

NEWSLETTER

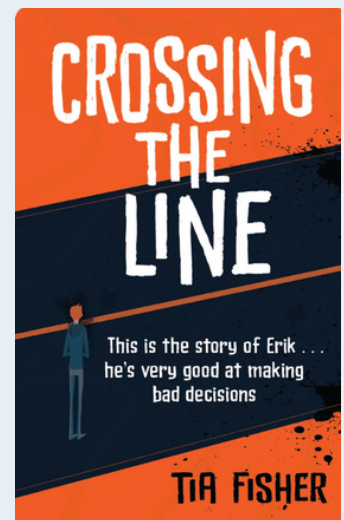
Welcome back!

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter! This term we are excited to share meaningful charity events, creative classroom highlights, and amazing student accomplishments, there's so much to celebrate.

As we all know, there have been a number of changes to Rivers this past term. The children have adapted incredibly well, taking the new uniform expectations, updated form/timetables, and changes to lunch times in their stride. We have also been lucky enough to welcome the lovely Mr Nearney and Mrs Hughes to Rivers as our new Executive Head Teacher and Headteacher. They have both settled in fantastically!

During form time this term...

At KS4, we've been reading *Crossing the Line* by Tia Fisher. Shared through heartfelt poetry, the book tackles themes such as choices, peer pressure, grief, and redemption. Tia Fisher's unique storytelling style has resonated strongly with students, sparking thoughtful conversations and genuine engagement. Meanwhile, KS3 students have been researching and choosing their own books to read and have been really getting stuck into them - building independence and a real enthusiasm for reading.



New resources

We're excited to share that a new pirate ship has been added to the outdoor area at Little Rivers. It's already become a popular spot for the children, offering plenty of opportunities for climbing, exploring, and imaginative play.

The pirate ship is a great way to support physical development and creative thinking, and we're looking forward to seeing how the children use it in their play.



Macmillan cake sale

The 2025 Macmillan fundraiser was a great success, with £81.00 raised across all three centres. All the pupils worked hard to bake a wonderful selection of treats and were very proud of their efforts. Well done to everyone involved!



Knife Angels Theatre Trip

Our students recently had a unique and meaningful opportunity to take part in the Knife Angel theatre trip. During this visit, they engaged with the powerful message of the impact of knife crime on families and communities, and the important role each of us plays in promoting peace and positive change.

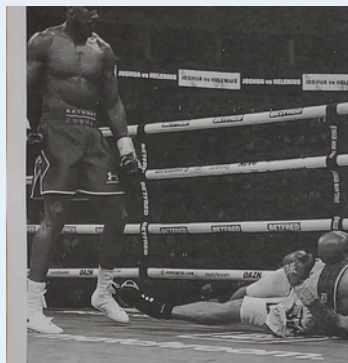


The experience included a visit to the Knife Angel sculpture itself, providing a moment of reflection, a specially designed theatre production for young people, and an interactive first aid workshop that equipped students with valuable skills to assist others in emergencies.



The Knife Angel stands 27 feet tall and is made from over 100,000 knives.

Celebrating Black History Month in Life Skills and English lessons

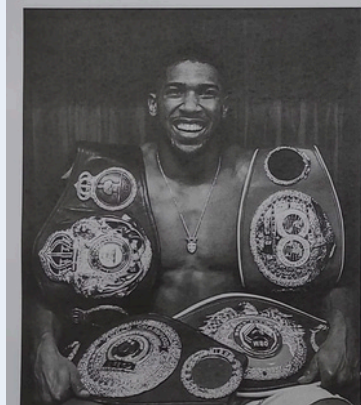


WHY I ADMIRE HIM

- I like him because he is one of my favorite boxer
- He won his first 20 professional fights by knockout
- Anthony Joshua is actively involved in charity work through his Clean Herts Community foundation, focusing on uplifting local communities and supporting youth initiatives

WHY I ADMIRE HIM

- He has won 7 grand prix.
- He has gained an MBE.
- He is local because he was born in Stevenage.
- He worked hard since a child to get where he is.



WHAT HAS HE ACHIEVED

- He is a two time heavy weight champion
- He is an Olympic gold medallist
- He has a KO Ratio of 90%



His skills and qualities

He is dedicated to training every day.

He has a good diet to help stay strong.

In Life Skills and English lessons this month, we have been proudly celebrating Black History Month, with a special focus on influential black humanitarians who have made a lasting impact on society. Students have been learning about remarkable individuals such as Mary Seacole, Princess Tsehai, and John Alcindor - exploring their origins, the challenges they faced, and the extraordinary resilience they demonstrated throughout their lives.

At KS3, students took part in a reflective and creative activity where they each selected a notable figure from Black history whom they admire. They then designed a profile on their chosen individual, highlighting their skills and qualities - giving students a deeper understanding of key values such as determination, courage, leadership, and empathy.

Be You!

1,2,1,2

Be you!

Don't let people drag you down

Be brave

Be fierce

Be You!

1,2,1,2, be you!

Here are some examples of poetry written by our students, drawing inspiration from British spoken-word artist, poet and rapper, George the Poet, particularly his powerful spoken word piece '1,2,1,2'. Through rap and performance poetry, students explored themes of resilience, identity and staying strong.

Inspired by the 2025 Black History Month UK theme, "Standing Firm in Power and Pride," and George the Poet's ability to transform personal and collective struggles into art, our students used their voices to reflect on the power of words.

Fly High

1,2,1,2

"See my finger, see my thumb,

See my fist, you better run!"

That's what the haters say for fun.

Jealousy is green-eyed but no match

For your fierceness, be fearless.

Don't let people bring you down.

Stay strong and fly high

1,2,1,2 reach the sky.

We are proud to showcase the creativity and insight that our young poets brought to this project. Their poetry stands as a powerful reminder that spoken word can be a tool for change.

Don't Fall

Life will put you down

Doesn't mean you have to fall

Now I'm thinking about my new life

On Gods dime

Sometimes you need that support

People put you down when you're winning

But I had to suffer all this time

When everyone's looking down

In God's name

Doesn't mean you have to fall.



Across the school, we have displayed signs and key information around classrooms and corridors to raise awareness and celebrate these powerful stories. We also remain committed to celebrating diversity, promoting equality, and encouraging all students to recognise the importance of being seen and inclusion - not just during Black History Month, but all year round.



The ADD-vantage
Specialist **ADHD** support services

SPARK SQUAD

A new relaxed social group for local girls
with ADHD
(ages 12–16, Y8–11) starting Autumn 2025

- ✦ Fortnightly sessions (2 hrs)
- ✦ Wednesdays Fortnightly 6:30-8:30pm
8th/22nd Oct, 5th/19th Nov, 3rd/17th Dec
- ✦ Venue: Sele Farm Community Centre
25 Perrett Gardens, Hertford. SG14 2LW
- ✦ Creative activities, games, refreshments
- ✦ Group support & psychoeducation
- ✦ Led by women mentors with lived ADHD experience



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PER SESSION
(PAY AS YOU GO)

CONTACT US:

info@theadd-vantage.co.uk

For more information go to
www.TheADD-Vantage.co.uk

To Register



Supportive
Positive
Authentic
Reflective
Kind



Important dates for your diary...

- **October Half Term:** Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October
- **Halloween:** Friday 31st October
- **Guy Fawkes Night:** Wednesday 5th November
- **KS4 Employer Event - Discover, Believe, Become:** Thursday 13th November - This event is a fantastic opportunity for our students to take part in interview and job application activities that closely mirror the recruitment processes used by local, national, and international employers. The workshop helps students build important work skills that they will need to succeed in any future career.
- **KS4 Pupil Progress Day:** Monday 17th November
- **Self-harm session at The Mews Family Hub, based at KS4:** Thursday 20th November, 9am-12pm
- **Students NOT in school, non-attending INSET day:** Monday 1st December
- **KS4 Mock Examinations commence:** Tuesday 2nd December
- **Hertford Regional College open event, 5:30pm-8:00pm:** Tuesday 2nd December - We are inviting students and parents to attend the upcoming Open Event at HRC Broxbourne and Ware campuses. It's a great chance for your child to explore the courses on offer, take part in activities, meet tutors and get a real feel for college life. To book a time slot please visit the HRC website.
- **Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch at KS3:** Wednesday 10th December
- **KS4 Christmas Lunch:** Wednesday 10th December
- **Christmas Jumper Day at KS4:** Friday 12th December
- **Students and staff break up for Christmas:** Friday 19th December
- **Students return to school:** Tuesday 6th January 2026

Helpful Links



DSPL stands for **Developing Special Provision Locally**. It's a partnership across the area where parents, schools, the local council, and other services work together to improve support for children and young people with additional needs. We've included some helpful links - please take a look to find out more about the support, resources, and events available for you and your family.

Free Parenting Courses & Support Across Hertfordshire

<https://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk>

Your Local Neurodiversity Support Hub

<https://spaceherts.org.uk/>

Mental Health 24/7 Helpline

<https://www.hpftcamhs.nhs.uk/>