



RIVER ACADEMY

Issue 5

Headteacher's Update

11th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone is well and enjoyed the crisp sunny start to Friday morning.

We continue to show parents round the school with a view to admissions for next September and have shown around another 80 families this week on three different tours. I also showed our Director of Education around the school on Thursday. On every occasion it was lovely to see the same high standards of teaching and learning along with behaviour and it was lovely to be sent some positive screenshots from a local Facebook group on how things are going at River so far.

Last Friday, to celebrate National Poetry Day, our students recited our poem, *Invictus*, in unison in the school hall to finish our Achievement Assembly. They did so magnificently and after Tweeting this performance out I was delighted to be contacted with a suggestion that they should enter the national Poetry By Heart competition next April. Watch this space, but it is a wonderful thing to see how well our students have embraced the ethos behind the poem and judging by the gusto with which they deliver it, the reasoning behind why we recite poems.

We were lucky enough to hear two wonderful assemblies this week. One from the Berkshire Music Trust and one from Ms Moore on the topic of World Mental Health Day and managing your stress. The students listened and participated wonderfully, and I received an email from Laura Bridger, the music teacher, afterwards that was fulsome in its praise of our students. Please do fill in the link on the letter that was sent out regarding music lessons if your son or daughter is interested.

Please do keep up your parental focus on homework. We have 14 students in our 'Catch Up Club' this evening. This class supports those students who are struggling to complete homework and whilst our Sparx completion rate remains the highest in the local area by some distance it was still 5% down on the previous week at 89%. Our homework schedule links closely to our lesson schedule and not completing the work disadvantages the students in the lesson as they lack either the pre-learning to access the lesson or the knowledge retrieval work to cement the understanding from the taught curriculum. I hope every River family can make time at home for the homework we are setting.

Our House system launched today, and the students will be competing in their first House event in the final week of this half term. Please ask them what is the name of the house they have been allocated. We have chosen a river theme for the names of the houses if they are struggling to remember it!

Alongside this letter is the communication regarding our whole year panto trip. Please do reply as soon as possible and I hope you'll agree the £13.50 ticket cost is great value however, anyone needing support with payments please do contact the school office.

Lastly, I look forwards to seeing some of you at our PTA meeting on Tuesday. Please come to Reception and we will direct you to the correct room. If you would like to attend but haven't signed up please see the previous communication on this matter.

Have a great weekend everyone and stay safe

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher