NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026 | Autumn Term

Upcoming Events

23 OCT	**Last day of half-term** **All** Students and Staff
26-30 OCT	**Half-term holiday** **All** Students and Staff
26-30 OCT	**Holiday Club** **Team Spirit** Students who applied
2 NOV	**Start of 2nd Half term** **All** Students and Staff
6 NOV	**Cygnet – 1st Autism training** **10am – 1pm For** Parents and Carers who applied (6-week)
25 NOV	**Parent/Carer Evening** **4.00pm-6pm** **All** Parents and Carers; Slots allocated

News

This is what happened at the Election

I watched as students from different classes ask to vote for them to be head boy and head girl.

Then after that they said “next week we will announce the winners to be head boy and head girl.”

I was thinking about my friends winning head boy and head girl. The experience was amazing, it was like voting for the next Prime Minister and President.

Everyone voted in class even me. The whole class put their votes into the box and that’s it. **Student editor: S.D.**

Contact

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Message from the Headteacher

It has been a busy first few weeks at Riverside, with lots happening across the school. I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of families, and it has been great to hear your views and talk about how we can continue to support our students. We have also held Transition meetings for our Year 11 and Year 14 families, helping everyone to look ahead to the next stage of their journey. Our Head Student election was another highlight, with students putting themselves forward and sharing their ideas — it was fantastic to see their enthusiasm and confidence.

Our focus this term is strongly centred on Phonics and Reading, with staff working hard to develop these important skills and encourage a love of reading across the school. We are also putting together our School Calendar, which we will share with families soon, so that everyone can see the events and activities planned for the year ahead. I am excited about what the coming months will bring and the opportunities we will create together for our students.

Highlights: October brings exciting opportunities for learning both in and out of classroom. Some of our students will soon enjoy visits to the theatre, giving them the chance to experience live performances and explore the world of drama and the arts. We are also looking ahead to organising our annual international trip to Slovenia, offering students a valuable opportunity to broaden their horizons, attend Art workshops and make lasting memories. A few of our students are currently attending gym sessions and are really enjoying them!

MAKATON SIGN OF THE MONTH

To Dance

Sign meaning

'To Dance'

Action: Mime as appropriate

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture.

Usage tip: Use the “To Dance” sign to support your child’s communication when talking about dancing, music, and movement. Model the sign when dancing together or listening to songs. Use it during everyday routines, such as singing and moving to music, playing with musical toys, or talking about activities they enjoy.

Additional information

- **Support for parents and carers:** Haringey’s SEND Local Offer provides families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) with information about local services, support and resources available to them. It helps parents and carers find advice, guidance and practical support to meet their child’s needs and support their family’s wellbeing. Click here for more information
- **SEND Pathways to Employment:** Event is taking place on Thursday 5 November 2026, from 12:00pm to 2:30pm at Haringey Sixth Form College. The event is open to young people aged 16–25 with SEND, their families, carers, and professionals. Families of younger children and young people are also very welcome to attend to learn more about future employment pathways and the support available.
- **Careers at Riverside:** Riverside School’s Careers page provides information about how we support our students to develop skills, explore future opportunities and prepare for life beyond school. It includes information about careers education, work-related learning, employability skills and opportunities to help students plan for their future. Find out more: https://www.riverside.haringey.sch.uk/Careers/
- **Post-16 & Post-19 Destinations:** Riverside School’s Destinations page provides information about colleges, specialist providers and programmes available to students after leaving Riverside. It includes a range of pathways supporting further education, vocational skills, employment, independence and life skills. Find out more: https://www.riverside.haringey.sch.uk/DESTINATIONS/

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
25th of September 9.30-11.00am	Meet the Headteacher	Parents and Carers by appointment
25th of September 4.30pm	Post 16 Transition meeting	For Yr11 Parents/ Carers
30th of September 9.30-11.00am	Open Day	For Yr4,5,6 Prospective Parents/ Carers
2nd of October 4.30pm	Post 19 Transition meeting	For Yr14 Parents/ Carers
From 26th of October to 30th October	Half term holiday	All students and Staff
2nd of November	Start of 2nd Half term	All students and Staff

News

During the summer I went to the park with my mum. The weather was sunny. I saw dogs running around the park. I ate pizza when I got home. Next summer I would like to try to leave the country. Student editor: F.S.

During the summer I went to Brighton with my carer. The weather was hot. I saw the funfair there. I ate ice cream. Next summer I would like to go there again. Student editor: M.K.

During the summer holiday I went to Cyprus with my family. The weather was hot and sunny. I saw the beach and I walked on the sand. I ale lots of fruit and salads. Next summer I would like to go to Wales. Student editor: E.K.

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

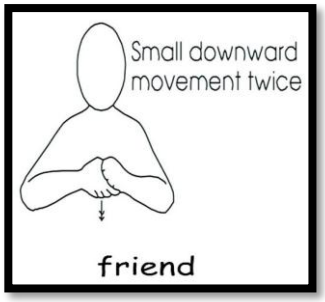
Message from the Headteacher

As we begin another exciting and purposeful year at Riverside, it is a wonderful opportunity to look ahead to the prospects and achievements that lie ahead. We are delighted to have embedded our new Curriculum Pathways and refreshed our curriculum, ensuring that our students continue to receive a rich, engaging and ambitious education that supports both their learning and personal development. We look forward to building on the successes of last year and working together as a school community to make this another positive and rewarding year for all.

I would also like to invite parents and carers to our **'Meet the Headteacher'** session on **Friday 25th September**, from 9:30am to 11:00am. If you would like to attend, please contact Angela Johnney at admin@riverside.haringey.sch.uk to schedule an appointment. I look forward to meeting many of you and to working together throughout the year ahead.

Highlights – It has been wonderful to see our school community come together, with students settling into their new classes, meeting new friends and embracing exciting opportunities for learning and growth. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead, filled with personal achievement, creativity and memorable moments. All classes are getting used to the new Pathways, and staff members are enjoying getting to know their students, building positive relationships and learning more about their individual strengths and interests.

Makaton Sign of the Month



Action: Hands in 'shaking hands' position; Small downward movement twice

Sign meaning:

'Friend'

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture.

Usage tip: Use the 'Friend' sign to support your child's communication when talking about people they know and enjoy spending time with. Model the sign when talking about friends at school, family members, or familiar people in the community. Use it during everyday conversations, when looking at photos, discussing people they have seen, or talking about plans to meet someone.

Additional information

- **Medical Appointments for students:** Please schedule non-urgent appointments outside school hours where possible. If an appointment is during school hours, please ensure your child attends school for as much of the day as possible.
  Proof of Appointments: Please provide the school office with appointment confirmation in advance as evidence of authorised absence on absences@riverside.haringey.sch.uk

- **ADHD Workshops:** Does your child have ADHD or are they on the waiting list for assessment or present with needs in this area? Free workshops on ADHD related topics at Chestnuts Community Centre, N15 5BN from 10-11.30am on the following dates: Tue 20/10/26, Tue 10/11/26, Tue 15/12/26. Topics include ADHD diagnosis, executive functioning, development and attention, parental self-care, crisis management. Sign up here: https://sendpowerinharingey.eventbrite.com

- **Consultations with Educational Psychologists:** Free consultations offered to parents/carers concerned about their child's development, learning, emotional well-being or behaviour. Educational psychologists support families and children: Book a free 40-minute session to: discuss your concerns, receive guidance, create a plan of support. Register at https://shorturl.at/OBWNx

- **Transition event – Preparing for adulthood, Enfield:** This event is for parents/carers and young people. It aims to bring together all the services that are available to young people post 18. Date and time: Thursday 5th November from 9.45am to 2pm. Please come and visit the Southbury Leisure Centre, 192 Southbury Road, EN1 1PY

National Autistic Society | Autism Specialist Award 2024
Naace The Education Technology Association
stars Getting young London moving
Artsmark Gold Award Awarded by Arts Council England
Haringey LONDON

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
8th of July	Transition evening	Parents and Carers of new arrivals or Class changes
14th of July	Leavers Prom	For Yr11 and Yr14 students
15th of July	Leavers Assembly	Families and Yr11, Yr14 students
17th of July	Last day of Term	All students and Staff
2 weeks, Mon 20th - Friday 31st July	Team Spirit Holiday Club	Students on Holiday Club provision

News

Our students undertook the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award with incredible determination, that tested their resilience, and left them with a profound sense of personal achievement.

Duke of Edinburgh was a fun experience I enjoyed being in the woods and hanging out with my friends. I liked the walks and seeing Gilwell park. Student editor: M.L.T.

I had a lot of fun during Duke of Edinburgh mostly looking around the campsite and playing with my friends. Student editor: B.D.

I had a ton of fun eating the food we made and chilling in my tent and playing with friends. Student editor: A.M.

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

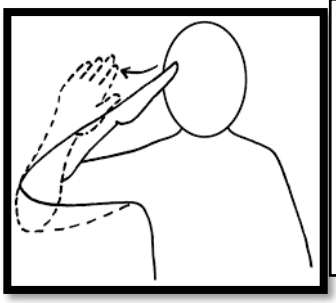
Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the close of another busy and rewarding year at Riverside, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved. Throughout the year, students have shown resilience, enthusiasm and continued growth in both their learning and personal development. We are especially proud of those leaving us this Summer as they prepare for the next stage of their journey. Our Leavers' Assembly and end-of-year celebrations will give us the chance to recognise everyone's achievements and celebrate the many successes and special moments that have made this year so memorable. Thank you for your continued support. Mr. Hehir, Headteacher

- **Academic term dates 26/27** - Please see term dates for 2026/2027 on our school website: https://www.riverside.haringey.sch.uk/docs/School_Term_and_Holidays_dates_for_2026-27_Academic_Year.pdf

Highlights - We have had an exciting end to June, with students from CKSG Slovenia visiting Riverside School for a special exchange visit. Our students also enjoyed a trip into Central London, visiting the Tower of London, Shakespeare's theatre and Westminster with the Slovenian group. Some students successfully completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award experience. Students and staff members are now preparing for the Transition and planning is underway for the new year.

Makaton Sign of the Month



Action: Touch forehead with side of extended palm, then open palm towards partner

Sign meaning:

'Holiday'

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture.

Usage tip: You can use the sign for 'holiday' to support your child's communication during the Summer break and when talking about time away from school. Model the sign when discussing going away, visiting family, or taking a break from school routines. Use it when looking at photos, talking about plans, or packing for trips.

Additional information

- **Screen time Guidance:** Screentime can negatively affect children's health, wellbeing, behaviour, and development. This can include problems with sleep, language development, concentration, mood, learning, and potential exposure to harmful online content, including the risk of radicalisation. Here are some good tips for healthy behaviour: Haringey Screentime Guidance for Parents and Carers

- **Riverside School Transition Support:** We offer support for all students who do not yet have a confirmed Post-16 or Post-19 placement. Please contact us at careers@riverside.haringey.sch.uk and we will work with you to support your child in securing an appropriate placement. Please note that we will be out of office over the Summer holiday period, but will resume support again in the Autumn term.

- **Importance of Attendance:** A message from LA Haringey EWO - Regular school attendance is essential for every child's learning and progress. Parents wishing to request a leave of absence during term time must apply at least 3 weeks in advance, and approval is at the discretion of the Headteacher. If leave is not approved—or no application is made in advance—any absence will be recorded as unauthorised, and families may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. The Department for Education discourages term-time holidays and monitors school attendance.

- **Absence reporting:** There are now two ways to report your child's absence and provide proof of appointments in advance where applicable. Phone: Call the number 020 8889 7814 and select Option 1. Email: Send an email to absences@riverside.haringey.sch.uk

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
25th of June	Sports Day	All Parents and carers & All students
26th of June	Families Forum: 'My child is turning 18-What do I need to know'	All Parents and carers
8th of July	Transition evening	Parents and Carers of new arrivals or Class changes
14th of July	Leavers Prom	For Yr11 and Yr14 students
15th of July	Leavers Assembly	Families and Yr11, Yr14 students

News

Students completed a few Employer visits over the year and were able to join in with activities provided for them in the Local Community. One of such visits was the recent one to the Record Shop in Wood Green.

On Thursday 4/6/26, we went to a Record Work Shop and it had some instruments. I had a great time with my friends. During the trip I asked other students about how they felt about the visit.

Student Y.A. said they liked the pool table and enjoyed being on the microphone. Student A.A. said he liked the drums. Student A.R. said that she loved being on the microphone too. It really seems that all students that went had a really nice time. Student editor: G.M.

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

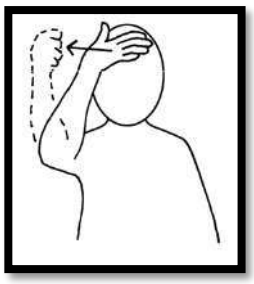
Message from the Headteacher

June continues to be a positive and busy time at Riverside, with students making strong progress across their learning and personal development. Year 11 and Year 14 are preparing for transition and Prom, marking an important milestone in their school journey. We will also be welcoming new students and families during our Transition Morning and Evening, helping to ensure a smooth and positive start in September. In addition, some students will be taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition at the end of June, and we are beginning preparations for our Leavers' Assembly in July, where we will celebrate the achievements of students moving on to their next destinations. Thank you for your continued support. Mr. Hehir, Headteacher

- **Academic term dates 26/27** - Please review term dates for 2026 to 2027 on our school website for advance planning: https://www.riverside.haringey.sch.uk/docs/School_Term_and_Holidays_dates_for_2026-27_Academic_Year.pdf

Highlights - We have an exciting end to June, with students from CKSG in Slovenia visiting Riverside for a special exchange visit. Many of our students will also be attending the residential trip to Macaroni Woods, where they will enjoy outdoor learning and new experiences. Marvin will also be performing in Team 4 – exciting!

Makaton Sign of the Month



Action: Brush an open palm across the forehead and close into a fist at the end

Sign meaning:

'Hot'

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture.

Usage tip: You can use the sign for 'hot' to support your child's communication during everyday Summer activities and hot days. Model the sign when the sun feels warm on their skin, when playground equipment has warmed up in the sunshine, or when they are feeling hot after running and playing outside. Show your child the sign as you talk about being hot and encourage them to copy the sign to express when they are feeling warm themselves.

Additional information

- **Support Riverside's 'Out and About' Appeal:** and help our students with SEND access life-changing trips, activities, and experiences beyond the classroom. **Bid on a signed Tottenham Hotspur shirt**, donate, or share our appeal to help us maintain and expand our transport provision for students. Every contribution helps create opportunities that build confidence, Independence, and joy. For bids, donations, and enquiries, please contact us at outandabout@riverside.haringey.sch.uk .

- **Headteacher meet – Ofsted Report:** Our Headteacher Mr. Hehir is inviting to meet with any parent or carer who wishes to discuss the Ofsted report or the future direction of the school. He will be available on Thursday 2nd July 2026 between 9:00am and 3:00pm for individual 30-minute appointments. Please contact the school office via email to arrange a suitable time admin@riverside.haringey.sch.uk .

- **Haringey Information Advice and Support Service (IASS):** The IASS/SENDIASS Is a free service that can help parents, carers and young people find out about their rights under the law and about the EHCP process and the options available. They can be contacted on 020 8802 2611 or via email: familyadmin@markfield.org.uk .

- **Haringey SEND Local Offer:** Locate resources, services, and support based on age, need, and type of assistance: https://new.haringey.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/local-offer

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
22nd of May; 10am	Families Forum: 'Keeping fit' – family routines	All Parents and Carers
25th of May to 29th of May	Term Holiday	All students
1st of June	Students return to school after Term holiday	All students
25th of June	Sports Day	All Parents and carers & All students

News

I really enjoyed the school trip to Slovenia. This is actually the third time I have been there but I still struggle to remember some words in the language. Luckily Ziva was with us and she could translate for us! The weather was sunny most of the time but it did rain a bit.

We left on a Tuesday and came back on Monday and that is nearly a week. It is a long time to be away from school but all the students and staff behaved well!

We stayed at the top of a school building and we did activities with the students most days.

We were in Piran and Pula and we went swimming. We also went on boat trip and saw dolphins. Plus, we had ice creams!
We visited Croatia for 1 day, this is another country but Slovenia is my favourite. Student editor: B.D.

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

Message from the Headteacher

As we move through the Summer term, I would like to take a moment to recognise the continued positive progress being made across the school. It has been wonderful to see students engaging so well in their learning and developing confidence in their skills and independence. Our ongoing focus remains on strengthening high-quality teaching and learning, while continuing to support students through our approach of understanding behaviour as communication. We are also busy preparing for new admissions for September 2026 and planning transition events for students in Year 11 and Year 14 who will be leaving Riverside this year. Most of our students will be moving on to Haringey Sixth Form Centre and Barnet and Southgate College, and we are working closely with families and partners to ensure that every transition is positive, well supported and successful. Thank you also to all parents who attended meetings with our Headteacher. Mr. Hehir

Highlights - Recently, some students and staff travelled to Slovenia as part of the ArtDownUp programme, taking part in a residential experience and spending several inspiring days abroad. Annual Reviews are now coming to an end, and students are looking ahead to upcoming enrichment opportunities. These include an upcoming visit to a local Record shop, as well as recent follow up employer visit experiences such as Team 1's visit to Marylebone Station. We are also preparing further employer visits within the local area, and Team 1 students are getting ready for their Duke of Edinburgh trip taking place in June.

Makaton Sign of the Month

Action: Form a fist with one hand and place it on top of the flat palm. Move both up - 'to help'

Sign meaning:

'Help'

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture.

Usage tip: You can use the sign for 'help' to support your child's communication during everyday routines at home. Model the sign when your child is trying to open containers, put on shoes, tidy toys, or reach something they can't get. Show them the sign as you are helping or encourage them to copy the sign before stepping in to assist.

Additional information

- **Support Riverside's 'Out and About' Appeal:** and help our students with SEND access life-changing trips, activities, and experiences beyond the classroom. **Bid on a signed Tottenham Hotspur shirt**, donate, or share our appeal to help us maintain and expand our transport provision for students. Every contribution helps create opportunities that build confidence, Independence, and joy. For bids, donations, and enquiries, please contact us at outandabout@riverside.haringey.sch.uk .

- **CAMHS North London Parent & Carer Advisory Group:** Are you a parent or carer with experience of CAMHS? This is your opportunity to share your ideas and feedback to help improve support for children, young people and families. Next session is taking place on 28th of May – as a thank you for your time, shopping vouchers will be provided. For information on how to register interest please contact George Cowan at George.cowan@annafreud.org .

- **Careers and Post 16/Post 19 Options:** We are committed to supporting every student as they plan their next steps beyond school. Our Careers programme helps young people explore pathways after Year 11 and Sixth Form, including further education, Internships/Apprenticeships, steps towards employment and training opportunities. If you would like more information or wish to discuss your child's future plans, please contact us on careers@riverside.haringey.sch.uk .

- **Next Steps in London:** Wellbeing & Exam Special, developed by the London Careers Hubs. This new special edition supports with progression and future pathways. You can access/download the Next Steps in London - Wellbeing & Exam Special here: Next Steps in London

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
4th of May	Bank Holiday – School closed	All students
5th of May	School will reopen as normal	All students
22nd of May; 10am	Families Forum: Keeping fit – family routines	All Parents and Carers
25th of May to 29th of May	Term Holiday	All students
1st of June	Students return to school after Term holiday	All students

News

We hope everyone had a lovely holiday break and enjoyed some rest. Recently, Ofsted visited the school and some of us had the opportunity to speak with them about our experiences. This was exciting and a great chance to share our views and what we like about the school.

This is also exams season and they are also going well, with many students working hard and preparing for the next round of assessments. We are proud of the effort everyone is putting in and wish all students the very best with the rest of their exams.

Groups of students are also visiting local employers – Railways, Brand Design, Building companies and even a Record shop, while another group is looking forward to travelling to Slovenia soon.

Student editor: A.K.

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

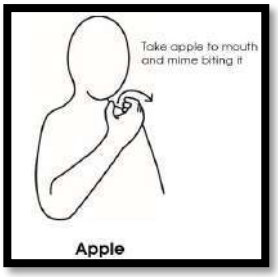
Message from the Headteacher

As we move through the Summer term, I wanted to take a moment to recognise the continued positive start our students have made. It has been a pleasure to see such strong attendance, focus on learning, and engagement in lessons across the school. Our students continue to demonstrate resilience, curiosity and a commitment to *learning to live life to the full*—something we are incredibly proud of. Thank you to all parents and carers who completed our survey during Parents' Evening in March. Your feedback is extremely valuable and helps shape our ongoing improvement work. From the responses received, three key strengths and priorities have emerged:

Key Strengths: Children are happy and feel safe in school, Strong quality of support and learning for pupils, Positive behaviour culture with consistent support. Areas for Development: Improve communication systems and Strengthen responses to concerns – ensuring all parents feel heard and informed. Mr. Hehir

Highlights - Many students have won Jack Petchey Awards and celebrated their achievements in a special assembly at Riverside. Students from Team 1 are attending a concert experience, while students across all teams are continuing to complete ASDAN accreditations, with portfolios being prepared for submission. Students are also enjoying visits within the local community, building independence skills and developing their Preparation for Adulthood outcomes. In addition, families are engaging in the Autism (Cygnet) 6-week parent training programme.

Makaton Sign of the Month



Action: Take 'apple' to mouth and mime biting it

Sign meaning:

'Apple

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture.

Usage tip: You can use the sign for 'apple' to support your child's communication during snacks, mealtimes, and active routines at home. Model the sign when offering fruit, packing snacks, or after physical activity when having a healthy snack together. This links the sign with healthy eating and supports the Keeping Fit at Home focus for families.

Additional information

- **Attendance and Engagement:** We have seen encouraging improvements in attendance this term, alongside high levels of engagement in lessons. Regular attendance is essential, particularly for our young people, as it supports consistency, progress towards EHCP outcomes, and social development. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please inform the school by 7:30am each morning and provide a clear reason with supporting evidence where appropriate.

- **Headteacher Drop-In Day:** Following the positive feedback from the last session in Spring term, our Headteacher will be holding another dedicated day to meet with parents and carers: Tuesday 21st of May 2026 from 9:00am – 3:00pm (30-minute individual appointments). If you would like to book a slot, please contact admin@riverside.haringey.sch.uk who will arrange this for you. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, raise any questions, or share feedback.

- **Families Forum:** Are continuing to occur every last or second to last Friday at Riverside School from 10am-11am. We selected different topics to support our Riverside families. We would really appreciate it if you could complete this short survey to help us understand how we can further increase our support to families with training opportunities, click here to complete

- **Connected Communities:** advice for families on benefits, debt, housing, childcare and more; Email: ConnectedCommunities@Haringey.gov.uk

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
18th of March 4-6pm	Parents Evening	All Parents and Carers
20th of March 10-11am	Families Forum: All things Autism	All Parents and Carers
27th of March to 10th of April	Term Holiday	All students
13th of April	Start of Summer term	All students
16th of April 7-8pm	Online: Supporting Neurodivergent girls	All Parents and Carers

News

As members of the School Student Council we represent the issues and concerns of students at Riverside School. We meet every term and any student can speak to us about anything they want us to speak about. The Careers Fair was held at the school on Friday March 6th. There were some providers there and they were able to tell us about what is on offer to Riverside students when they leave school.

Some of us are getting excited as we are going on the school trip to Slovenia in May. It is a one-week trip and I have never been there before so there will be a lot of things to see and do.

We are starting our exams in Team 1 next week with our Speaking and Listening exam. In the Summer Term we do our Maths exams plus our English Reading and Writing. Student editor: D.N.

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

Message from the Headteacher

March has been a busy and positive month of learning at Riverside School. It has been wonderful to see students taking part in a range of activities across the school. Earlier this month we held a Careers Fair, where students had the opportunity to meet different providers and learn more about future pathways available to them. We also celebrated World Book Day, with students and staff dressing up as characters from their favourite books, which brought a great sense of fun and creativity to the school day. I have also had the pleasure of meeting with several parents and carers and look forward to continuing these conversations in the coming months. Our next Parents' Evening will take place on the 18th of March and all families and carers are warmly welcome to attend from 4pm to 6pm. There is also the **parents/carers survey** which we encourage all parents/carers to complete by next week - **Click here to complete** .Finally, some of our students will soon be starting their exams and we wish them the very best of luck as they begin this important time. Mr. Hehir

Highlights - Team 2 and Team 4 students continue accessing the Alexandra Palace Forrest School where they are building on practical skills. Students in Team 1 and Team 4 attended the LSO relaxed Classical music concert at St. Luke's, Old Street and really enjoyed it. Several students across all Teams won Jack Petchey awards and are excited to contribute in a meaningful way.

Makaton Sign of the Month

Action: Palms on the side of one cheek, eyes closed. If the sign is with 'eyes open' – it means 'bed'.

Sign meaning:

'To sleep'

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture.

Usage tip: You can use the sign for 'sleep' to support your child's understanding and communication around rest and bedtime routines. Model the sign when you are getting ready for bed, talking about being tired, or settling down to sleep—such as during the bedtime routine. This helps your child link the sign with the idea of going to sleep and feeling tired.

Additional information

- **Home Activity – 'Mark Making & Writing':** Encourage your child to practise making marks or writing at home. Including drawing with crayons, making marks in sand, flour or chalk outside. For students who write, support them to practise writing their name, making lists, keeping a short diary, writing emails or about something they enjoy. Follow your child's interests and pace.

- **Autism support for parents:** Bi-monthly, in person, drop-in session for parents and carers of children recently diagnosed with autism or waiting for an assessment. For more information: SENDIASS helpline: 020 8802 2611; Email sendiass@markfield.org.uk ; Where: At the Markfield centre, in Markfield Park, Markfield Road, N15 4RB

- **Consultation with an Educational Psychologist:** Support for families around issues including development, learning, literacy, emotional well-being, behaviour and mental health. Book a free 40-minutes session: register at https://shorturl.at/OBWNx

- **Annual Review of EHC plans:** Online - Tue 17th of March: 12-1pm; This free session will explain how to prepare for and participate in the annual review of your child's EHC plan. Book your place at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/markfield-31140926185 ; Contact SENDIASS for more info.

- **Information about special educational needs:** In person drop-in session 20th of March 9-10am at Woodlands Park Children's Centre, N15 3SD; No need to book in advance, just turn up. SENDIASS

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
16-20th of February	Half-term holiday	All students
23rd of February	Start of Spring half term 2	All students
27th of February; 10am - 11am	Families Forum: Support links for Families in the Community	All Parents and Carers
18th of March	Parents Evening	All Parents and Carers

News

Our trip to the theatre to see Hercules was exciting and memorable. The story followed Hercules on his journey to discover who he really was and the actors brought the characters to life with their powerful voices and expressive movements. The costumes and stage effects made Mount Olympus and the Underworld look magical and dramatic.

As part of our work experience, we went to Marylebone train station where we saw the new train and other interesting things. The new train looked modern and clean, and it was exciting to see it up close. There were lots of people at the station, and trains were arriving and leaving regularly. We also learned about how the station works and how passengers travel safely. Overall, the visit was enjoyable and helped us learn more about trains and transport. Student editor: A.M.

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

Message from the Headteacher

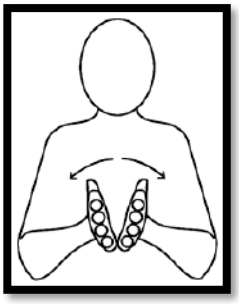
February has been a wonderful month of learning at Riverside School, and a very special one for me in my first month as Headteacher. It has been a real joy to visit classes and see learning in action, share lunchtime conversations, spend time listening and learning from our young people, and take part in the Student Council meeting. It was also wonderful to meet parents and carers at the coffee morning – thank you for such a warm welcome and for sharing what you celebrate about Riverside, as well as your thoughtful ideas for how we can continue to improve together. If parents and carers would like a 30-minute appointment with me, I am available from 9.00am to 2.00pm on 27th of February. Please book via our admin office at admin@riverside.haringey.sch.uk . Mr. Hehir

Highlights

Some of our students from T1, T2 visited Musicals: Matilda and Hercules – the energy and enthusiasm from the students were wonderful to see. Everyone had an amazing time!

Students from Team 4 attended Forest school at Alexandra Palace while others took part in an online story: "Marvin's Story Time Show: Cool Col and the Crazy Crab Craig Adventure" which was immensely appreciated by all students and staff.

Makaton Sign of the Month



Action: Open palms as you would open a book.

Sign meaning:

'Book'

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture

Usage tip: You can use the sign for 'book' to support your child's understanding and communication during reading times. Model the sign when you are reading together, choosing a book, or talking about stories—such as at bedtime, during a library visit, or when looking at pictures.

Additional information

- **Home Activity – 'Reading':** We encourage families to read together at home. This might be a newspaper article, sharing a favourite book, or looking at pictures and talking about them. Keep the experience relaxed and enjoyable, following your child's interests and pace.
- **Free information, advice and support service:** SENDIASS helpline: 020 8802 2611; Email sendiass@markfield.org.uk ; Or drop in to monthly Family Club - Where: At the Markfield centre, in Markfield Park, N15 4RB When: On the second Saturday each month in school term-time; Time: 11.30am to 2.30pm; https://markfield.org.uk/sendiass-get-help-and-advice
- **Online safety and radicalisation awareness:** To reserve a spot for an in-person training on Friday 13th of Feb from 2-3pm at Muswell Hill Primary School please email: kanika@groundswell.world
- **Haringey SEND Local Offer:** https://new.haringey.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/local-offer
- **(IPSEA) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice:** https://www.ipsea.org.uk/
- **Feedback & Contributions** We welcome your contributions! Please send in your thoughts, ideas or feedback for the newsletter through the school's email: aboutus@riverside.haringey.sch.uk

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
23rd of January; 9.30-10.30am	PE Parents meeting	Team 3 Parents and Carers
30th of January; 9.30-11am	Coffee morning with new Headteacher and Families Forum: Communication Focus	All Parents and Carers
16-20th of February	Half-term holiday	All students
18th of March	Parents Evening	All Parents and Carers

News

We are happy to have a new Headteacher Stephen Hehir. This is a new era for Riverside School. I hope he makes an impression as I feel very excited to work with him on new ideas and plans for the school. I am sure that he will be very busy.

We started the new term with very cold weather and even in this bad weather, Mr Hehir has come outside to greet students in the morning.

He has already told us that he is a West Ham supporter but unfortunately for Mr Hehir, there are a lot of Arsenal supporters in the school!!! Student editor: A.M.

Contact

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

Highlights

I am delighted to be joining Riverside School as the new Headteacher and am very excited to become part of this wonderful community. Riverside's strong ethos and commitment to *Learning to Live Life to the Full* make this a truly special place, and I am really looking forward to getting to know our students, families and staff.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to come and meet me for an informal tea, coffee and biscuits on **Friday 30 January 2026, from 9.30am**, for a relaxed opportunity to say hello and chat. I look forward to meeting you and working together to support every child at Riverside.

Headteacher Mr Stephen Hehir

We said farewell to our former Headteacher, Mr Martin Doyle, and thank him for his dedication. Students enjoyed end-of-term trips that supported independence and social skills. This Spring term, we are focusing on Teaching and Learning and reviewing the curriculum to meet the needs of all learners.

Makaton Sign of the Month

Action: Two gentle claps with cupped hands.

Sign meaning:

'Happy'

Remember: always sign and say together. Go slow and show the gesture

Usage tip: You can use the sign for 'happy' to help the young person express positive feelings during activities they enjoy. Model the sign when student is smiling, laughing, or showing enjoyment, such as during a favourite activity, meal, or interaction. Over time, this supports emotional awareness and helps students communicate how they are feeling.

Additional information

- **Home Activity – 'One Calm Routine':** Families are encouraged to try one short, predictable daily routine together — like quiet music or a brief sensory, breathing, or stretching activity—to support emotional regulation and reduce anxiety.
- **Riverside's Families Forum:** Is a monthly opportunity for families and school staff to come together to engage in discussions and share ideas on topics that support our students. For more information, please contact us on: aboutus@riverside.haringey.sch.uk
- **Reporting your child's absence:** There are now two ways to report your child's absence: A) Phone: Call the number 020 8889 7814 and select Option 1. B) Email: Send an email to absences@riverside.haringey.sch.uk
- **Short Breaks:** SEND Power and Haringey DCT Team invite you to learn more about how to apply for Short breaks for children and young people with disabilities. Next session: 27/01/26, 10am-2pm at Winkfield Resource Centre, N22 5RP
- **Empowering Parents**: 'Together for Families' Haringey is a non-judgemental service offering guidance and support to help families: student communication, building independence, and address challenges**. Next session: 28/01/26, 9.30am–12pm** at Rising Green Family Hub (N22 6JA). Contact: catherine.dockrell@haringey.gov.uk
- **Feedback & Contributions** We welcome your contributions! Please send in your thoughts, ideas or feedback for the next newsletter through the school's admin email: admin@riverside.haringey.sch.uk

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Who it affects
Friday 19th of December	Last day of term for students	All students
Monday 5th of January	Students return	All students
16-20th of February	Half-term holiday	All students

News

As you may already know we are saying goodbye to our Headteacher Martin Doyle at the end of the term. We wish him all the best in his retirement! Stephen Hehir will be our new Headteacher - joining us in January 2026.

The Christmas Fair is an opportunity for parents and carers to see what students have made for the fair and also get to socialise with their children in a school environment. The event was a big success and the atmosphere was great. Classes worked really hard to prepare items and food for sale. Student editor: A.M.

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Riverside School

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

Welcome

We are excited to share with you some of the highlights from the past few months, upcoming events, and important reminders. As always, our goal is to keep you informed, connected, and involved in our school community. Please feel free to reach out if you have feedback or items you'd like us to include in future editions.

Highlights

Students across all Teams won Jack Petchey awards and won some funding to spend on their favourite activities and resources for school. One of our staff members also won the award and organised the purchase of a large number of books for the school together with some social skills activities. Congratulations to all and thank you for your amazing contributions! Our students and staff have also been working hard to prepare for the Assessment and Exam season continuing in Spring term. Transition Annual Reviews are all complete and students are awaiting confirmation of future placements.

Makaton Sign of the Month

Flat hand, palm down, covers top of the fist

Sign meaning:

'More'

Remember: always sign and say together.
Go slow and show the gesture

Usage tip: You can use this sign whenever the young person asks for any activity, food, or other opportunity when your child wants to express that they would like 'more' of something. You can then slowly transition to supporting them with signing 'more' if appropriate.

Additional information

- **Home Activity / Communication Tip** This month's home tip: practice the "Sign of the Month" together daily — maybe at dinner time or during choosing time — and encourage your child to use it if appropriate.
- **Support & Helplines**: If you need support beyond school, you might find the Haringey SENDIASS service useful. Contact details: 0208 802 2611 or email: sendiass@markfield.org.uk ; Additionally Haringey SEND Power is a local support link: https://www.sendpowerinharingey.org/
- **PIP & Universal Credit support:** Charity called 'Contact' (for families with children with disabilities): helpline: 0808 808 3555 or website: https://contact.org.uk
- **Careers:** Any requests, feedback or additional information you have about our Work experience and Careers programme please don't hesitate to contact us on: careers@riverside.haringey.sch.uk
- **Feedback & Contributions** We welcome your contributions! Please send in your thoughts, ideas or feedback for the next newsletter through the school's admin email: admin@riverside.haringey.sch.uk