



NEWSLETTER



Merry Christmas to all, and Happy New Year!

As we approach the Christmas break, I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It's been a busy and productive term, and we're incredibly proud of how our students have risen to the challenge of their mock exams. Their hard work, excellent behaviour and commitment to meeting exam expectations have truly shone through - you can really sense the care and focus they have shown throughout their exams.

Despite the intensity of exam season, we've made sure to keep the term filled with memorable moments and opportunities for creativity and connection. From our inspiring Art Trip, the engaging ELSA Workshop and Task Force activities, to the festive joy of our Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper Day, offered students some welcome moments away from revision.



The National Portrait Gallery Trip

At the beginning of the term, our Art students walked to the nearest train station and took the train into London. They enjoyed a quick stop at McDonald's before visiting the National Portrait Gallery to explore Portraiture, a key focus in their coursework.



This visit encouraged students to think critically about how artists show meaning through colour, lighting and style, and many since have incorporated these insights into their coursework. By experimenting different approaches they have been able to expand and bring fresh perspectives to their work.

ELSA Workshop



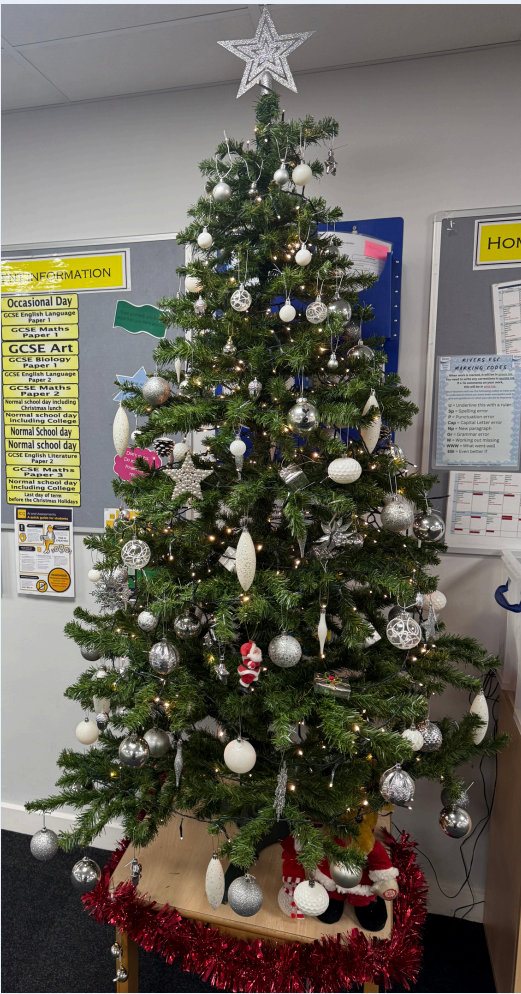
We were lucky enough to welcome the wonderful ELSA Workshop and Task Force to our school this term. Students took part in a carousel of activities that encouraged them to reflect on their interests and aspirations, giving them the opportunity to think about their future beyond Rivers.



One of the highlights of the workshop was giving students a real insight into the world of work. They had a chance to explore payslips, learn how payroll and taxes work, and understand how HMRC operates. This hands on experience offered a practical look at aspects of finance that are often overlooked, helping students see how the system works in real life. And to recognise their effort, students received certificates for the knowledge they took away from the workshop.

As part of the workshop, we also had the chance to speak with a member of Bowmer + Kirkland, a construction company. He shared examples of the company's multimillion pound projects, including upcoming work at Warner Bros Studios, and gave an exciting insight into their plans for upcoming series sets. This gave students a fascinating real world perspective on careers in construction and project management, helping them see how skills and interests can translate into future opportunities.

A Merry Meal & Cozy Knits



A big thank you to our wonderful TAs for decorating our tree so beautifully!



It's great to see our students having fun together, Christmas accessories and all. It was definitely a Christmas lunch to remember!

A sincere thank you to our food technology teacher Mrs Sands and her team of Christmas elves (also known as staff and students) for all the prepping, cooking, and tidying that went into our Christmas dinner.

From mastering the art of perfectly timed roast potatoes to navigating enough gravy to fill a small lake, they truly made the day magical.



We all sat together as one big Rivers family, staff and students, sharing the kind of festive buzz that only comes from Christmas crackers, colourful paper hats, and the occasional groan at a terrible joke. The room was full of laughter and friendly chatter, and the fierce but friendly competition of Mr Dent's fantastic Christmas quiz, that had some of us concentrating more than we do in Maths (sorry Mr Ed!)



Christmas Jumper Day 2025

Across both sites, we managed to donate over £170 to charities like MIND, HABS and Save the Children! Well done everybody!



A huge thanks to Mrs Cini for organising and cooking a fantastic roast dinner at KS3, which clearly went down a treat, judging by the noticeable lack of leftovers, it was a huge success! Very much appreciated for all the time, effort, and care that went into making it such a wonderful experience for students and staff. Seeing everyone come together and enjoy a delicious meal made the festive celebrations feel truly special.



Helpful Links

FREE Christmas Day Lunch for all!



**Don't struggle with the cost
or be alone on Christmas Day**

**join us for a FREE Christmas Lunch
at Maybury Open Door in the Harvey Centre**

1:30pm – 3:30pm

All Welcome

Booking is Essential

To book contact

James 07877 424834 or

Pop in to Foodbank (former Wilko store)

and ask for James or Chris

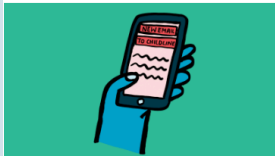
Helpful Links

childline

Call 0800 1111

Childline provides free, confidential counselling to under 19s through their helpline and webchat.

WAYS TO GET SUPPORT



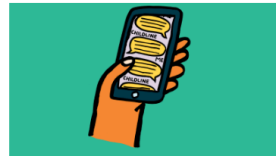
Send an email

Send an email from your Childline account and we'll reply within 24 hours.

[Write an email →](#)


Call for free on 0800 1111

The fastest way to reach us. Call for free on any phone and it won't show on the bill.

[Call us →](#)


Log-in for a 1-2-1 counsellor chat

Chat with a counsellor in a safe space online about whatever is worrying you.

[Chat now →](#)


Sign with us

Chat to a counsellor with help from a British Sign Language interpreter.

[Chat with us →](#)

Get Help



Need advice?

16-17 years

Freephone 03003 230130

18 - 24 years

Freephone 08000 355 775

For all other enquiries 03333 202 384 (local rate)



You can email us

info@hyh.org.uk


Our office Hatfield

Covering Hertfordshire
hyh 1st Floor, Gracemead House
Woods Avenue,
Hatfield Herts AL10 8HX

hyh

Herts Young Homeless

www.hyh.org.uk

For information about food banks available in the surrounding local areas - including locations, opening times, and how to access support -please visit:

<https://www.hyh.org.uk/future-roots/foodbanks>

HYH offer sessions that focus on topics of homelessness, anger management, independent living and managing conflict and healthy relationships.

When	Where	Referral needed?
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-3.30pm	St Paul's Catholic Primary and Nursery School School Park Lane, Cheshunt EN7 6LR	NO
Monday - Thursday, 8.30am-5.15pm Sunday, 8.30am-11am	The Porch Pantry Christ Church, Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross EN8 7ED	NO
Last Tuesday of each month, 1.30pm-3.30pm	The OK Food Pantry The Rosedale Community Church Andrews Lane, Cheshunt EN7 6LB	YES
Monday-Friday, 4.00pm-5.00pm	Broxbourne Foodbank Wormley Free Church, Slupe Lane, Wormley EN10 6AA	YES

Important dates for your diary...

- **Students and staff break up for Christmas:** Friday 19th December
- **Christmas holidays:** Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026
- **New Years Eve:** Wednesday 31st December 2025
- **New Years Day:** Thursday 1st January 2026
- **Inset Day:** Monday 5th January 2026
- **Students return to school:** Tuesday 6th January 2026

Happy New Year