



Dear Parent and Carers,

28th March 2024

The Spring term has simply flown by. It only seems like yesterday that we were launching The Denes Way with students and looking at how we live ready, responsible, respectful, kindness and pride. Pride is a word I have used a lot this term when talking about our students. I am proud of how they have risen to new challenges both academically and socially for example in developing confidence in speaking to visitors, proud of the way they have pushed themselves to take part in a wide range of events such as Beauty and the Beast and World Book Day and proud of the way they have taken responsibility for how they can choose to make a positive difference to others through kindness.

It was a pleasure to record the end of term video yesterday, which can be viewed [here](#). Recalling all the achievements our students have competed in, completed and overcome was fantastic. These can also be viewed by reading our Spring Edition of **Discover Denes** [Discover Denes Spring 2024](#)

Attendance Keeping your children safe online.

Following on from recent assemblies on digital wellbeing and safety online this is a reminder that all social media platforms have an age restriction of 13 and above. We have seen an increase in students reporting online bullying via social media, many of whom are too young to legally use those platforms.

Should your child be the victim of online bullying then please report to the Police, specifically to CEOPs - there is a link on our website [Ormiston Denes Academy - Safeguarding](#). Another useful site for advice and guidance is [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Year 11 Easter School. Parents have been sent a letter earlier this week confirming our Easter School arrangements, a reminder of the timetable is below;

| | Monday 8 th April | Tuesday 9 th April | Wednesday 10 th April | Thursday 11 th April | Friday 12 th April |
|--|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Session 1 10am-12noon | English | Maths Group 1* | History, RE Dance, Music | Science | Languages (all) |
| Session 2 12:30pm- 2:30pm | Art, Graphics Photography Catering | Maths Group 2* | Music Dance | Performing Arts | Geography German |

I am so EGGcited to say that this week in the Academy, we have been celebrating and taking part in **The Denes' Easter Kindness Week!**

1. We have celebrated, recognised and rewarded our "Good Eggs and EGGstra Special" students in the celebration assemblies- making sure they know we think they are EGGtrodinary!
2. We have had an Easter Egg Hunt with a kindness twist! Each egg had a challenge of kindness in them. Each student who found an egg and completed the challenge, will win a small prize, then entered into a prize draw for a cracking prize, and they will also get 20 kindness points!
3. We have celebrated and sent home postcards to our EGGcellent kind students.



4. We have also rewarded and recognised our EGGceptional students who have shown kindness to staff and their peers.

We are so proud of our students and their devotion to making Denes an EGGstra special and an academy full of kindness. On our return we shall be encouraging our students with our Magnificent, Motivational and Mindful May Kindness Week.

Holiday Activity Programme. As you may have seen on our Facebook and Instagram pages, East Suffolk have provided a holiday activity & food programme for our local area. More details can be found [here](#).

Student Inset Day, Monday 15th April 2024. Students return to us on Monday 15th April. Please ensure they have all their equipment and are in full school uniform. As part of their inset day programme, we will be sharing some information on mental health and wellbeing from Kooth. Kooth offers young people a range and choice of support options under one digital roof. It has services that are accessible 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Appointments can be booked in advance or accessed via a drop-in text-based chat. Kooth covers many topics on the website including relationships, LGBTQIA+, exam stress, anxiety, eating difficulties, self harm, suicidal thoughts, body image, social media, bullying and family worries. All of these subjects affecting young peoples' mental health are presenting issues that Kooth and other mental health providers see from all age groups. If you would like to know more about Kooth you can watch a 10 minute recording [here](#). Follow this link for FAQs and further written information about Kooth: [Parents and carers resources](#).

Free School Meals reminder – We have been asked to remind you to redeem free school meal vouchers for February half term and Easter before 31 March 2024, as once they have expired, these cannot be reissued. If you require further information regarding discretionary grant vouchers, please contact the Free School Meals team at: freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk.

Thank you to all staff and students who contributed to the **Comic Relief Red Nose Day** non uniform event, I am pleased to say that we raised a total of £314.48 for this cause.

Form time - The form time focus for the week we return is "Ready" – a recap of The Denes Way.

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on "Would more play reduce stress? If you would like to continue this discussion with your child, please click [here](#) for further resources

PSHE Topics for the week we return are.

Year 7 –what is a risk?

Year 8 – antibodies.

Year 9 –managing and ending relationships.

Year 10 –how might people show commitment.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend. I hope that you all find some quality time to spend with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming students back to the academy on Monday 15th April. Students must return with all their equipment and in full school uniform. Breakfast club available from 7.45am and the first bell ringing for lineup at 8.35am.

Yours sincerely



Kate Williams

Principal