



THREE RIVERS ACADEMY

START OF AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

Monday 6th September 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to the academic year 26/27

As we begin another exciting year at Three Rivers Academy, it has been wonderful to welcome our students back and to see the school buzzing with energy, optimism and ambition. A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 cohort, who made a fantastic start last week and have already embraced school life with enthusiasm and confidence. We are also delighted to welcome the many new students joining our Sixth Form in Year 12, who have quickly become part of our thriving school community.

Key Dates

Attendance

Safeguarding

Friends



There is always something special about the start of a new academic year, and it has been a pleasure to see so many students returning determined to make the most of every opportunity. In my first assemblies of the term, I spoke about the phrase, "*the harder you work, the luckier you get.*" While success is sometimes described as good fortune, it is often the result of the small habits, positive choices and consistent effort we make every day. By working hard, being organised, attending regularly, and approaching challenges with resilience, students create opportunities for themselves and put themselves in the best possible position to succeed when those opportunities arise.

We are also very pleased to celebrate another set of strong summer examination results. Our A Level outcomes were particularly impressive, with a record-breaking increase in the proportion of A*-B grades for the second consecutive year. We are especially proud that two of our students are preparing to begin their studies at Oxford University, while a further two students will be embarking on medical degrees. Our GCSE results were equally encouraging, with steady academic gains across the board and a continued rise in the percentage of students achieving strong passes in both English and Mathematics. These achievements reflect the sustained hard work, focus and dedication shown by our students, alongside the unwavering commitment of our staff over the past two years.



As we look ahead, I am incredibly excited about what this year will bring and deeply grateful to the staff of Three Rivers Academy, who work tirelessly every day to support, challenge and inspire our young people to achieve their very best.

Miss B Mayaire
Principal



Online information events for Year 8-11 families – Tue 8th September 6pm and 6.30pm

A reminder about two online information evenings this Tuesday. We would be grateful if at least one parent or carer from each family could attend, even if you have previously had older siblings attend Three Rivers Academy. The presentation will last approximately 30 minutes, and there will be an opportunity to submit questions.

Year 10 & 11 Online Information Evening - Tuesday 8 September at 6.00pm:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Mzk1NDdlMTgtOGRjNy00ZjlmLWJlNzktMDQ1YTUyMDk3MjUz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0659541-51f0-45b1-8ffa-3253520f2a8e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%224758ce37-024c-4761-b993-6f8c65f694e8%22%7d

Year 8 & 9 Online Information Evening - Tuesday 8 September at 6.30pm:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTI4NTA2MDYtNzgzZS00NWE1LTg2ZTctMDAzZDFjMzdkMTVj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0659541-51f0-45b1-8ffa-3253520f2a8e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%224758ce37-024c-4761-b993-6f8c65f694e8%22%7d

Staffing update

We are delighted to welcome the following new members of staff:

Miss Myers - Teacher of Dance (mat cover)
Mrs Sethi - Cover Supervisor
Miss Johnson - LSA
Ms Braakhuis - SIMS Assessment and Data Manager
Miss Slater - Communication & Marketing Assistant

Staffing, timetabling, and class allocations are complex to manage in a large secondary school with a broad curriculum offer, and timetables and teachers are subject to change throughout the year. We understand that this can be upsetting and frustrating for students and families, but please rest assured that any amendments are only made with the students' best interests at heart. We will always do our utmost to communicate any changes ahead of time.

Key Term Dates

Autumn Term: Tuesday 1st September - Friday 18th December
(Half term from Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October)

Date	Event	Extra Info
Tuesday 8 th September (18:00-18:30)	Year 10 & 11 Parent Information Evening	Online
Tuesday 8 th September (18:30-19:00)	Year 8 & 9 Parent Information Evening	Online
Thursday 10 th September (18:00-20:00)	Celebration Evening	Main Hall (invitation only)
Tuesday 15 th September (9:45-10:45)	School Tours	LRC starting point (pre-booked tours only)
Wednesday 16 th September	School Photographs	Main Hall
Thursday 17 th September (13:00-14:00)	Freshers Fayre	Main Hall
Thursday 17 th September (17:30-19:30)	Granada Trip Parent Info Evening	LRC (tbc)
Thursday 24 th September (17:30-20:00)	Open Evening	Main School Open Evening
Tuesday 29 th September (9:45-10:45)	School Tours	LRC starting point (pre-booked tours only)

Thursday 1st October (9:45-10:45)	School Tours	LRC starting point (pre-booked tours only)
Saturday 3rd - Wednesday 7th October	GCSE Spanish - Immersion Trip to Granada	
Wednesday 7th October (8:45-15:15)	Brooklands Innovation Academy	Selected students
Thursday 8th - Friday 16th October	MFL - Year 11s PPEs	
Thursday 8th October (9:45-10:45)	School Tours	LRC starting point (pre-booked tours only)
Thursday 8th October (17:00-19:00)	Sixth Form Open Evening	
Monday 12th October (9:30-14:30)	BEfest	Selected Year 8/9 students
Tuesday 13th October (9:45-10:45)	School Tours	LRC starting point (pre-booked tours only)
Wednesday 14th October	Oxbridge & UCAS Deadline	
Wednesday 14th October	A Level Art - V&A Museum Trip	
Wednesday 14th October (9:45-10:45)	School Tours	LRC starting point (pre-booked tours only)
Saturday 19th - Wednesday 30th October	Half Term	

Pastoral structure

Please see below the pastoral team structure for this year. The form tutor should be your first point of contact for day-to-day queries.

Queries about a specific subject are best directed to the teacher and/or Head of Faculty. Below is a link to our communication protocols, which I would ask you to read carefully to ensure effective contact between home and school:

<https://www.threeriversacademy.org/Communication-with-Three-Rivers-Academy/>

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Head of Year 7 Mr Buckman	Head of Year 8 & 9 Mr Brown		Head of Year 10 & 11 Mr Carter	
n/a	Deputy Head of Year Mr Coppini	Deputy Head of Year Mr Williams	Deputy Head of Year Mr Webb	Deputy Head of Year Miss Kapo
Senior Pastoral Lead Ms Papworth	Senior Pastoral Lead Mrs Brough	Senior Pastoral Lead Miss Evans	Senior Pastoral Lead Miss McDowall	Senior Pastoral Lead Mrs Sheen

Nut free school

A reminder that we are a nut free school, as we have several students with an incredibly severe nut allergy. Please ensure that your child does not bring in any product containing any sort of nuts. If found, nut products will be confiscated and disposed of to keep our school safe. Nutella and Kinder Bueno are regular offenders!



Start of the day

In the morning, students should be on site for 8.25am. Line up bell (Year 7-11) rings at 8.27am, with register being taken at 8.30am. This means that a student arriving to line up later than 8.30am is late.

Rydens Grove gate is locked at 8.27am.

Breakfast Club

We are running a free Breakfast Club for all students every morning. We know that a healthy breakfast helps young people learn better throughout the day.

The club is run by Mrs Scannella and Mrs Watkins in the Purple Food Tech room **0.17 and runs from 7.45am to 8.15am.**

Students may attend every day or on an ad hoc basis.

Uniform – please support us in helping students meet our expectations

Below is a link to our 2026/27 uniform and equipment policy:

<https://www.threeriversacademy.org/Information/Uniform/>

We expect every student to wear their full and correct uniform (including correct footwear every day). If a student is unable to do so, we will always aim to offer an alternative for our uniform store for the student to wear (stock allowing). Should the issue not be rectified, the student will not be allowed in lessons or social time until our expectations are met.

The decision about what is and what is not acceptable will always remain with the school.

School bag

Students must bring a school bag every day, which must be large enough to hold A4 books and folders.

We sell pens, pencils and rulers from the uniform store and expect students who arrive at school without the correct equipment to purchase essential items at the start of the day. The charge will be added to the student's Scopepay account.



Mobile phones

Phones must not be seen, heard or used at all in school.

Student mobile phones must be:

- turned off
- in bags or lockers

If a phone is seen, heard or used, it will be confiscated and a behaviour log will be recorded. On the third confiscation, the phone will be kept overnight.



We ask parents not to contact their child on their mobile during the school day.

Please call the school and we will pass on the message. If a student needs to get hold of a family member during the school day, they should go to their Year office at lunch or breaktime.

Please read our protocols carefully: [Phone protocols TRA Sep 26.pdf](#)

Voluntary donations

We are very grateful to families who have already made a voluntary donation to Three Rivers Academy. As a guide, families may wish to consider a donation of £60 per child per academic year, or a termly contribution of around £20.

Donations can be made through Scopay under "Donations: Three Rivers Academy 2026/27".

If you would prefer to make a regular contribution, such as £10 per month or £20 per term, please contact finance@threerivers.thpt.org.uk for details of how to set up a standing order.

We are also registered with **easyfundraising**, which allows you to support Three Rivers Academy at no additional cost to yourself. More than 8,000 retailers will make a donation to the school when you shop with them through easyfundraising. There are no catches or hidden charges, and every donation helps to support our students.

1. Visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/three-rivers-academy/> and sign up for free.
2. Whenever you shop online, start via easyfundraising and select the retailer you wish to use.
3. Once you have completed your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to Three Rivers Academy at no extra cost to you.

School car park: out of bounds for parents

For safeguarding reasons, parents are not allowed to drive onto the school car park to drop their child off, unless they have been issued with a pass. This means that students attending an early morning PE club must be dropped off outside the school site and walk onto the premises.

The visitors' disabled parking spaces by the main gate are reserved for drivers with a blue badge. We have several students in a wheelchair or with severe mobility issues who desperately need these places.

Drop off and pick up

We have had many reports about dangerous driving on Rydens Grove, with parents and local residents expressing concern about the safety of our students. We would ask that you exercise caution when you drive or park down that road.

We also kindly ask that you refrain from using Felcott Road as a drop off/pick up point; cars doing a three-point turn in the narrow road are a common complaint from local residents. School staff do not monitor traffic on public highways.



Contact details

If you have recently moved or changed your phone number or email address, please ensure you inform us by emailing info@threerivers.thpt.org.uk. Please also ensure that we have up to date details of at least two adults, in addition to the main point of contact, who can be contacted in the case of an emergency.

Social media

Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook for regular updates on life at Three Rivers Academy. Key communication will always be shared via ParentMail.



three_rivers_academy



Three Rivers Academy

Miss B Mayaire
Principal

Attendance

Dear Parent/Carer,

If you consider that there are exceptional circumstances relating to your request, please let the school have full details. Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances :-

1. Pupils identified by police and Attendance Advice Officers (formerly Inclusion Officers) engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.
 2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more).
- **Please be aware that The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**
 - They may request that Surrey County Council issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised.

Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

3. Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance.

This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 10 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 10 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance.

If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement in your child's attendance, please contact your child's school or the Attendance Advice Officer.

Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours.

This duty applies to the first five days of each exclusion. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)

Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice and Consequences for repeat unauthorised absences

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Advice and support is available from an Attendance Advice Officer by contacting Surrey Attendance Service as follows :-

North West - Tel: 01483 518130 South West - Tel: 01483 517874
North East - Tel: 01372 833588 South East - Tel: 01737 737777

Welcome Back: Every Day Matters

We would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our students and families as we begin another exciting year at Three Rivers Academy.

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in student success. It supports academic progress, wellbeing, confidence and strong relationships with peers and staff. This year, we continue to promote our "Three Days Max" target, encouraging students to have no more than three days of absence across the term wherever possible.

Parents and carers can monitor attendance through Talaxy, which provides up-to-date attendance information. Throughout the year, you will also receive regular texts and communications from the school to keep you informed about your child's attendance, celebrate improvements and highlight any concerns at an early stage.

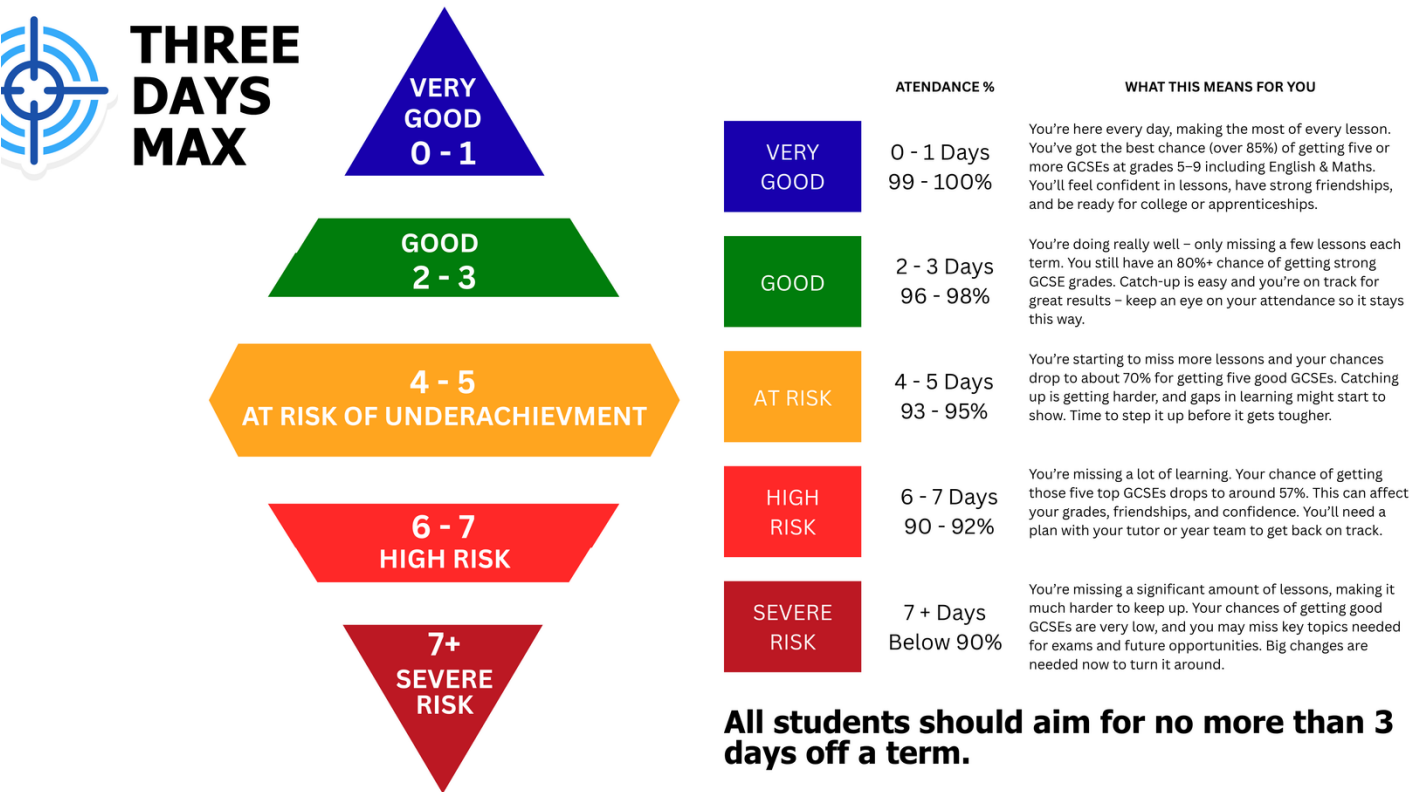
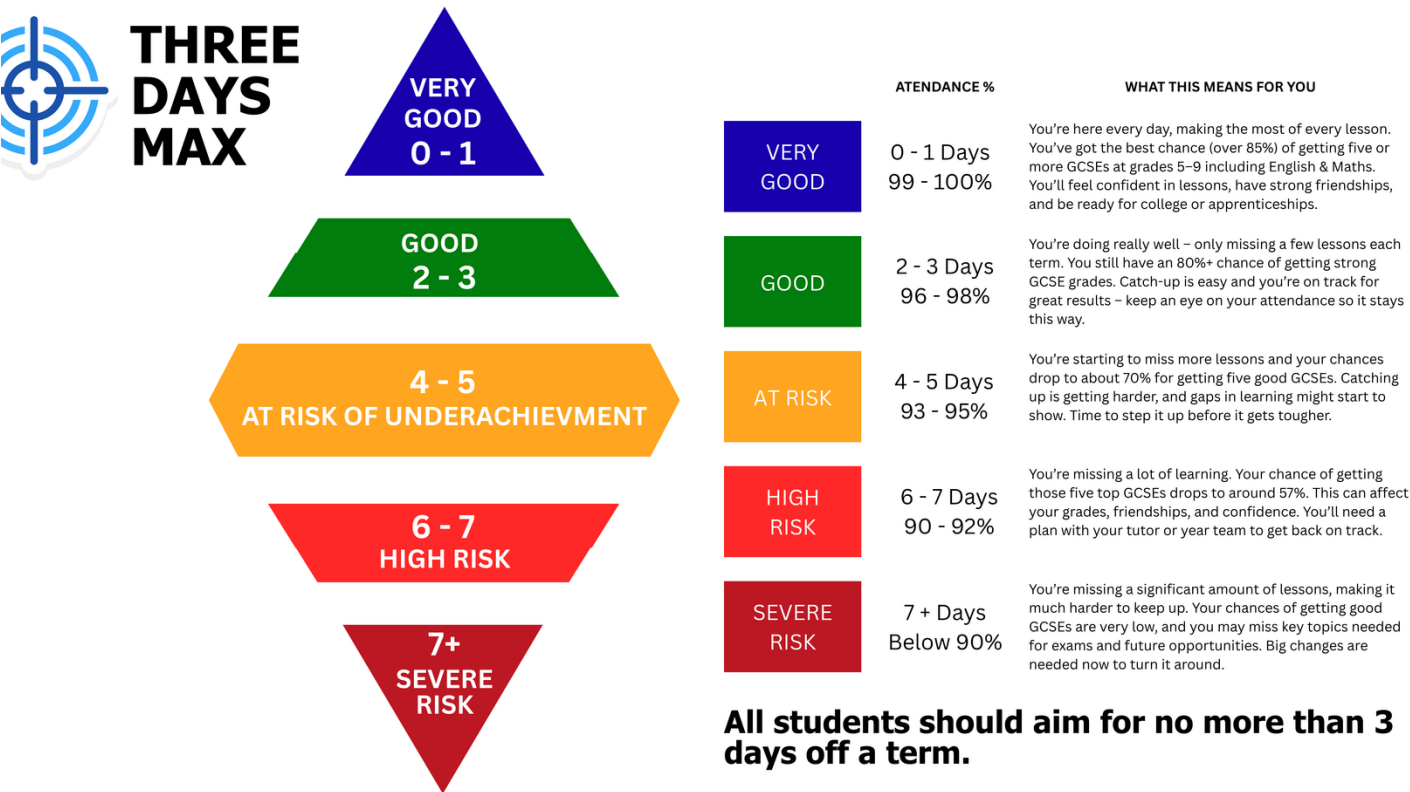
We ask all students to:

- Attend school every day unless genuinely unwell.
- Arrive on time and ready to learn.
- Attend all lessons and tutor sessions.
- Take responsibility for making the most of every learning opportunity.
-

We understand that attendance challenges can sometimes arise, and our Attendance Team is here to help. If you have concerns about your child's attendance, please contact us early so that we can work together to provide support.

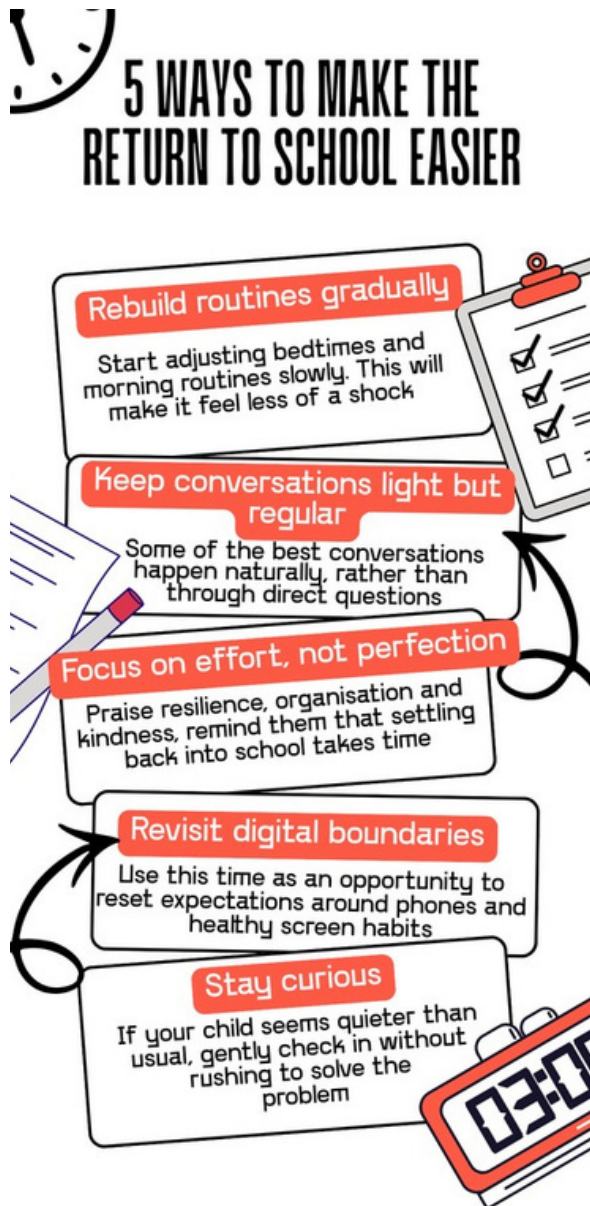
By working in partnership, we can ensure every student has the best possible opportunity to succeed this year.

Every day matters. Every lesson counts. Every student can thrive.



Safeguarding

What parents and carers need to know about: Back to school



Supporting your child's return to secondary school

Returning to secondary school after the summer is about much more than going back into the classroom. Young people may be adjusting to changes in friendships, new teachers, increased expectations and the social pressures that often return as group chats and social media become more active again. These worries don't always sound like 'I'm anxious.' Instead, they may show up as irritability, tiredness or reluctance to talk. Understanding that these feelings are common can help parents respond with reassurance and support.

Digital safeguarding focus

For many families, the summer holidays bring a more relaxed approach to technology. Children often spend longer on their devices, stay up later, use social media more frequently and become more active in group chats. While this can be part of enjoying the break, it can also mean that routines and boundaries have gradually slipped. As we get into the new term, it's a good opportunity to reset your family's expectations around technology so that devices support learning, sleep and wellbeing rather than becoming a distraction. Consider revisiting expectations around:

- when phones are put away, particularly during homework, family time and before bed
- screen time during the school week, ensuring there's a healthy balance between technology, schoolwork and other activities
- group chats and social media, including how to manage upsetting messages and the importance of leaving chats that no longer feel positive
- getting help, making sure your child knows they can always come to you or another trusted adult if something online makes them feel worried or uncomfortable.

A few simple conversations at the start of term can make it much easier to establish healthy digital habits that will support your child throughout the school year.

Supporting your child if they're feeling anxious
Remind them that:

- most students have worries, even if they don't show them
- friendships naturally change over time
- new routines usually feel easier after the first couple of weeks
- asking for help is a strength, not a weakness.

When might your child need extra support? It's normal for children to take time to settle back into school but if changes such as persistent low mood, withdrawal from friends, refusing to attend school, changes in sleep or appetite, frequent headaches or stomach aches or becoming unusually emotional continue for more than a couple of weeks, they may need some extra support. If you're concerned, speak our pastoral team.

Online challenges: Helping your child make safe choices

Online challenges have become a regular part of many young people's online lives. While some are harmless and encourage creativity or fundraising, others can involve risky behaviour, dangerous dares or pressure to do something simply because 'everyone else is doing it.'

Social media platforms are designed to promote popular and engaging content, meaning children may see the same challenge repeatedly, making it feel normal or expected. For teenagers especially, the desire to fit in, gain approval from friends or increase likes and views can sometimes outweigh their judgement of the risks involved.

Understanding why young people take part
Most young people don't join dangerous challenges because they want to get hurt. Instead, they may:

- want to fit in with friends
- feel pressure not to miss out
- think the risks have been exaggerated want attention, likes or followers believe 'it won't happen to me.'

Helping children understand these influences is often more effective than simply telling them not to take part.

What parents can do

The most effective protection is regular conversation rather than one big talk. Try asking questions such as:

- "What's the latest online challenge?"
- "Why do you think people take part?"
- "How would you know if something had gone too far?"

Approaching the conversation with curiosity rather than judgement makes it much more likely your child will talk openly.

Digital safeguarding focus

Many online challenges begin with a message in a group chat or someone encouraging others to join in. Remind your child that they never have to take part in something just because friends are doing it or because they're worried about being left out.

Encourage them to:

- think about the real-world consequences before taking part
- avoid sharing dangerous challenges with others
- leave conversations that encourage risky behaviour
- tell a trusted adult if something makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Five ways to help keep your child safe from online challenges

Stay interested

Ask about what your child enjoys watching online and the creators they follow.



Teach them to pause

Encourage them to stop and think before joining in, sharing or filming a challenge.



Talk about peer pressure

Help them understand that online pressure can feel just as powerful as face-to-face pressure.



Remind them it's okay to say no

Reassure them that walking away or leaving a group chat is always an option.



Keep communication open

Let them know they can always come to you if something doesn't feel right.



If you are concerned
If you're worried that your child has taken part in a dangerous challenge or is being pressured online, speak to them calmly and without judgement. If needed, seek support from school, our pastoral and safeguarding team are here to help.

Friends of Three Rivers



Hosted by the
Friends of Three
Rivers

Everyone
is welcome!

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Friday 27th November

7:30-9:30pm

@Three Rivers Academy

Tickets: £35 + booking fee

includes a mince pie, glass
of fizz & all wreath making
materials



<https://pta.events/christmaswreathworkshop2026>