



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers,

19th January 2024

This week our students have continued to develop The Denes Way with one visitor describing them as “*impressive*”. Personally, I have been really proud of the kindness students are demonstrating towards each other though small gestures like holding a door open or picking up something that someone has dropped. I am sure your child has lots of kindness cards that they have been awarded this week, why not take a moment to find out how they made a positive difference to those around them.

Attendance - Resilience is vital in ensuring that all young people meet their potential. This means having strength of character and perseverance to carry on when times are tough. There will be times when your child feels a little unwell and as a parent it is sometimes difficult to judge if they should be in school or at home. A useful guide to knowing when to end your child into school and when to keep them at home can be found [here](#).

When you register your child at school, you have a legal duty to ensure your child attends that school regularly. This means that your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child’s transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet; or
- You are a gypsy/traveller family with no fixed abode, and you are required to travel for work that day meaning your child cannot attend their usual school. In most circumstances, however, your child is required to attend another school temporarily during such absences.

These are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent.

PE kit change. In our ongoing attempts to support with the cost of living and encourage our female students to take part in more PE/physical activities we have agreed to trial the wearing of black leggings, as an alternative to shorts, skorts or jogging bottoms. However, the leggings must be non-see through, full length and black. A small sports logo will be accepted but as always, the final decision on whether a part of uniform is acceptable or not will rest with the staff of the school. Any student who pushes the boundaries of this alternative option will be asked to change into school loaned PE kit.

The theme in **form time** next week is “Respectful” with a focus on manners.

Votes for schools. - This week students have been voting on “Would you feel comfortable having a conversation about your mental health?”. The results of this discussion can be found [here - Votes for Schools](#)

PSHE topics next week will be:

Year 7 – Exercise.

Year 8 – Consent and avoiding assumptions.

Year 9 – Assessment: cannabis debate.



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Year 10 – Human rights.

Year 11 – Transplant.

Have a lovely weekend.

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

Kate Williams

Principal