



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent and Carers,

There have been many events this week that have made me a very proud principal. Students have excelled in Sport events such as cross country and badminton they have been commended for their performance at The Great Debate and a member of the public stopped staff at the end of the theatre performance of An Inspector Calls to tell us how proud we should be of our students, commending their standout behaviour and exemplary uniforms. We are always proud of our children, but it is nice for others to realise how brilliant they are!

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at Year 11 parents evening last night. It was an evening with lots to celebrate and lots to focus on as we prepare for upcoming examinations.

Next, we have Year 9 Options and Parents Evening on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, from 3.30pm. This is an important evening where you can discuss your child's progress and the GCSE/BTEC subjects on offer as they commence Year 10 in September 2025.

Returning to school after the holidays can heighten anxiety according to research from King's College London. Prioritising self-care is vital as students adjust to post-holiday routines. We're here to support you with free resources to ease the transition. Next week we are running assemblies with external support from Kooth and parents can tap into some helpful resources via this [this link \(Kooth\)](#).

Suffolk County Council has advised that the Government announced a six-month extension to the **Household Support Fund** from September 2024 to March 2025. The funds are in support of low-income families in receipt of **Free School Meals (FSM) over the February half term and Easter holidays 2025**. Full details will be confirmed to parents shortly but please be aware that all families will need to redeem all vouchers by Friday 11 April 2025. To allow sufficient time for families to redeem their vouchers, Suffolk County Council will be distributing the vouchers for both holiday periods together, prior to the start of the February half term. The grant will be issued as a £45 supermarket voucher for each eligible child from our provider Pluxee to cover both the February Half term (£15) and Easter holidays (£30).

**The Form Time Focus** for next week is "Ready".

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 are pensions?

Year 10 – How does the law try to protect victims of FGM and GBV?

Year 9 – Careers; what is the labour market and why it is important?

Year 8 – What do antibiotics do?

Year 7 – What are the benefits of physical activity?

**Votes for schools** - This week students have been voting on "Do you want to be more confident talking about money". If you would like to continue this discussion with your child, please click [here](#) for further resources.

Have a lovely weekend.



@OrmistonDenes

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/OrmistonDenes

www.ormistonden.es.co.uk

Yours faithfully

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

**Kate Williams**

**Principal**