



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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Dear Parent and Carers,

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

This week our students demonstrated to visitors how well they can interact positively both with each other and with those visitors. One reported to me how he could see our students showing much more confidence. You can imagine how proud we are of them. There have also been many acts of kindness with students voluntarily helping me pick up some litter that the wind had blown into the building, helping each other by carrying bags and holding open doors and impressively being upstanders rather than bystanders.

### Year 9 Options and Parents Evening

A reminder that Year 9 Parent and Options Evening will be running next **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 between 3.30pm and 6.30pm**. This is an important first step for students in choosing their GCSE/BTEC options preferences. All departments will be on hand to inform families about the range of options on offer at the academy, the course requirements as well as expectations. The careers team will also be available to provide guidance on the range of careers available in the local area and beyond.

### Ormiston's Got Talent 2024

I am very proud to report that we entered two of our Year 11 students into this year's Ormiston's Got Talent Final. Jamie recited a fantastic piece called Interstellar on the piano and Scarlett sang a beautiful acapella version of Hostage. We are very proud of their entries, both of which can be viewed [here](#). On Wednesday, we received confirmation from the Trust that Scarlett has got through to the final which will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024. We are so excited that she will get to showcase her vocal range in this way, representing the fantastic talent we have emerging in the academy.

### Free Webinar for Parents/Carers

We have been working so some time with the St Giles Trust, who are a charity working with people facing disadvantages such as homelessness, long term unemployment, severe poverty, and involvement in gangs. The Trust recently led age-appropriate assemblies and are offering a free webinar for parents. This consists of speakers who have lived within the criminal justice system to unpack and explore the realities and consequences of county lines, gang involvement and serious youth violence. You can access this webinar for free by clicking [here](#).

### Discretionary Grants from the Household Support Fund.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) have confirmed that the Household Support Fund is available until March 2024, meaning a further discretionary grant is available to support low-income families over the **February half term and Easter holidays 2024**. The grant will be issued as a **£45** supermarket voucher for each eligible child from our provider **Pluxee** to cover both the February Half term (£15) and Easter holidays (£30).

May I also remind any parents who are still to redeem their Pluxee voucher for the Christmas holidays, to do so before their expiry date. Once this voucher has expired, it cannot be reissued.

**Form Time Focus** for next week is 'Respect'.



@OrmistonDenes

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**Votes for schools.** This week students have been voting on “Does money compensate for injustice”. The results of this discussion can be found [here - Votes for Schools](#)

**PSHE topics** next week will be.

Year 7 – How should I look after my teeth.

Year 8 –Caffeine and the effects it can have on my body.

Year 9 –Careers.

Year 10 –Prejudice terms and discrimination.

Year 11 –Cloning – how it works, and the risks involved.

Have a lovely weekend.

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

**Kate Williams**

**Principal**