

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL TRANSITION

The journey so far:

Since we are doing a school report and specifically talking about the improvements so we thought it would be a good idea to do an interview with one of the first Riverside students from 2013 and there journey so far till 2018 and now being a 6th former studying for A levels.

Q: Since you have been in Riverside from year seven, what was your expectations of the new school?

A: I didn't expect a lot but when I came here it was very nice. Only about five to six teachers started us in year seven but now we have expanded in a variety of things such as how we now have new and better facilities.

Q: What is best or biggest improvement of the school?

A: Personally, I think the biggest improvement is the size of the building as we went from one floor to five. Facilities have also improved as we have new technologies and more engaging extra-curricular clubs to help everyone reach the highest standards of being in Riverside.

Q: Any additional comments?

A: Yes, our GCSE results were the highest in the borough showing we are setting an example for the younger years and reassuring them that it's not a scary experience but rather informative and new.

Interview with Mr Blandford (P.E teacher, head of extracurricular activities.)

Riverside school is a new developing school with a variety of opportunities ranging from our various academics, achievements, facilities and many more experiences.

Our new sport department has had many achievement's such as our u14 boys basketball team making it to the London youth games finals, crowning themselves as London's elites, also our u12, u13, u15 boys football teams making it to the borough finals and the u13 girls basketball team in co-operation with RDF (Right development foundation) are joining a new campaign to get girls active.

Our head of extra-curricular activities. Thomas Blandford commented on this and stated "Our new school has had fantastic opportunities to allow our teams to excel, it is a state of the art school that allows us to achieve the very best".

Our new state of the art facilities allow us to obtain the best standards for our school such as the full pitch AstroTurf home to riverside girls' and boys' football teams, our new sports hall with various sporting opportunities such as trampolining, handball, futsal, basketball, badminton, netball, table tennis and many more sporting activities. There is also a dance studio and a gym set with cutting-edge equipment, which they can use after school so it can allow them to reach their maximum potential.



SPECIAL THANKS TO
STREETGAMES
RIVERSIDE GIRLS

The Thought behind it:

Mr Onyelekere is the Assistant Head Teacher – Pastoral at Riverside Secondary School and we have interviewed him to discuss the transition to the new site and the new rules that have been applied such as silent transitions and positive Class Charts point system etc.

Q: What do you think of the improvements to the behaviour system?

A: Since we have moved, we have been presented with many new challenges so a lot has had to change. Some of the changes to the behaviour system sound quite strict, so we had to clearly explain to students what the school's

expectations are and the reasons for the changes. I think most students and all staff now agree the change has been positive and things are running smoothly.

Q: Do you think the new rules benefit the school? Why?

A: All rules should help us maximise the learning of students. If a rule doesn't do that, we have to re-evaluate the rule and change it to make it beneficial to the students.

For example, the silent transitions have helped students get to class safely and quickly, allowing them to maximise their learning time. Walking in silence ensures students arrive to class calmly, enabling teachers to begin their lesson quicker, which also increases learning time in lessons; students have plenty of time to talk to their friends during breaks.

Also, detentions have been simplified. All detentions are one hour and on the same day. This is so students will better understand their mistake they have made and the consequence of it. Students also won't be worrying about their detentions overnight.

Q: How has moving sites improved the pupils work?

A: We now have fantastic facilities across departments, giving students the opportunity to interact and learn using a greater range of resources. The PE department has expanded with new and improved facilities which has also increased student's enthusiasm for sport. This has helped drive many of our sports teams to reach the Borough Finals this year and ultimately triumph to become borough champions.

Another of our priorities for the building was to make the classrooms as large as possible, so students don't feel cramped whilst they were learning and have the space to interact and discuss as they learn.

As well as this, our new location near the River Thames has ignited students' imaginations. The financial district of Canary Wharf and the iconic Shard can all be seen from the school; this inspires the student to dream big about their futures.

Student's Response

During school we handed out questionnaires to fifty different students about the new school, improvements of the school and their own personal point of views. Statistically, most pupils agree that the behaviour in hallways and stairs have improved by the silent transitions ensuring that students arrive to lesson calmly, quickly and better prepared. On average, most students have at least participated or watched an inter-house competition showing people are getting involved more. However, arriving to school has been a bit of a problem as we are in a new area and far away from our previous building. But being in a new school has allowed us to have bigger courts outside for many different sports, as well as a big sports hall inside which is twice as big as our old one. Also, being in a larger school has helped us learn more as we have better computers, science labs instead of normal classroom and because we were able to expand our school it enabled us to have a 6th form area, inspiring young adults to continue to do well in our amazing school. Overall, many pupils are proud to be Riverside students.

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