



15th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a brilliant first term back at Riverside School. Year 7 have settled in really well; Year 9 have made a positive start to their GCSEs; Yr10 are working really hard; and Year 11 and 13 have achieved a strong set of mock results to set them up for their next cycle of revision. The next two weeks of holidays must be used to rest and recover from a tough term, but also for focused study and revision; I advise a timetable to plan for a good balance of work and rest. All tracking assessments (TAI) will be published and sent home this week. I have written to Yr11 parents and carers separately to offer guidance on planned revision.

This year's sporting successes are already on track to achieve some impressive trophies. Riverside has played 86 fixtures since September (that's more than one per day) and we've won 63, that's a 73% success rate! Here are some of the headlines:

Rugby at Riverside has seen great progress since the start of the year; with regular attendees within year 7 and 8. We have had 5 rugby fixtures so far and are looking to build upon regular competitive fixtures for boys and to ingrain a level of discipline that allows us to compete at a good standard against rugby schools. Our partnership with Barking Rugby club is going from strength to strength with expert coaching in lessons and afterschool clubs and our students getting the chance to play under the lights at Barking RFC

Netball has had a good start with lots of successes from U12, U14 and U16 teams. U12s are dominating games with some great game play with very talented players. U16 have started their borough league well with a positive attitude and are through to the 3rd round of the Essex Cup.

Athletics: Yr8/9 boys qualified for the Indoor Lee Valley final but unable to compete due to our team being affected by COVID. Emmanuel Balogun deserves a special mention for his incredible performance in 300m, storming his opponents with a very convincing 1st place. We are looking forward to competing in 3 more athletics meets in January.

Football:

U13 girls are in the last 16 of the London Cup

U12 boys still competing in the London and Essex Cup

U13 football is the top story, with the team in the last 8 teams of the National Cup.

U15 boys are competing in the London and Essex Cups, winning the next game will mean they progress to quarter finals. U15 boys also played Norwich City Academy and drew 2-2.

16+ Basketball Academy have only had one loss in the AOC/ABL league and cup across all teams:

Men's A: 3rd in South East League

Men's B: 1st in London Men's C League

Women's A: 2nd in London Women's League (3 games in hand)

Superb performances by all teams, making Riverside very proud of their achievements to-date with many more to follow! All made possible by the excellent leadership of Ms Phillips and the PE Team.

Riverside School has a new Student Leadership Team with two Head Students: Kyla Sallery and Grace Oreyeni in Yr13, together with four Deputy Head Students from Yr12: Fiona Memishi, Tanim Ahmed, Yash Soni and Basmala El-Kadry. Congratulations to all of these students, they truly excelled at interview and will now play a strategic role in the direction of the school as well as the day-to-day operation.

The Performing Arts were also full of celebration this term. 'Finish this' was a project run in partnership with the English National Opera (ENO) whose orchestra started a composition for year 9 to finish. A highlight of the term was Black History Month, organised by the newly appointed 6th form arts student leaders. Excellently led with brilliant performances – a huge well done to everyone involved! In September Riverside Singers took part in 'Freedom Song' at Hackney Empire in a performance telling the story of Fisk Singers: <https://hackneyempire.co.uk/whats-on/freedom-song/>. Riverside dance students attended two workshops with professional dancers from English National Ballet (ENB), inspired by Akram Khan's 'Creature', and visited Sadler's Wells for the performance. Finally, Yr10 dancers will be attending MOVEIT 2022, a dance convention where aspiring dancers can look into further education establishments, make connections and participate in a wide range of fabulous classes with professionals.

Fingers crossed, the school's first theatre production of 'Oliver!' will be held at the Broadway Theatre in late June 2022. The performing arts team together with the student actors and musicians have made an impressive start with their rehearsals. Casting is not yet finalised, so if any students wish to audition for a part they should contact Mr Amos.

Celebrating Riverside students' notable oracy Nameera Chitthiwala and Abdul Mahi proudly represented Riverside School at the Historical Association's prestigious 'Great Debate' in London. They were required to present a speech to argue: 'the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II has seen global and widespread changes including in: societal infrastructure, industry, rural life, the environment, and ideas'. *Which changes of the last 70 years have affected your local area the most?* In addition, Riverside's Debate Club had an exciting opportunity to attend the launch of 'Debate Mate' in central London's Emmanuel Centre.

On the final day of this term, **Friday 17th December 2021, students will be dismissed by 12.00 noon** for staff to attend an end of term review meeting. *It is £1 for non-uniform on 17th December.* All students return to school on **Wednesday, January 5th 2022** for a normal **8.40am** start.

As directed by the government we will ask all students and staff to self-administer a lateral flow test (LFT) on the first morning to ensure the school is Covid secure for the start of the new term. We already have your permission/dissent from previous testing cycles.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful break over the holiday and a Happy New Year from us all at Riverside School and, as always, thank you for your continued support!

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Roberts

Headteacher