



PARTNERSHIP LEARNING  
RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Excellence for All



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13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another tough year at Riverside School. I can't thank you enough for all your tremendous support and understanding during these challenging times. As always, it's been very sad to send students home to self-isolate these last few weeks and we will be pleased, in-line with new government guidelines, not to have to self-isolate close contacts from September. It will remain crucial that students self-test twice a week for the foreseeable future and we will do on-site testing only on the first day back as directed by the government: **'Step 4: we are asking secondary schools and colleges to test all students at an on-site asymptomatic test site (ATS) on return following the summer holidays. Based on the latest public health advice it will help break chains of transmission in education settings after the summer holidays when students may have been mixing with lots of people'**.

We look forward to another year of excellent results. The school will open on **12<sup>th</sup> August from 10:00am-12:00pm** for year 11 students to collect their results and enrol for Riverside Sixth Form College if they have already been offered a conditional place. Year 13 can collect their A-level results at **8am on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August**. The early start is important as universities will have confirmed offers and clearing opens at this time. This early start results in our students getting the best university places available.

Despite disrupted terms we have still been able to achieve significant success in sport. Y7 boys won their borough 5-a-side tournament, Y7/8 and Y9 girls finished runners up in the same competition and it is exciting to have over 60 girls regularly playing football with coaches from Dagenham and Redbridge FC. At the borough athletics competition, 21 students collected medals of which 7 were gold. 6 of these students then went on to represent Barking and Dagenham in the Essex School competition. We enjoyed similar success in indoor athletics with the Y7 boys, Y7 girls and Y8 boys not only winning their borough competitions but also gaining scores to place them 2nd across all schools in London. In the summer term, over 120 students in Y10 and Y11 have completed their expedition across both Bronze and Silver awards showing resilience and perseverance in adverse weather conditions. In partnership with Thames Ward Community Project (TWCP) and Riverside's Young Community Action Group (YCAG) we have also provided opportunities for all students to engage with Right Development Foundation (RDF) and Barking and Dagenham Youth Dance groups in a series of free coaching sessions in basketball, boxing and dance. It was pleasing to see so many students engaging in regular physical activity after a year of limited opportunities.

Riverside School's cultural arts and music provision also goes from strength to strength. We have been given the highest award of Platinum Artsmark from Arts Council England, who said: **'Riverside School has strong partnerships with arts organisations and ambitious goals for your arts provision.'** They were particularly impressed with how we provide young people with: **'continuous access to a wider range of challenging arts and cultural experiences that are stretching their knowledge, skills and understanding.'** Currently, over 100 students receive instrumental lessons each week in addition to their music lesson. As Riverside slowly returns to normal we will begin a £4M fundraising campaign to build a Performing Arts Centre and theatre on the school grounds. The centre will be a joint school and community venture and I will share further details with you in the autumn term.

Other exciting news is that Riverside School has been selected by the DfE to become a Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) school in partnership with the IOE Confucius Institute for Schools. We will begin teaching Mandarin to select year 7 students from October 2021: <https://ci.ioe.ac.uk/mandarin-excellence-programme/>

You will receive your child's Progress Report before the end of term, please contact your son/daughter's Head of Year should you wish to discuss their progress in more detail. Students' targets will be reviewed in September to ensure they are sensible yet challenging given the recent circumstances. We will hold parents evenings for all year groups this coming year with year 8 (currently 7) being a priority.

The first day of autumn term with students **arriving at 8:20 for an 8:40 start:**

- **Year 7:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 (13:30 end of day)
- **Years 8-11:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 (normal end of day for all)
- **Year 12/13:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Thank you again for your continued support in ensuring your son or daughter is at school *on time* every day, Covid permitting, to give them the best chance of success.

The final day of this summer term is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July, when students will be dismissed by 12.00 noon** for staff to attend an end of term review meeting. The final day is non-uniform day for those students who wish to donate £1 to charity. Term dates for 2021/22 are published on our website should you wish to plan future holidays.

From all of us here at Riverside School may I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer break.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr A. Roberts  
Headteacher