

ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers

17th November 2023

This week I have been impressed by the kindness students have shown towards each other and to staff. Simple things like offering to help, asking how someone is and smiling are all important actions that make ourselves and others feel better. Staff and students showed their support for anti-bullying through Odd Socks Day on Monday and have been really focused throughout assemblies on the same theme. Everyone wants to live in a kinder society, and we all have a responsibility to make this happen. To learn more about what we have been doing as an academy on this, please take a moment to read this letter from our Head of Year 10 and our Anti-Bullying lead, Mrs Sheriff. – <u>Click here</u>

Attendance. We know that our children make excellent progress when they come to school. Staying at home even once a fortnight has a significant and detrimental impact on their learning, We also know it is not always easy as parents to get a reluctant learner into the academy. The suggestions below are from parents who have had to deal with this. We hope they help:

- Don't give in, follow through and stick o the fact children must come to school.
- Be organised, get everything ready the night before, uniform laid out, lunches and bags packed by the door.
- Treat it like a military operation be prepared.
- Consider whether your child is genuinely unwell or if they simply do not want to come in. If they are well then, they must attend school. Be clear of this message when speaking to your child about school.
- Do not give them a choice to stay at home.
- Give yourself 15 minutes before the children get up to prepare yourself.
- Keep talking about the importance of school.
- Where possible, ensure they come back to school after medical appointments.
- Ensure they go to bed earlier on school nights, reduce screen time before sleep.
- Know how many days your child has missed from school.

Mock exams - Year 11 students are engaging positively in the first mock exam period of the academic year. It is fantastic to see so many positive and confident faces entering the exam hall. These mock exams are an important step for the students as they build up to their final exams this year and are vital for their teachers in understanding where improvements can be made to secure t grades that enable students to take the next step in their education. Colleges will be asking for the forecast grades from these mock exams . If you are a parent of a Year 11 student, please continue to remind them to access their home learning and revision via the ODA Launchpad. The work they put in now will pay off on results day!

Careers - Over the next few weeks we are asking students to complete a short online questionnaire relating to careers related knowledge and skills. This will support the academy to have better understanding of student knowledge in relation to careers and employability skills and provide a refined careers programme to support all students. This week Year 11 students have had the document emailed to their school email address, and we



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would ask parents/carers to support completion of the questionnaire. Any queries relating to this can be emailed to jrichings@ormistondenes.co.uk.

Votes for Schools - This week students have been voting on "Does your school do enough to deal with bullying?" The results of this discussion can be found <u>here</u>

The academy focus for next week will be "Ready"

The students form time focus for next week will be "mock/assessment preparation"

PSHE topics for next week are.

Year 7 – Equalities Act

Year 8 – Assessment – awareness campaign.

Year 9 – Why do people use drugs?

Year 10 – Female Genital Mutilation

Year 11 – Substances, assessing the risk

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Williams

Kate Williams Principal