



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

21st July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Today is the last day of the academic year and it is a chance to reflect on all that has been achieved this year. One big change this year has been our rewards shop. At Christmas students used saved up points to buy presents for loved ones and this week so many cashed points in for a non-uniform event today. On average students have received 40% more points than last year. This is not because of inflation but because they have embraced being **ready, responsible, and respectful** every day. This is helping to improve the experience of all at the academy. What is truly heartwarming is how kindness had developed this year. For example, one form group collaborated to make sure everyone could be a part of the non-uniform event by pooling points and helping out students who had joined us recently. Our children are remarkable, and I know you are as proud of them as we are. To find out more about the academy this term, please take a moment to watch my [Principals video](#) or to enjoy the electronic copy of [Discover Denes](#)

It was lovely to see so many of you at our summer fete at the weekend. Thank you for supporting this. It is becoming self-sustaining and provides a great opportunity for us to come together in a more informal way. Thank you to all staff who supported this event, the student helpers, the stall holders and of course all of you at home who came along.

Uniform - Lowestoft Rising has asked us to share details of a new [Uniform Bank](#). It has moved venue, to Bloodmoor Community Centre (a great new venue with better access and times of opening). It has also been successful in another grant and Lowestoft Rising has topped up the funds further which will mean there is plenty of stock, and shoes vouchers too, from 3rd August when they open.

Reading -Suffolk Libraries summer reading challenge is underway. This year the challenge can be virtually or based at the library. Go to <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>. For more information. We also have the pleasure of working with Get Suffolk Reading, who have kindly supported our library and community events. They are hosting a number of activities throughout the summer holidays, which are free to attend [news](#)

Parenting support - Lowestoft Rising has also asked that we share details of new funding for the ambitious new Dads Onside programme, MensCraft is now able to offer regular Caring Dads courses to help dads develop their parenting skills and consequently improve outcomes for their children. Caring Dads is a strengths-based, internationally recognised programme which focuses on how dads can adapt their behaviour to the changing needs of their children, from babyhood all the way through to their teenage years. The programme comprises 18 sessions, each two hours long and looking at different aspects of parenting: the influences of our own experience of being parented, the dad's relationship with their child's mum and at the various stages of child development. Participants must be referred to the programme by a professional who is working with them and/or their children, such as a



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social worker, family law professional, school official, health practitioner, probation officer etc. The first Caring Dads Programme will start in early September and will run on a weekday evening. Find out more [here](#), make a referral [via our online form](#), or contact Andy Wood on 07584 253441 for further details.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for always going above and beyond this year to help our children achieve and be happy and safe. Some of this fabulous bunch are off to new challenges next term and we all wish them the very best. I can also reassure you that we remain fully staffed in September.

Finally thank you to all of you at home for your support this year. I hope that we all get to enjoy some sunshine and time with loved ones in the summer ahead. If you need support over the summer, I'd recommend taking a look at our website [Cost of living support](#). We look forward to welcoming students back to the academy **on 06th September at the earlier time of 8.35am.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Williams'.

Kate Williams

Principal