



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers,

16th February 2024

This half term has ended on a real high. This week we have celebrated one of our students winning a prestigious OAT Award. Amongst several deserving nominations submitted by staff at Denes, Mrs Turner and Mrs Read nominated Year 11 Scarlett for the OAT Creativity Award and last week we found out she had won. We are delighted for Scarlett and it is fair to say she is over the moon.

We have also been mesmerised by our students' talents in the long awaited performances of Beauty and the Beast. Our students acted, sang, and danced beautifully. Thank you to the staff and students who put in so many hours bringing this together and for all of you who came along and supported the performances. It was lovely to read your glowing praise afterwards as well. Thank you.

This week our governors have been in the academy and spent some time talking to students at lunchtime and in student panels in the afternoon. They fed back how proud they were of our students who spoke articulately about improvements at the academy alongside continuing to suggest ways we can improve.

Kindness week This week in the Academy we have been celebrating and taking part in Kindness Week, and we have had a plethora of exciting activities, accomplishments and awards handed out! We have been celebrating and rewarding our "kindest" students and the warm buzz has definitely been flowing through the Year Groups and corridors.

The following activities and tasks have been what the students have taken part in:

- KS4 Friendtines- celebrating and fostering the power of friendship and kindness.
- A Character session dedicated to Kindness
- A value session dedicated to Kindness
- Kindness Assembly for all students.
- Year 7 challenge- daily kindness tasks.
- Kindness Wall to celebrate kindness and actions of kindness.
- Year 8 Kindness chains- uniting our Year 8s in Kindness
- Year 7- Kindness stones. Look out for our community challenge!
- Awards for our top kindest students in Year 7- celebrating and recognising kindness and compassion.
- Awards for our top kindest students in Year 8- celebrating and recognising kindness and compassion.
- Awards for our top kindest students in Year 9- celebrating and recognising kindness and compassion.
- Awards for our top kindest students in Year 11- celebrating and recognising kindness and compassion.
- Launch of Year 9 kindness banners- uniting Year 9s in kindness.
- Peer Kindness Cards.
- Staff Kindness Awards.
- Kindness Postcards.
- Random Acts of Kindness to staff and students.

if you have any concerns or questions regarding unkindness/bullying behaviour or kindness initiatives at our Academy, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your partnership is vital in creating a positive and inclusive school culture.



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/OrmistonDenes

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Attendance

We have been thrilled by the improved attendance seen this term. Each attendance challenge has seen over 400 students attain 100% attendance, thank you for your support in this. We will be announcing our new attendance challenges in the new term.

FISH. Once again Lowestoft FISH (Food in school holidays) helping families in the local area. If you would like to book for any venue(s), please use this link [Lowestoft FISH - Food in School Holidays | Facebook](#) and provide them with the following details:

1. The venue(s) you would like to book (up to three, one per day).
2. How many adults and children you are booking for (with the ages of your children to help us with portion sizes).
3. A contact telephone number, just in case they need to contact you.

World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March and we plan to celebrate in true Denes style. All week in afternoon form times, students will access a range of texts under the umbrella of this year's theme: "Refuge to Read". Students will also take part in a variety of OAT activities on World Book Day including a scavenger hunt in the library and quiz. As a result of student feedback from last year, we are now offering students the opportunity for them to come in to school in fancy dress as a book character. To maintain high standards in lessons and ensure focus remains with learning, students will be given a "Golden Ticket" to confirm their costume and this must be pre-booked through the form attached [here](#). A link to cost effective dressing up ideas can be found [here](#).

The Junction are offering a safe and relaxed space in Lowestoft for 11-25 year old's on Wednesday 21st February. They can offer free guidance from welcoming mental health youth workers, delivering a range of 1-1 assistance plus group workshops. If you are interested, [Please register your details if you are able to attend here](#)

Please check our website for our latest **Principal's video** discussing all the great things your children have been doing and taking part in during this term.

Form time - The form time focus for the week return is "Ready".

Votes for schools. This week students have been voting on "Will you be the first smoke free generation". The results of this discussion can be found [here - Votes for Schools](#)

PSHE topics for the week we return will be.

Year 7 – Physical changes through puberty.

Year 8 – Social effects of alcohol.

Year 9 – Respectful relationships.

Year 10 – Unit wealth.

Year 11 – What is phishing.

Students return as normal to the academy on Monday 26th February. Breakfast club is available from 7.45am and all other students are welcome onsite from 8.25am with the first bell sounding at 8.35am.

Have a lovely weekend.



Kate Williams

Principal