



18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following another superb first term at Riverside School I'm pleased to inform you that Year 7 have settled in really well; Year 8 prepare to choose their GCSE options after the Christmas break; Year 9 have made an impressive start to their GCSE courses; Year 10 are working really hard mid-GCSEs; and Year 11 have just achieved an encouraging set of mock results - we're expecting our best ever results this summer! Last year's GCSE results yet again will place us top of the borough on all key measures once the final tables are published by the DfE in January 2020. All tracking assessments (TAI) will be published and sent home this week.

I hope you follow us on Twitter [@RiversideCampus](https://twitter.com/RiversideCampus), if so you will know that our U16 boys won the borough basketball finals for the third year in succession; well-done boys a huge achievement! They now enter the London Youth Games in the next phase of the competition and we look forward to seeing that trophy in the cabinet. In 2018-19 we had our most successful year of sport yet, here is a list of a few of the big achievements:

- Y7 boys' borough indoor football
- Y7 boys' borough indoor athletics
- Y7 girls' borough indoor football
- Y7 boys' east London 5 a-side tournament winners
- Y8 Girls' reached finals of Lee Valley Indoor Athletics
- U14 boys' basketball borough champions
- Y9 girls' borough netball champions
- U15 girls' borough handball champions
- U16 boys' borough basketball champions
- 6 borough athletics gold medallists
- Over 90 different pupils used for various sports leadership events across the year

Following on from our sporting achievements, particularly in basketball, we have been in negotiations with Laurent Irish, London Lions coach, to set up a 16+ Basketball Academy. I'm delighted to announce this will now become part of our sixth form offer in 2020. Students will need to meet the entry requirements of the Riverside Sixth Form in addition to passing an interview and basketball trials to be admitted into the academy. We aim to recruit 40 students into the Basketball Academy in the first year. This builds on our own students' huge success in this sport, working with RDF and Coach Lamar Roberts over the past two years.

Other good news includes the (YCAG) Young Community Action Group receiving the keys to the community garden site just to the east of the Astro turf. This concludes a two year campaign by the group to access the site and begin turning it into a garden that benefits the whole community. In addition, the Student Arts Council have selected the organisation 'make: good' <https://make-good.com/>, an architecture and design studio involving people in shaping neighbourhood change, to work together with Bow Arts and Riverside students to design and build a sculpture for the garden. The Riverside Student Arts Council led the competition and selected 'make: good' from four shortlisted proposals, another excellent example of student leadership.

Unfortunately, it is necessary to increase the price of school meals from January 2020. We always aim to give value for money and all school meals are cooked from fresh ingredients on site. We presently only offer a meal deal so the price remains the same amount each day. The new price is £2.40 per day. Students receiving free school meals are not affected. If you believe your son or daughter may be eligible for free school meals please contact the school and we will help you process an application.

The school's first theatre production will be held at the Broadway Theatre on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2020. Tickets to the school's production of Annie will be available to purchase in the New Year. The performing arts team together with the student actors and musicians have made a very impressive start with their rehearsals.

Thursday, the final day of this term, is non-uniform day whereby students donate £1 to a charity to not wear uniform on that day. Students must come in school uniform if they do not wish to donate £1.

It has been another great term. The final day of this autumn term is **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019, when students will be dismissed by 12.00 noon** for staff to attend an end of term review meeting. All students return to school on **Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020** for a normal **8.40am** start.

If your son or daughter does not participate in one of the many great opportunities listed above; such as, play for a sports team, take part in extra-curricular drama and music or join the membership of the YCAG, do encourage them to get involved by making contact with the relevant member of staff or their tutor can help them make contact. Students who do engage in these activities not only have lots of fun, but develop life skills and build a very impressive CV personal statement for their next stage of life, be it education, employment or training.

May I wish you and your family a restful break over Christmas and a happy New Year from all of us at Riverside School.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Mr A. Roberts

Headteacher