



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a great week in the academy with lots of clubs now back up and running. Our Enrichment lead, Mr Armstrong has led assemblies all week on our offer and an Enrichment Fayre has taken place this week. I had a lovely conversation with Miss Gogar our Head of PE who said how great it has been to see so many at sports clubs and I know Miss Anderson-Brown is drumming up great interest in Further Mathematics. Please talk to your child about their assembly and encourage them to get involved.

For our students in Year 11, applying to college is an important stage of the Year 11 journey. Whilst it may feel a bit soon to be thinking about going to college next year, applications are now open and students should be considering what they might want to do and where they want to go. Students had their first assembly from East Norfolk Sixth Form College this week, and they will also receive an assembly from Lowestoft Sixth Form College and East Coast College in the coming weeks. Please do not worry if students are not at all sure, there is plenty of support in place at the academy. Please contact **Mrs Richings** in the first instance if you have any questions.

One thing we would suggest is to visit these colleges on their open events, as this is a great opportunity to get to know more about the college and what it could offer for students. Important dates are here:

## **East Norfolk Sixth Form College (Gorleston)**

Open Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 9am-12noon. [This Saturday!](#)

Open Evening Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 4pm-7pm.

## **East Coast College**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October; Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November - Lowestoft Campus

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October; Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November - Great Yarmouth Campus

## **Lowestoft Sixth Form College**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 10am-12noon

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm-7pm

Please let us know if you need any support either signing up for the open days, or with careers guidance or anything else.

Year 7 parents will have received a letter home this week from the reading intervention team setting out their child's reading age. Children who are weaker readers will struggle as much in mathematics and science at GCSE as



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they do in English. There is a significant connection between reading ability and success in all GCSE subjects, the link between good reading and good grades is actually higher in mathematics than in some subjects like English literature and history. The more demanding GCSE exams now include wordier questions which prove problematic for students with a low reading age. We want to ensure all can achieve at GCSE and this is why intervention is so important. If you need any support or further information, please do contact the reading intervention team at the academy.

Next week sees the beginning of the GL assessment phase for Year 7 students in the academy. We use the information from these assessments to help us find any gaps in students' knowledge and skills and then to put support in place and ensure students catch up quickly and can access all of their lessons. The tests will be conducted through lesson times, but this will move around over the fortnight to ensure that your child doesn't fall behind on any of the learning. We have supported your child by explaining the reasons for the assessment and our expectations of behaviour during the test through student training in form and their weekly assembly.

PSHE topics for next week are;

Year 7 – healthy relationships

Year 8 – how am I influenced

Year 9 - how might the media influence how I feel about myself

Year 10 – what is cancer

Year 11 – how might my health effect my exam performance

Votes for Schools.

This week students have been voting on “Should artefacts be returned to where they were taken from”. The results of this discussion can be found [here](#). Next week’s topic is “Should UK supermarkets warn us about shrinkflation”

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kate Williams**

**Principal**

