



Dear Parent and Carers,

4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

This week I have been blown away by the pride our students are showing. We had an OAT Review on Tuesday, and our students showed pride in their work, their achievements, their conduct and their academy. This pride was also showcased in the way they represented us at our Open Evening last night. Please take a moment to congratulate your child on their week at school.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is pleased to confirm that the Government announced a six-month extension to the Household Support Fund from September 2024 to March 2025. We can confirm that funds have been made available for SCC to extend the support previously provided to low-income families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) over the October half term. **The grant will be issued as a £15 supermarket voucher for each eligible child from the provider Pluxee and is designed to help families with their essential living costs during the holiday.**

**Attendance** – Whilst coughs and colds may linger it is important that any time away from school is minimised. This helps build resilience for adulthood but also ensures that there is minimal lost learning time. We know that good attendance and good grades are closely linked. Thank you for reinforcing this at home.

We would like to express our gratitude to those parents who have been keeping us informed about their children's medical appointments. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated as it helps us ensure the well-being and safety of all students at our school. We kindly request that, whenever possible, medical appointments are scheduled outside of the academy day. However, if it is unavoidable for an appointment to take place during school hours, we ask that children are absent for the minimum amount of time necessary. For instance, if an appointment is scheduled for 11am, please ensure that your child is present both before and after the appointment, unless in exceptional circumstances.

To report planned absences for medical appointments, we ask that you provide as much advance notice as possible by emailing ODA Attendance at [oda\\_attendance@ormistonden.co.uk](mailto:oda_attendance@ormistonden.co.uk). Along with your email, please include evidence of the appointment. Acceptable forms of evidence include doctor appointment cards, signed or stamped doctor compliment slips, appointment letters, named medication with date and a named prescription. We also recognise screenshots of text messages confirming medical appointments and photographs of the aforementioned documents, which can be sent to us via email or handed in at the main reception.

If evidence of the appointment is not received, then the absence from school may not be authorised. Every school day counts towards a student's future, time off school, quickly becomes lost learning.

**The Form Time Focus** next week will be "Responsible."

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 – How can I manage stress?

Year 10 – What do I remember about essential first aid?

Year 9 – What drugs might affect us?

Year 8 – How am I influenced?

Year 7 – How are families different?



**Votes for schools** - This week students have been voting on “Do we understand the difference between appropriation and appreciation?” 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 cursive script that reads "Kate Williams".

**Kate Williams**

**Principal**