



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers,

13th September 2024

It has been a fantastic week at the academy. I have been able to visit students in lessons every day and have been impressed by their focus and determination to be successful. There has been real pride in learning and in the presentation of their work. I have been asking students when they have had to think hard this week and have had interesting responses about a range of subjects.

It was also lovely to see so many Year 11 parents and students at our Year 11 Raising Achievement evening. It is clear that this group are determined to be successful and are already showing great responsibility in how they are preparing for the year ahead. Thank you to those of you who attended and to staff for putting on this event. If you missed out and have any questions about Year 11, please get in touch with either Mrs Sheriff or Miss Beales by either calling the academy or emailing via contact us on our website <https://ormistonden.es.co.uk/contact>.

Year 7's have started taking their **GL Assessment** this week and the feedback from the exams team has been really positive. The Year 7's so far have been *'amazing, they're well behaved, are polite and are taking it all in their stride.'* The accuracy of the information it provides really helps us put effective interventions in place. We are really proud of the way they have conducted themselves through this process.

We had some **lovely feedback** from a local 71 year old lady who, a few weeks ago, fell over and fractured her knee. One of our Year 8 students was of great assistance to her and, in her words, a "real credit to the school". We are incredibly proud of all our students but from time to time when we hear about things like this, it just makes us even prouder!

Our **Read-Aloud programme** started this week with an exciting range of novels being read aloud to students across Years 7-10. Having visited these afternoon sessions, Mr Donovan has fed back that he has been impressed in the way students have been eager and ready to listen and have done so respectfully. This term's texts are:

Year 7 The Outsiders, SE Hinton

Year 8 Noughts & Crosses, Malorie Blackman

Year 9 The Curious Incident with the Dog in the Night time, Mark Haddon.

Year 10 Oranges are Not the Only Fruit, Jeanette Winterson

The full Read-Aloud curriculum can be found on the academy website.

Attendance - Whilst for many students the start of term is time for excitement, we know that some students find the return worrying. Seeing your child worried is unpleasant and it can seem easier to let them stay at home just for one day, but this can quickly grow into days and weeks. If your child has experienced any anxiety at the return to school, please get in touch. We can help. Please call the academy and ask to speak to your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Manager or email them. You can find all their details in our Denes Directory, which can be found on our website [here](#).

Year 8 HPV vaccinations and student **flu vaccinations** are taking place over the next couple of weeks, you will have received a separate communication about this via Parent Mail, where parents need to provide consent for these vaccinations.

The Form Time Focus next week will be "Responsible; at Denes we are responsible in the community".

We will be teaching the following **PSHE topics** next week. If you do not wish for your child to participate or have a question relating to the subjects, please contact your child's Head of Year.



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Year 11 – What is the morality around cloning?

Year 10 – What are eating disorders?

Year 9 – How might I be manipulated?

Year 8 – What crimes occur near me?

Year 7 – Who am I?

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on “Can you access healthy food choices in your community?” If you would like to continue this discussion with your child, please click [here](#) for further resources.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

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

Kate Williams

Principal