

Prospectus



**Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy**



Deepening learning, raising aspiration

Message from the Principal

Ormiston Rivers Academy is a unique 11-18 co-educational academy which is delighted to be working in close partnership with the Ormiston Trust family of academies.

Being smaller than other local secondary education providers means we are able to focus on every student's achievement and well-being, much like a close family. We want the best for our youngsters and will seek new and diverse ways of achieving this for each individual child. This has proved to be very successful in enabling students to meet their goals.

We offer an extensive range of both curriculum and extra curricular opportunities that are enjoyed by our youngsters whilst enabling them to develop into confident, articulate and accomplished young adults. Students are

proud to be part of an academy which has made such rapid progress academically, provides an excellent atmosphere for learning and boasts superb state of the art premises.

We are proud to be part of the broader population of the Dengie and enjoy the opportunities this affords our youngsters for extended activities and "real" citizenship; working closely with the local community. It is a privilege to be part of an academy that is so closely linked with its surrounding community.

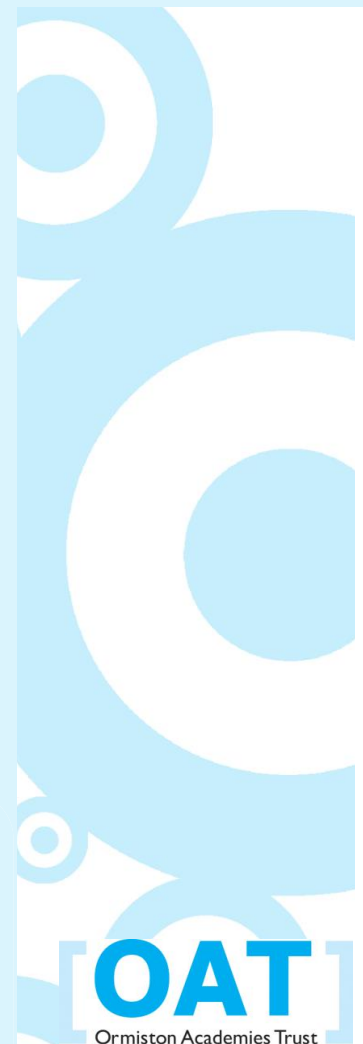
Young people often say that they learn better when they are having fun. Enjoyment and aspiration are at the heart of Ormiston Rivers Academy's philosophy and we truly endeavour to ensure that the experience of learning with us is positive, and encourages a lifelong enthusiasm for learning in all our students.

We hope that you will take the opportunity to visit our academy to experience for yourself our warm and welcoming environment and to see our vision, aims and philosophies in practice.

Joan Costello
Principal

"Leaders have high ambitions for the academy and their relentless search for improvements have sustained and strengthened the academy's overall effectiveness."

OAT Review June 2016



OAT
Ormiston Academies Trust

An **OAT** Academy

Vision

Our strong code of values guides our work and creates a secure learning environment where all students can thrive and succeed.

Students have the best possible education to help them achieve their personal ambitions and to develop a code of conduct which prepares them for life.

We concentrate on developing the individual and encourage an outlook on life which reflects the best in our community; nurturing confident, active, aspirational and socially responsible young people.

Our students are equipped with the ability to meet the demands of the times through a diverse curriculum, personalised to an individual student's needs. Students learn to be resourceful, resilient, imaginative and responsible and how to transfer this into real life situations.

Students are expected to arrive at the academy with a positive attitude to learning. We believe in good behaviour and discipline and encourage friendly but respectful teacher-student relationships.



The teachers are so kind and helpful that I feel I am always learning lots and lots. They also help me achieve outstanding grades and marks in class.

Student.



Ormiston Trust

Ormiston Trust is proud to be the sponsor of Ormiston Rivers Academy.

The Trust aims to create a network of inspirational and inclusive schools and academies who share the same values. The network will provide transformational learning and the highest levels of achievement for students and the communities in which they live.

"I have always cared about providing the very best learning opportunities for young people. Everyone at Ormiston Rivers Academy shares this passion and together we will ensure that it gives our children the best environment in which to learn and enjoy.

I know you will share my belief that Ormiston Rivers Academy is an exceptional place to learn in, irrespective of your age or ability; we have much to offer."

Peter Murray, Chairman of Ormiston Trust

High Achievement

In recent years there has been a marked upward trend in student attainment, with record numbers achieving 5+ A*-C and new 9-1 grades at GCSE or equivalent in 2017.

At Ormiston Rivers Academy we aim to provide an education that enables each individual student to achieve their full potential. Challenging but achievable targets are set for each student in each subject at Key Stages 3 and 4. Progress towards those targets is monitored to identify any students who are under-achieving and strategies are then put in place to tackle this. Strategies may include the use of a range of professionals including learning mentors and student support advisors.

Parental support is highly valued and we seek to form a partnership between parents and teachers to ensure each student is given the support to achieve at their highest possible level. Parents are regularly informed of their child's progress and of any concerns that the academy may have.

We have Achievement Directors for each year group who know who you are and how you're doing. It's nice to have someone to go to for help who knows who you are.

Student.

Able, Gifted and Talented

"Able, Gifted and Talented" describes children and young people with ability ahead of the average level for their year group or with the potential to develop those abilities.

At Ormiston Rivers Academy every student matters; personalised and differentiated practice is at the forefront of our ethos. Gifted and Talented students are challenged and encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability. The Academy uses a number of practices including: differentiation of task levels giving more challenging content to the most able students; expectation of more detailed and sophisticated answers; the use of more complex texts, word banks, data files or image banks and one-to-one additional teaching support.

Students also enjoy a range of activities including special projects, collaborative working with local primary schools and trips and visits to museums and universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

"Ormiston Rivers Academy is an industrious environment, where staff and pupils work together harmoniously and without complacency."

Ofsted September 2016

"Students' personal development, behaviour and welfare remains strong. Students conduct themselves responsibly as they move around the site and during lunch and break times."

OAT Review June 2016

Excellent Facilities

The Academy's £10.75m extensive new build / refurbishment programme has ensured outstanding facilities for students.

- A newly built Performing Arts Centre;
- State of the art science laboratories providing 21st century learning areas;
- Excellent sports facilities in our extensive grounds, a multi-use games area and a new fitness suite;
- Refurbished classrooms throughout the Academy featuring high specification interactive teaching walls;
- An outstanding Learning Resource Centre (LRC);
- New exterior seating area featuring contemporary all weather sail shades;
- Sophisticated retractable bleacher seating and performance sound / lighting systems in our upgraded main hall;
- State of the art design and technology equipment;
- The most up to date infrastructure supporting ICT resources for our students.

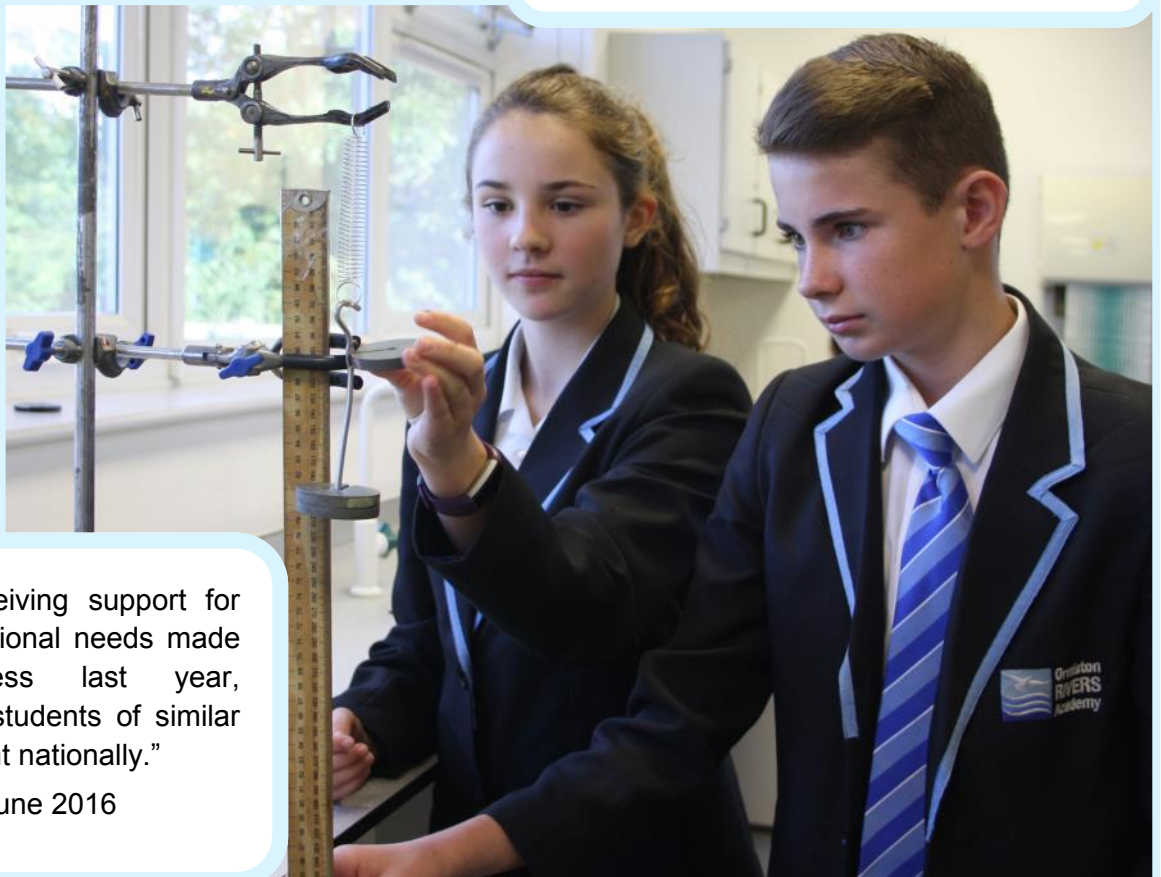
"The strengths of teaching include good questioning. It is evident from students' articulate responses that they are used to being called upon to explain their thinking."

OAT Review June 2016



Science is my favourite subject because I feel that I'm good at it and I enjoy it. I'm really inspired by my teacher and my mentor. When I leave school I want to go to university to become an eco-architect.

Student.



"Students receiving support for special educational needs made good progress last year, compared to students of similar prior attainment nationally."

OAT Review June 2016

Outstanding Opportunities

At Ormiston Rivers Academy we offer all students:

- High quality teaching combined with a strong nurturing ethos;
- Strong leadership and clear direction;
- Excellent preparation for life's journey.

Students participate in a wide range of other activities.

There are many opportunities for students to take part in extra-curricular activities. A number of clubs and activities take place beyond lessons, allowing students to enjoy a range of sporting, cultural and social activities to enrich their educational experience.

The academy provides a late bus Monday to Thursday in order that all students are able to enjoy our rich and diverse extra-curricular programme or to attend additional lessons or revision sessions where required.

An extensive programme of trips and visits are organised to support classroom learning including theatre trips, museums, exhibitions and residential trips in the UK and abroad.

The academy's music department is central to the community, performing at local civic events. The Choir is particularly popular, playing at local and national events, and new enthusiastic participants are always welcome and encouraged. We stage an annual musical production in collaboration with local primary schools, developing the community spirit of the academy further.

The physical education department runs a wide range of clubs and activities and students are encouraged to participate in inter-school competitions.

My academy has helped me to follow my dream, thanks to the musical productions they put on. I enjoy the fact that Ormiston Rivers Academy actually tries to help us achieve our dreams.

Student.

"Pupils are courteous young people who welcome visitors happily to their very attractive and well-maintained school. Pupils appreciate the work of the staff and try hard in lessons because they want to do well."

Ofsted September 2016



Student Voice

Student Voice plays an active role both within the academy and the wider community, and provides all students with the opportunity to develop their social skills and leadership qualities. It provides a forum for students' news, ideas and opinions. Through our Student Council, change occurs within the Academy, such as recycling focus.

We have strong links with our local community and aim to make a positive contribution to all aspects of community life. Representatives of Student Voice attend many local and district meetings / debates and are commended for their contributions to these events.

A range of leadership and academic activities are available within the academy community for students to develop communication, debating and organisational skills, and to encourage responsibility and extended learning. This includes the academy and year councils, mentor and sports captains, the Interact club and much more.

The Sixth Form Leadership team have appointed positions of responsibility, reporting to Senior Management.

Involving Parents

Ormiston Rivers Academy is committed to working closely with parents to ensure students succeed and enjoy academy life.

Our highly praised pastoral system offers students care and support and enables vital close relationships with parents. Parents value the knowledge that there is a person within the academy whose sole responsibility is the welfare of their child. The relationship between home and academy is vital to help students become confident, happy and fulfilled citizens of tomorrow.

“The academy’s provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is emerging as an area of excellence.”

OAT Review June 2016



I really like PE because I like being outside and active. After leaving I want to go to university.

Student.

The Academy has been nationally recognised for its exceptional 2016 performance by the Schools, Students and Teachers network (SSAT). Educational Outcomes data analysis from SSAT puts the Academy in the top 20% of schools nationally for progress.

Ormiston Rivers Academy

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