



# Headteacher's Update

24 April 2026

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope you are all well and enjoying the glorious spring weather we have been experiencing.

On Wednesday, our elective programme really sprang to life, with seven different clubs making full use of our outdoor spaces. The field has settled well and is now providing an excellent surface for football, rounders, athletics, and softball, as well as for use during lunchtimes. It is such a pleasure to watch the children playing together in the warm sunshine, enjoying races and chases, and making such effective use of our space.



## Attendance

Thank you for ensuring your children attend school regularly. After a slightly slow start to the term, attendance has returned to its usual high standard, with a strong week of over 96%. Please be reminded that for our current Year 8 and Year 9 students, the next academic year begins on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**, and it is essential that all students return on this day to receive key start-of-term messages and expectations.

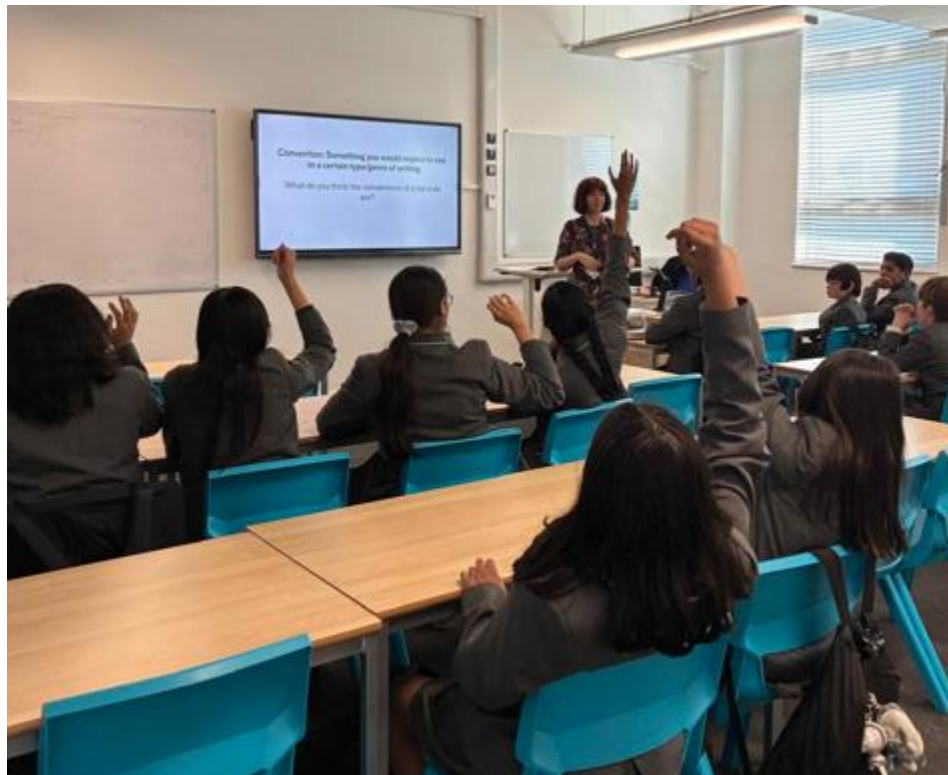
## Mastery Showcase Week 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

I hope your sons and daughters are now starting to really prepare for this series of assessments. It

is clear from looking into the canteen and the library before and after school that so many of our students have record cards, revision books and are working copiously to ensure they are fully ready for the challenges of these exams in two weeks' time.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

It was wonderful to see almost 50 students attending athletics club on Thursday evening, alongside nearly 20 students at the Silver Programme event. It is fantastic to see students making the most of the opportunities for additional learning and development that school offers, and we thank all parents and carers who support this commitment.



### **Ski trip**

I am delighted that over 30 students have already signed up for the Easter 2027 ski trip. The hotel, facilities and ski area all look fantastic, and it is wonderful to see such strong interest from River students. This promises to be an amazing experience, and I am pleased that so many parents recognise the life-enhancing benefits of a week on the slopes.

### **Civitas and school places**

We are currently working hard on plans for our September intake and are also beginning to promote our upcoming Open Mornings for Year 5 parents. On Monday, Mrs Billingham and I will be visiting Civitas Academy for their Year 5 event, where we will be speaking about our school and why we are the most oversubscribed non-selective secondary school in Reading. Please do feel free to share

our poster on the last page of this letter to any of your contacts who may be interested.

### **Staff vacancies**

As part of our expansion plans, several support staff vacancies will be advertised over the coming weeks. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested, please visit the vacancies page on our website using the link below.

[River Academy - Vacancies](#)

In the meantime, I hope you have a fantastic weekend—and don't forget the sun cream!

**Best wishes,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**Andy Hartley**

Headteacher



RIVER  
ACADEMY

# Open Mornings

Tuesday 16 June  
Thursday 18 June  
Tuesday 7 July  
Thursday 9 July

*Come and see why River Academy is Reading's most over subscribed non-selective secondary school.*

Scan QR  
to book



## An Exciting Opportunity to Visit Our School

Our Open Morning will be an exciting opportunity to hear from the Headteacher and staff about what River Academy has to offer your child.

## What to Expect:

- These mornings will be an opportunity to visit the school, talk to students, and senior leaders
- The headteacher will give a short presentation before a member of staff take visitors on a tour of the school to see it 'in action!'
- Children are encouraged to attend



[www.river-academy.co.uk](http://www.river-academy.co.uk)



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