

RIVERSIDE VIRTUAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Where Every Learner Thrives



EDITION
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DATE
12/06/2026



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the Riverside Virtual College newsletter. This newsletter has been created to keep parents, carers and families updated with key events, learning opportunities and celebrations from across our school community.

We would like to say a huge well done to all of our learners who sat their GCSE exams. They are now finished, and we are incredibly proud of all their hard work, dedication and resilience.

At Riverside Virtual College, we are proud to provide a personalised, flexible and supportive online learning environment where every learner can thrive.



PRIDE MONTH AT RVC

Throughout June, Riverside Virtual College is proud to celebrate Pride Month. We recognise and value the diversity of our school community and remain committed to creating a learning environment where every student feels safe, respected and included.

Pride Month gives us an opportunity to promote kindness, equality and acceptance, while celebrating the importance of identity, belonging and being yourself.



★ EVENTS THIS WEEK ★



Virtual School Visit with Matt Goodfellow

Students took part in a Virtual School Visit with Matt Goodfellow on Wednesday 10th June, from 10:30am to 11:15am.

Matt Goodfellow introduced students to his book *Six Weeks* and explored the novel's characters and themes.

Students considered the idea of poetry as rebel writing, looking at accent, dialect and the freedom of poetry as a way of expressing themselves. Schools also had the opportunity to ask Matt questions during this special event.

In case you missed any of it, or would like to watch it again, we're pleased to share a link to the recording of the event to watch at leisure: https://youtu.be/FI6UnyBW7_M.



Health for Life Cookathon 2026

Congratulations to our pupils who took part in the Health for Life Cookathon 2026.

Students joined children from 48 schools across Birmingham and beyond to cook Garlic Cheese Chicken with Flat Bread and Smashed Cucumber Salad with Michelin-starred chef David Taylor.

This was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop practical cooking skills, try new recipes and be part of a wider school community event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

IGD SEND Employability Skills Workshop

An IGD SEND Employability Skills Workshop will take place on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 11:15am on Zoom. The workshop will support students in developing employability skills, including confidence, communication, workplace skills and preparation for future pathways.



RESOURCES FOR AT HOME



EAL Holiday Challenge

Families can keep English learning going at home through the EAL Holiday Challenge. This printable activity grid includes fun, informal tasks to complete together, such as watching a cartoon with subtitles or using the FlashAcademy® object translator around the house. Activities encourage English practice without feeling like homework and can be completed with or without a FlashAcademy® subscription.

Link: <https://flashacademy.com/free-resources/eal-holiday-challenge/>



Kasim Ali Author Talk and Q&A

Students and families can access information about an author talk and Q&A with Kasim Ali, taking place on Thursday 2 July 2026, from 12:00pm to 1:30pm. Hosted by the Race Equality Network at the University of Birmingham, Kasim Ali, author of *Good Intentions* and *Who Will Remain*, will discuss his Birmingham roots, Pakistani heritage and journey into writing and publishing.

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kasim-ali-author-talk-and-qa-tickets-1988900958225?aff=oddtcreator>



Spark Young Writers Magazine

The latest edition of Spark Young Writers Magazine is now available online. Published in April 2026, Issue 32 features writing by young people aged 8 to 20 from across the West Midlands. It is a great opportunity for students to read work by other young writers and gain inspiration for their own creative writing.

Link: <https://www.sparkwriters.org/issue-32-april-2026/>



Choose Your Own Adventure Reading Resource

Students are encouraged to explore Choose Your Own Adventure stories, where the reader makes choices that shape the direction and outcome of the story. These interactive stories help develop reading confidence, imagination and understanding of narrative structure, and could inspire students to create their own branching stories.

Link: https://openlibrary.org/subjects/choose_your_own_adventure

STUDENT WORK SPOTLIGHT

Here are some recent examples of some excellent work from students. In future newsletters, we look forward to sharing more excellent work. This week's examples are both examples of creative writing.

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Creative writing

It was 06:01 am, I woke up to my neighbors Jen and Mitch arguing again "SHUT UP!" i shout as loud as i can as i bury my head into my pillow with another one covering my ears. Just as I'm about to fall back asleep after filtering out the noise, I hear a loud blood curdling scream which makes me jump awake in fear. I quickly jump out of bed and look out my window... silence. No movement through the windows. It was almost as if they just vanished. I slowly walk backwards, trying to comprehend what had just happened, when I walk into my door handle making me snap back into reality. I decide to get back into bed and get some rest for a few more hours until I finally wake up again. I look out the window once more, stiff nothing, no movement, no lights on, just nothing. I check the time 10:01 am, normally by now they would have made up and would be out on their porch drinking and listening to music. I walk outside and go to my other neighbors house. Lilith's me and are close so i figured she'd answer the door to me but instead just like Jen and Mitch, silence and no sign of life. I pull out my phone to call her and she doesn't answer. i decide to call my mum and she also doesn't answer, i couldn't believe it. Am I going crazy? Has everyone vanished off the face of the earth or is it just a strange coincidence?



The narrative is beautifully written and the discourse markers (time frame/stamps) give it pace. The discourse markers also create realism too. The dialogue and rhetorical questions again engages the reader in thought and helps them to visualise the character. The inclusion of characters and their names again helps the reader to foreshadow the role they will play in the narrative. The theme of silence and absence really created tension. Remember a capital letter for "I" always. Try to paragraph the narrative as it will help the reader to follow the storyline and change in focus. Well done!

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Develop narrative writing skills.

Well done!

Creative Writing Example 1

STUDENT WORK SPOTLIGHT



The morning sun hangs low over the fairway, casting long, sharp shadows across the perfectly manicured grass. The air is still heavy with the kind of silence that usually belongs only to cathedrals or deep space. But here, on the first tee box the silence is loud. It breathes.

And standing right in the center of it is Tiger Woods.

He doesn't look like a man about to hit a golf ball, he looks like a man about to move mountains. He takes his position, the soles of his shoes digging slightly into the soft turf finding that perfect, immutable balance. The crowd, thousands of them, hold their breath collectively. You can hear a pin drop a hundred yards away.

He stares down the fairway, his eyes narrowing slightly. There is no fear there, only focus. It is that legendary, lasersharpe intensity that has defined a career spanning decades. To the untrained eye, he is simply preparing to swing. To those who know, he is visualizing the entire journey of the ball before it even leaves the clubface, the trajectory, the spin, the landing the roll.

Slowly deliberately he pulls the driver from his bag. The club looks almost small in his massive hands, hands that have held trophies and gripped handles through pain no one else could imagine. He places the ball on the tee, adjusting it just a fraction of an inch. Perfection isn't a goal here, it is a requirement.



Teacher Feedback



The descriptive piece captures the atmosphere of the tournament and the anticipation of Tiger Woods. It also details the nuance that the golf player has developed over the course of his career. It creates a small moment into an epic event that has been frozen in time. Try to utilise commas for clarity or full-stops when beginning a new thought or idea. Very compelling!



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