Rivers Education Support Centre

Respect Relationships Resilience Readiness

NEWSLETTER

This edition marks our final newsletter before we reopen ***Wednesday 2nd September.*** As always, it showcases just some of the fantastic activities, events, achievements, and learning experiences that have taken place across our school community. I hope you enjoy looking back on all that has been accomplished and celebrating the many successes of our students.

To every student, well done on everything you have achieved this year. You have represented our school with pride and should be incredibly proud of your efforts.

As we move into the summer break, I hope everyone has the opportunity to relax, recharge, and spend quality time with family and friends. Please remember to stay safe, look after one another, and make the most of the weeks ahead!

Introducing the NEW Wednesday Programme!



Here are our very first students making use of our brand-new Construction Room.

We're excited to unveil our brand new Wednesday Programme, giving students from local schools the chance to come to Rivers and work towards a range of qualifications in a supportive, hands-on learning environment. For some students, this provides a welcome change of scenery and the opportunity to learn in a different setting that better suits their individual needs.

Recently, students enjoyed a variety of taster sessions, giving them a glimpse of what's to come. We're looking forward to welcoming our first full cohort when the programme officially begins in September.





Level 1 Textiles taster session students have been building their needlework skills and producing some fantastic work.





In Catering, a stuffed crust masterpiece was created... and promptly demolished at lunchtime.

For more information about the Wednesday Programme, please visit our school **website**.

DofE trip

It's that time of year again when our students take part in their Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) trip. The trip is an important part of the award, giving students the chance to build teamwork, confidence and independence while enjoying the outdoors.

The weather certainly kept everyone on their toes - one minute they were enjoying the sunshine, and the next it was absolutely chucking it down! It seemed like students and staff experienced all four seasons in a day. Despite the unpredictable weather, spirits remained high and everyone embraced the trip out.

Students set up camp and enjoyed a cosy evening around the fire. It was wonderful to see friendships strengthened throughout the trip.



A huge thank you to all the staff who gave their time, energy, and commitment to make this trip possible. We are especially grateful to those who dedicated their mornings, afternoons, and evenings, transported students to and from the expedition in school minibuses, and supported the post–Duke of Edinburgh clear up. Their hard work, organisation, and encouragement were invaluable and played a key role in making the experience such a success.











Year 11 Presentation Day



To our wonderful Year 11 students. Congratulations on reaching the end of your journey with us! It has been a pleasure getting to know each and every one of you, and we are so proud of everything you have achieved.
Whatever path you choose next, we hope it brings you happiness and success. Don't forget us - we'll certainly remember you! We hope you enjoyed your well-deserved awards and celebrating all that you've accomplished.

A special thank you also goes to Miss Sands for treating us to one final fantastic buffet. You have been an absolute pleasure to work with, and you'll be greatly missed by everyone. Thank you for keeping us well fed over the years! Wishing you all the very best for a happy and well-deserved retirement.



Good luck for Results Day - we can't wait to see what the future holds for you all. Here's to the class of 2026!



The last game of pool, for old times' sake. There have been countless games played during break and lunch, each one bringing out fierce competition, questionable 'lucky' shots, and repeated attempts to dethrone Mr Brewster - our pool professional.

Now they're down to their final game at Rivers. We'll miss keeping score and the dramatic debates whether that shot "definitely counted" - it's all been great fun Year 11s, and we'll genuinely miss you.

Presentation Day pictures continued



What do we get up to on an INSET day?

This INSET day was held at the beautiful Knebworth House, where we were able to connect and share ideas with professionals from other ESC settings. The day began with an inspiring session led by Luke Mitchell from Positive Regard, a national organisation working with schools and children's services to build a more empathetic and supportive culture through training, modelling practice and policy development.



We also took part in focused training on Therapeutic Thinking and 'Lads Need Dads' which led to thoughtful, honest conversations about the realities of our day-to-day work. These sessions pushed us to reconsider how we interpret behaviour and build relationships, while offering clear, practical strategies that we can embed straight back into our settings to further strengthen the support we provide for our young people.

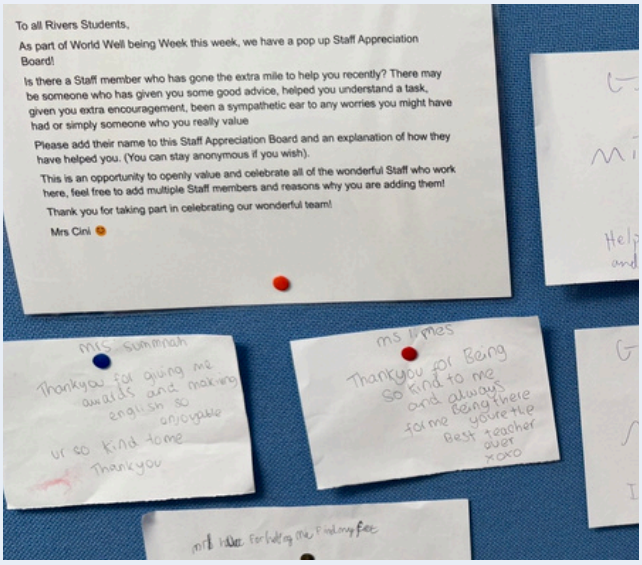


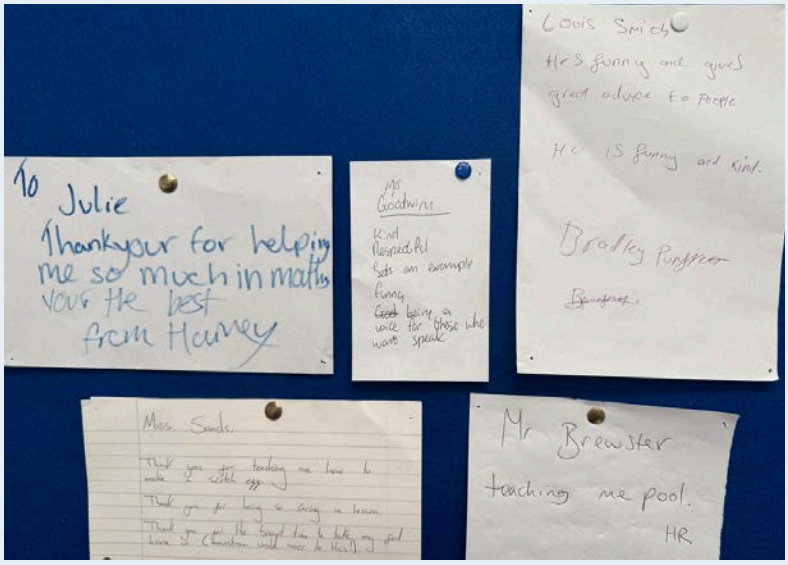
World Wellbeing Week: Recognising and Valuing Our Staff



World Wellbeing Week was a busy and uplifting week - thanks to Mrs Cini for organising this. We took part in a range of activities, including anonymous recognition post-it notes to share our appreciation for one another, a staff picnic featuring a selection of delicious homemade treats, and a Staff Appreciation Board created by our students. These thoughtful moments were a wonderful pick-me-up and brought smiles to everyone involved.







Here's some of what our students had to say. It's always rewarding to hear their feedback, and it's especially meaningful to be reminded how appreciated our team is!

Need Someone to Talk To?

And on the topic of wellbeing, Hertfordshire offers dedicated support for our students through ***With Youth (Herts Mind Network).*** This is a free and confidential service for children and young people who may be feeling low, anxious, overwhelmed, or just need someone to talk to. It provides access to trained professionals through online support, one-to-one counselling, and group sessions, all in a safe and non-judgemental space.

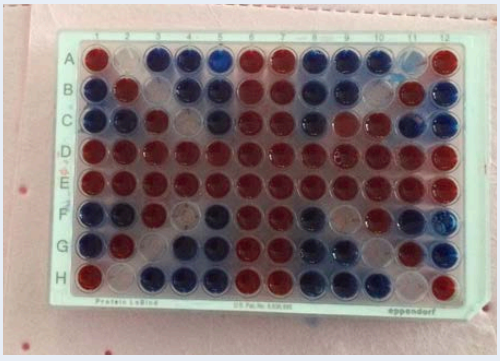
mind Hertfordshire Network withYouth YOUNG PEOPLE'S Services

Find out more or get support by clicking the link:
https://www.withyouth.org/

Instant message is open here everyday from 5pm-10pm (excluding Bank Holidays)

Our Pipette Pros







At KS3, students took part in a career-focused workshop series delivered by the educational charity ELSA Next Generation. As part of the programme, volunteers from the pharmaceutical company Pharamon led a “Become a Pipette Pro” workshop. The scientists shared how they use pipettes in their laboratories when testing and developing new products, giving students an insight into real-world scientific careers.

Students then had the opportunity to put their skills into practice by extracting, transferring, and dispensing precise volumes of liquid to create a flag of their choice. Naturally, with a strong sense of pride, we chose to design the Union Jack!

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KS3 Kick Off 14 Before 14 in Southend



At Rivers, we believe that education is also about developing our young adults confidence, broadening their horizons and creating lasting memories. While academic success remains important, we believe that education is also about the opportunities students have beyond the classroom. That's why we've launched **14 before 14**. The idea is students will have the opportunity to complete a variety of challenges and experiences before they turn fourteen, while our KS4 students will take part in **16 before 16**. Every experience has been carefully chosen to help prepare students for life beyond school.

The students explored the aquarium, took in the sights and sounds of the seafront, and rounded off the day with the classic seaside favourite of fish and chips by the beach. For many, it was an opportunity to experience something new, while for others it was a chance to create happy memories with peers outside the classroom.



Our Key Stage 3 students recently kicked off their 14 Before 14 programme with a fantastic trip to Southend-on-Sea, enjoying the timeless experience of a traditional British seaside day out.



We hope experiences like these will stay with our students long after they leave school. It was great to see them making the most of the day and enjoying time with their classmates.

Community Corner



