

16 September 2026

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Welcome to Year 8 at River Academy!

I am delighted to write to you as the Head of Year 8 at River Academy. I am looking forward to continuing to work alongside you this year to further support the growth, development and success of every student.

Year 8 is an exciting and important stage in a student's journey. It is a year in which students build on the foundations established in Year 7, develop greater independence, and take on new opportunities and responsibilities within our school community.

We have had a fantastic start to the academic year, and I am thrilled to share that our students have returned with enthusiasm, positivity and a real determination to succeed, there has already been over 1500 merits awarded during their first day. Their conduct, engagement and approach to learning during the first week have been exceptional, and we are incredibly proud of the way they have started the year. As always, the support and encouragement they receive at home will play a vital role in helping them continue this success throughout the year.

To support with this, we have some very important dates for your diary:

- **Year 8 Parents Welcome Event- 24th September 2026**
- **Year 8 Reports- 23rd February 2027/ 24th June 2027**
- **Year 8 Parents Evening- 12th March 2027 / 18th March 2027**

We would also like to invite you to our Parent Welcome Event **on 24th September from 18:00 to 18:45**. This evening will provide an opportunity to meet key members of the Year 8 team, learn more about our expectations and priorities for the year ahead, and gain an insight into how we will support students both academically and pastorally. We will also be introducing parents and carers to the River Academy Baccalaureate Programme, outlining the opportunities available to students and how the programme supports the development of well-rounded, ambitious young people through enrichment, leadership, community involvement and personal achievements. We hope you will be able to join us and look forward to sharing our vision for an exciting year ahead. Please register your interest using the link provided:

[Year 8 Parent Welcome Event 2026 – Fill in form](#)



Below are the names of our Year 8 Pastoral Team. For day-to-day queries, please contact your child's tutor through River@maidenerleghtrust.org. If they are unable to assist you, they will pass your query on to me as their Head of Year.

Head of Year	Mrs Tuhy
Thames 7.1	Ms Jones
Kennet 7.2	Ms Gopalan
Pang 7.3	Ms Cole
Loddon 7.4	Mr Dukinfield
Lambourn 7.5	Ms England
Avon 7.6	Ms Myers
The Bridge	Ms Armstrong

How can you support your child?

You can play a significant role in your child's success by helping them prepare for school each day. Please ensure they:

- Attend school every day and arrive on time
- Wear the correct uniform with pride
- Bring the necessary tools for learning and equipment
- Complete homework to the best of their ability
- Communicate any concerns or difficulties with school staff when needed.

Taking an interest in your child's experiences at school can also make a huge difference. Regular conversations about their learning, friendships and achievements can help students feel supported and valued.

All students have been provided with their login details, which should be recorded in their planners. Please encourage your child to check ClassCharts and their school email account daily to stay organized, monitor homework and keep up to date with important information.

Excellence attendance is one of the strongest indicators of academic success. Every lesson counts, and we want every student to have the opportunity to achieve their very best.

Our morning line up begins at 9:05am, and we encourage students to arrive no later than 9:00am to ensure they are ready for a calm and positive start to the day. Your support in promoting good attendance and punctuality is greatly appreciated.

What we expect from students.

We ask all students to:

- Try their best in every lesson



- Complete all homework to a high standard
- Wear their uniform correctly with pride
- Demonstrate positive behaviour and attitudes towards learning
- Following the River Way by being Ready, Safe and Respectful at all times.

We also encourage students to embody our core values of **Community**, **Empathy**, **Respect**, **Excellence** and **Determination**, enabling them to become the very best version of themselves and make the most of every opportunity available to them.

What we will do

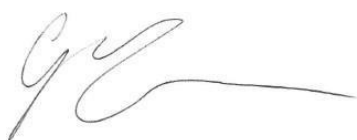
As a school, we are committed to providing a safe, supportive and inspiring environment in which every student can thrive. We will continue to challenge, guide and support your child, ensuring they receive the highest quality education and pastoral care throughout their time at River Academy.

Working together is key to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our young people, and I look forward to partnering with you throughout the year ahead.

Should you have any questions, concerns or information you would like to share, please contact us via River@maidenerleghtrust.org. This inbox is monitored regularly and allows us to ensure your message is directed to the most appropriate member of staff, whether that relates to pastoral support, academic progress or any other aspect of school life.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to a successful and rewarding year ahead for all our Year 8 students.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Tuhy
Head of Year 8

