



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

---

Dear Parent and Carers,

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Last night we held our Year 9 Parents and Options Evening, which was well attended. This followed Options Assemblies and is a part of our process of supporting our students in making important decisions about their studies at Key Stage 4. Thank you to all those who supported the event.

This week visitors viewed lessons and commented on how our focus on manners and corridor movement is improving the academy. I was proud when earlier in the same week, another visitor was impressed with how friendly our students were, routinely greeting her and asking her about her day. I know we have recently made a lot of changes to how we do things at Denes, and I hope you are as proud as I am of how our children are rising to the challenge.

**Attendance** - Whilst this is the time of year when many people feel under the weather, it is really important that students continue to come to school and keep absence to a minimum. The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- And 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, also compared with 84% of regular attenders. **And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:**
- More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years. But attendance is important for more than just attainment.
- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

**Health** - Suffolk County Council have written to all schools ([SCC measles letter](#)) advising them on the latest updates regarding measles. Whilst in Suffolk cases are currently low, they suggest we should prepare for and protect against the potential for increased cases. They advise if your child has not been fully protected with the MMR vaccine it is a good time to get this done. Click [here](#) for more information including symptom checks and what to do if you suspect your child has measles.

**Form time** - The form time focus for next week is "Responsible".

Votes for schools. This week students have been voting on "Do you learn during history months?". The results of this discussion can be found [here - Votes for Schools](#)

**PSHE topics** next week will be.

Year 7 – Vaping and its effects.

Year 8 – Prescription drugs.

Year 9 – Careers.

Year 10 – Disability & race.

Year 11 – Abortion.



@OrmistonDenes

Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft NR32 4AH

Tel: 01502 574474



/OrmistonDenes

www.ormistonden.es.co.uk

Have a lovely weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Williams". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Kate" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Williams".

**Kate Williams**

**Principal**