📚 Show me your preparation work

✅ This could include:

- 📝 100% page
- 📖 Notebook
- 📁 Flashcards
- + Any other clear evidence of preparation

🏆 Earn 1–3 merits based on the quality of your work!

💪 Start the day strong — Year 7, I'm looking forward to seeing your preparation. Good luck!



 RIVER
ACADEMY

Sparx
Reader

Sparx
Maths

Sparx
Science

The River Difference

Sparx Reader: 99.7% 2nd out of 1047 schools

Sparx Maths: 99.7% 1st out of 2601 schools

Sparx Science: 99.2%

w/c Monday 2nd February

FIRST UP!

RIVER LUNCHTIME

MONDAY	Lambourn/Avon
TUESDAY	Thames/Kennet
WEDNESDAY	Pang/Loddon
THURSDAY	Lambourn/Avon
FRIDAY	Thames/Kennet

Monthly Maths House Competition

Answer for January was 42. You start at pages 10 and 11. Turn back TWO pages takes you to pages 6 and 7 (think about how a real book pages turn!).

Maths Problem of the Month – February 2026

Answer the question below. Submit your answer to your form tutor or Mrs Strong by the end of **Thursday 26th February**. You can only submit one answer. All correct answers will be awarded 3 merits.

A beefburger with onion costs 60p.
The beefburger costs 50p more than
the onion.

How much is the onion?

Clubs this term!

BOYS FOOTBALL TRAINING

Boys Year 7 and 8 football training will be held after-school on the following dates:

- Thursday 27th November
- Tuesday 16th December
- Tuesday 6th January
- Thursday 8th January
- Tuesday 20th January
- Thursday 29th January
- Thursday 5th February
- Thursday 19th February
- Thursday 26th February

It will be held on the Rivermead 3G. Please bring in your PE kit, shin pads and football boots.

Year 7 5-a-side tournament @ JMA is on the 2nd December
 Year 8 5-a-side @ Denefield is on the 27th January

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS!
JOIN THE FUN!

TUESDAY
Netball & Badminton
 Sign Up Now!

WEDNESDAY MORNING
Basketball
 8:00am - 8:45am

FRIDAY MORNING
5-a-Side Football & Reading Rockets
 Sign Up Now!

BOYS FOOTBALL
Speak to Mr Clare!

BASKETBALL CLUB EVERY WEDNESDAY 0800-0845



YEAR 7 FIXTURES	YEAR 8 FIXTURES
18 TH NOVEMBER @ OAKBANK	25 TH NOVEMBER @ BOHUNT
9 TH DECEMBER @ BHF-A	4 TH DECEMBER @ BHF
18 TH DECEMBER @ DENEFIELD	11 TH DECEMBER @ THEALE
13 TH JANUARY @ BHF-B	15 TH JANUARY @ PROSPECT
27 TH JANUARY @ BOHUNT	22 ND JANUARY @ DENEFIELD
3 RD FEB @ LITTLE HEATH-A	12 TH FEB @ LITTLE HEATH

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



EVERY FRIDAY
 0800-0845
 SPORTS HALL

STUDENTS NEED TO WEAR PE KIT TO SCHOOL, BUT BRING THEIR UNIFORM WITH THEM

NETBALL



YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 GIRLS
EVERY TUESDAY
 3:30 - 4:30
 WITH MISS MOORE

Trials will be next Tuesday from then onwards it is squad training!

Kool Keyboards

*Want to learn the piano?
Come along to Kool
Keyboards where you can
learn your favourite
songs and have expert
advice to help you improve!*

*Open to all years
Thursday break times in 0.62*



AXIOM MATHS

Realise your power.

Unlock your power by joining our weekly maths circles! Immerse yourself in a community of passionate peers, where you'll tackle interesting problems, learn new things and increase your love and confidence in maths.

*Year 7's
By invitation only
Room 1.65
Tuesday after school until
4.30pm*



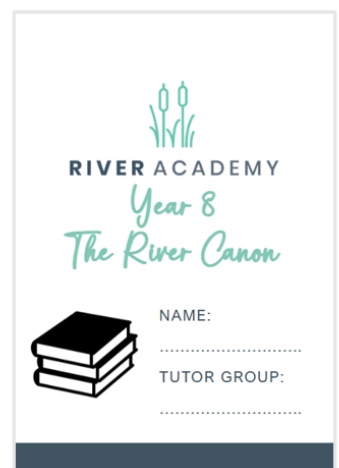
**RIVER
ACADEMY**

The River Canon

We are excited to have launched our River Canon with Years 7 and 8. This is a reading challenge designed to get students reading a range of texts and genres.

Copies of the books can be found in the LRC (and more are on their way). Students have a copy of the River Canon booklet, and it can be found on SharePoint.

Merits and prizes will be available for those who read Bronze, Silver and Gold. Happy reading!





Young Artists' Summer Show

Interested in getting your artwork selected and displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts?

Young Artists' Summer Show 2026 is now open for entries!

This is a **FREE** opportunity for anyone to enter. You can enter this independently or collaborate with your friends! The winner gets a prize!

If you are interested or wish to know more about the details, please speak to Miss Chow. You will be given a permission form to sign and guidance sheet for artwork submission.

The deadline for student submission is on the 23th of February, please ensure that you submit your work early before this date so your work can be scanned or photographed before submitting.

If you wish to submit a video, please make sure to upload it to YouTube or Vimeo first. Please be cautious if the music you use is copyrighted.

You must submit **ONE** artwork that is titled, an 80 words artist description or statement in your own words, and the type of materials or mediums you are using. The artwork itself should not exceed 300cm height x 90cm width.

Looking forward to seeing all your lovely artwork!

REPORTING ABSENCES

If you need to report an absence, please do so **daily by 8:00 a.m.** via the **Class Charts App**.

If you are unable to log the absence on Class Charts, please send an email to riverattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org.

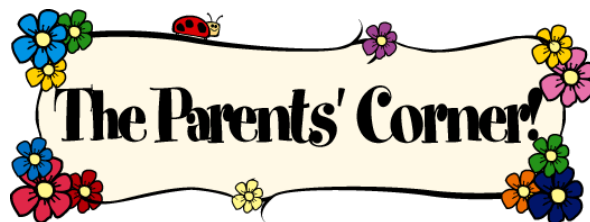
For any attendance-related matters, please contact us at riverattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org, rather than river@maidenerleghtrust.org

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

If you need to book a medical appointment for your child, please try to arrange it **outside of school hours** whenever possible. If this isn't possible, aim to book appointments **early in the morning** or **towards the end of the school day**. This helps ensure students miss as few lessons as possible.

If your child is unwell, please refer to the **NHS guidance** when deciding whether to keep them at home: [Is my child too ill for school? – NHS](#)

If your child has an appointment during the school day, please bring them to school before or after the appointment -even if it is just for one period. Every single period counts, as each lesson missed is valuable learning time lost.



Common Illnesses and What to Do

Condition	Should They Stay Home?	When Can They Go Back?
Chickenpox	Yes	When spots have crusted
Cold sores	No	Can attend – avoid sharing cups, kissing
Conjunctivitis	Usually no	Unless very unwell
COVID-19	If mild, can go	Stay home if fever or too unwell; if positive, stay home 3 days
Ear infection	Yes, if fever/severe pain	When feeling better
Hand, foot & mouth disease	No, if feeling well	Can attend
Head lice/nits	No	Can attend after treatment starts
Impetigo	Yes	Until sores crusted/healed, or 48 hrs after antibiotics
Measles	Yes	4 days after rash appears
Ringworm	No	Once treatment starts
Scarlet fever	Yes	24 hrs after antibiotics
Slapped cheek (fifth disease)	No	Once rash appears, they're no longer infectious
Sore throat	No, unless fever	Return when fever gone
Threadworms	No	Can attend after treatment
Vomiting/diarrhoea	Yes	Stay home 48 hrs after last episode/ You may bring them back to school once you feel they have fully recovered.



Getting your child to school really matters..... Did you know?.....

If in a school year your child is late every day by.....	Your child would have lost approximately.....	Or they would have missed approximately
5 minutes	3 days from school	20 lessons
10 minutes	7 days from school	41 lessons
15 minutes	10 days from school	55 lessons
20 minutes	14.5 days from school	82 lessons
30 minutes	22 days from school	123 lessons

Absence = Missed opportunity



Getting your child to school really matters..... Did you know?.....

If Your child's attendance during the school year....	Your child would lose approximately.....	Or they would have missed opportunity
<u>Was</u> 95%	9 days from school	50 lessons
<u>Was</u> 90%	19 days from school	100 lessons
Was 85%	29 days from school	150 lessons
Was 80%	38 days from school	200 lessons
Was 75%	48 days from school	250 lessons

Absence = lost opportunity