



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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Dear Parent and Carers,

20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

This week it has been a pleasure to show visitors around the academy. Our OAT Education Director visited on Wednesday and was incredibly complimentary about our students, noting how respectfully they treat each other, staff and visitors and how attentive they are in lessons. We are really proud of our students and how they are working with us to make Ormiston Denes an even better place to learn each day.

Last night we held our Year 7 Settling In Evening. It was fantastic to see so many happy students and parents. We know that building positive working relationships with you is crucial to helping your child grow into the best version of themselves and are delighted to have such committed parents working with us.

What a fantastic start to the new school year from all our young people. **Attendance** across the Academy is strong with the whole school attendance significantly higher than last year. We know how important attendance is for our young people - to forge connections, build relationships, access support and to achieve academically. We wanted, as a school, to thank you for your ongoing support with getting children into school every day. As the weeks go on it will be important to continue working together to ensure that all children are in school, learning. As we approach Autumn, coughs and colds will start to creep in and affect our young people. **The link below is the NHS guidance around when you should keep your child off school and when it is appropriate for them to be at home.** It is worth noting that it's normal for children to feel a little anxious sometimes. They may get a tummy ache or headache or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as bullying, friendship problems, schoolwork or sensory problems. You can also work with the school to find ways to help them. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, it might be good to talk to your GP or school nurse.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

A reminder that we are holding our **Year 10 Welcome to GCSE Evening event on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 6pm to 7pm.** Further details have been issued to parents and carers of year 10 students and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Our Year 11 students are making us proud with their attendance to Period 6 and Study Hall. These additional sessions really will make a difference to their final exams.

Some of our Year 7 students went to their first ever Dodgeball tournament competing against other schools in Lowestoft. There were no winners or losers on this occasion, it was all just for fun and we were very proud of how they played and conducted themselves throughout.

**The Form Time Focus** next week will be "Respectful – we respect people who are different.

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.

Year 11 – What is the morality around abortion?

Year 10 – How can I develop my resilience?

Year 9 – What is body image?

Year 8 – Who is involved in the legal process?

Year 7 – What is self-esteem?



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**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**