

DISCOVER DENES

Edition 2

Spring 2022

*Personal
Development
Explained....*

*How to get involved
in Read Aloud*

*Rewards and
Celebrations galore*

Trips & Visits are back !

*Its our second edition of Discover Denes with all the
term news and events that took place.*

ASPIRATION • INTEGRITY • RESPECT

Principal's Welcome



Welcome to the second edition of Discover Denes which brings together all of the fantastic things our students have been involved in over the spring term.

As you can see, whilst Ormiston Denes Academy's core business is helping students to learn, it is about so much more than this and this is represented through our values. Students have shown aspiration in their attitudes to learning (see more about rewards & celebrations inside) and their involvement in careers events (see page 4 for more), integrity through their support towards the appeals to help Ukraine and respect for themselves and others through the sheer number of positive points awarded this term (see page 6 for more).

As you will see when you read on, Denes continues to pleasantly surprise . . .

Mrs Kate Williams
Principal

Read Aloud

What you can do to help

We hold the belief that to access education, work and society **reading** is a non-negotiable component. As we finish this Spring Term, I'd like to take a moment to thank you for your support so far and

to outline some ways in which you can further help to support your child's reading ability as part of our academy-wide literacy strategy. Please:

- **take some time to listen to your child reading at home and talk to them about what they are reading—this is equally as important as the reading itself as it helps build confidence in oral communication. These skills are valued by employers as for many careers, the ability to communicate clearly is a key skill in the workforce at all levels.**
- **follow the school's social media pages to get regular updates on strategies to support your child's reading both at home and in school. Your continued support with your child's reading helps us ensure as they enter each phase of learning they progress at an age appropriate reading level, can access all the knowledge in lessons and have a wide choice of options at GCSE, in the next phase of education either apprenticeships or university and then the widest choice of careers available.**
- **to support us; sign your child's planner to show that they are reading at home. We monitor reading at home via our library lessons which your child will have fortnightly.**

If you are unsure of your child's reading age or would like to discuss ways in which you can help to support your child's reading, please contact their class teacher in the first instance.

Trips and visits are back in school.....

It's fantastic that our students are able to enjoy all aspects of student life again. We have enjoyed being able to invite external guests into school to talk with and mentor our students and we are increasing our external trips and visits again, which is great news! Alexis and Nevaeh were incredibly privileged to meet Princess Anne at East Coast College. Our year 9 & 10 students had a subtitling taster workshop with Associate Professor

Carlos de Pablos-Ortego. Our year 8 students participated in a huge interactive Talk the Talk workshop engaging with essay writing, oracy exercises and using persuasive language techniques. We welcomed back an ex student, Briony Williamson to take our budding dance students through their first rehearsals for the Dance Showcase that took place at the Lowestoft Players Theatre on 1st April. Sporting events were also back with students

competing against local rivals in the first athletics competition of the year! And a very lucky group of students were taken to Norwich Theatre Royal to watch a performance of School of Rock. These are just a few of the events that took place this term. We and our students are so pleased these events are back and cannot wait for more exciting things next term.



← Talk the Talk oracy workshop with our Y8 students

Alexis & Nevaeh waiting to talk with Princess Ann at East Coast College ↓

School of Rock theatre trip.

41 students had the opportunity to watch the live Andrew Lloyd Webber version of School Of Rock at the Theatre Royal Norwich. All students were very respectful & polite and thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon. Abigail in year 8 wrote "I would just like to say how amazing the trip was and that it feels so good to finally have the freedom to go on a school trip"



Year 9 & Year 10 students enjoying their subtitling workshop with Professor Carlos de Pablos-Ortego ↓



Personal Development

Personal development is a lifelong process, a way for us to assess our skills and qualities, consider our aims in life and set goals to plan, realise and maximise our potential. It generally consists of activities that develop a person's capabilities and potential, helps to gain confidence, self esteem, and have a positive impact on communication skills and the way one sees the world.

At Ormiston Denes Academy we recognise the importance of providing opportunities to our students to experience things outside the classroom which, as well as developing academically, will also enhance their personal development. We have a long tradition of providing students with a wide range of experiences, trips, visits, and other enrichment activities.

Whilst we appreciate the importance of achieving good grades, we also want our students to grow to become well rounded individuals, ready to move onto the next stage of their education with the experience and confidence to help them make positive and effective life choices, and achieve their goals.

Some of the areas linked to personal development are our PSHE & assembly provision, enrichment activities, student leadership, Eco-schools, social action, careers education and transition support for both year 6 students moving to the academy, year 9 students choosing their KS4 options, or year 11 students moving on to Further Education.

Transition

It is essential to us that each new student starts their transition into year 7 feeling safe, happy and enthused to be part of their new school, and for parents and carers to be happy and well informed about the move their child is making.

We are really pleased to have so many students joining us in September, and over the next few months we will be working with students, families, and primary schools, to ensure a smooth transition. We have a dedicated email address transition@ormistonden.es.co.uk for any queries

Careers

Our Independent Careers Guidance Professional, Mrs Gibbons, has been working hard with year 11 students, to ensure that they have considered all of their post 16 options, are happy with their choices, and have applied to their preferred post 16 providers. Many of these providers have open events over the next few months, and details can be found on the careers page of our website. In addition Mrs Gibbons has also been working with students from all other year groups, and is more than happy to meet any student that wants a chat about their future career or would like some support.

PSHE

The Spring term has seen a number of clubs, both at lunchtime and after school, and it is lovely to see so many students enjoying activities outside the normal school classroom. A survey is to shortly go out to all students, to gauge their interest in various activities and to determine what clubs the students would be interested in, with the aim to increase the number of clubs available.

Student Leadership at Ormiston Denes Academy is a critical part of our Academy. Encouraging student achievement that enables confidence building, raises aspirations and recognises the talent of our student community. We aim to provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills as well as facilitating a partnership between students and staff to gain a deeper understanding of our school and community.

At Ormiston Denes Academy we appoint two new head students every year to work closely with our Principal Mrs Williams. The students have to apply for the roles and complete a formal interview with the Principal, who along with her Senior Leadership Team, decides the successful candidates.

This Year's Head Boy is Archie Muir and Head Girl is Lydia Murrant.

Archie Muir writes *"I understood the role I would play in bringing positive change to my school, providing a voice for the students and guaranteeing that it would be heard and respected. It's something I've already put on my CV and used in job interviews"*

Lydia Murrant writes *"When I was awarded the role of head girl, I was so overwhelmed and filled with joy. I was so proud of myself for everything I had done to be considered for the role, and incredibly thankful that the school recognised the effort I have been putting in for the last 4/5 years. I know how great a role this is to have and I will always be grateful for this opportunity I was gifted with"*

Social Action:

You will be aware of the fantastic fund raising efforts that have been made this term, and we are especially looking forward to our donations for the young people of Ukraine being shipped out to the borders, as well as the lovely cards that our year 7 students have written.

We are also excited that the new OAT youth social action project #WeWill Explore is due to start after Easter. This is a project that, although mainly involving year 8 students, will be able to benefit all students. Orienteering and geocaching is a great way of encouraging students and families to enjoy the great outdoors, and students will be involved in developing a course in school, and hopefully then out in the wider community. Updates will be given in future additions of the magazines.

Finally, every student has access to their own year group Personal Development Google classroom, which has all sorts of information relating to the various elements of Personal Development, as well as any information on competitions and opportunities available. We would encourage students to check this classroom on a regular basis, so that they do not miss out on any opportunities



REWARDS



32 students have shared a hot chocolate and breakfast with the Principal this term, each student was nominated by their form tutor for demonstrating one (or more) of our core values of aspiration, integrity and respect.

Respect;

"Always very polite, respectful and helpful to both students & staff"
"Always attends on time, follows instructions and is polite & considerate"

Integrity;

"Constantly modelling mature behaviour and unfailingly polite"
"Voice of reason in class.."
"Always punctual, polite & well liked"
"A credit to the academy"

Aspiration;

"Always on task, always checking she is doing things correctly and helping others in the class when needed"
"Great work ethic!"

104,712 positive rewards points have been issued to 759 students so far this year.

A huge 278 effort reward certificates and 282 achievement reward certificates have been awarded to our students.

Well done!



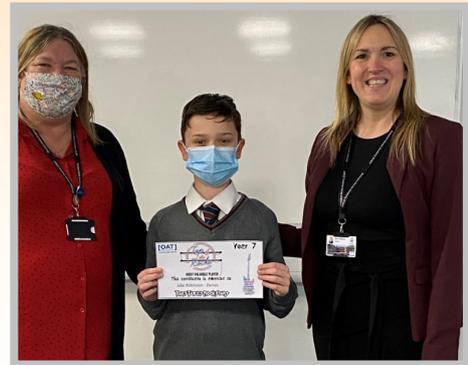
Congratulations to Aime Thomas and Elias Bucknole who, along with their families, enjoyed a £25 Just Eat Voucher as a reward for 100% attendance last term. We will announce this terms winners shortly....

Celebration

Well done to Harley and Archie who were nominated by staff for this years Ormiston Academies Trust Awards. Although just missing out on top spot, we are immensely proud of them, well done to both of you.



Congratulations to Jake who blew the other competitors away earning the “Most Valuable Player” award in the OAT Year 7 Top of the Rocks maths challenge



Ormiston Denes student, staff parents & carers incredible support of the humanitarian effort for Ukraine was incredible. The generosity of our community in baking cakes was immense, and we were able to raise almost £750, which was split equally between Comic Relief and the Ukraine Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). An OAT led National Student Voice committee pushed through a second non uniform day and raised a further £420!

The Ormiston Denes Academy student leadership decided they would like to be able to do something to specifically support the children of Ukraine and have been collecting donations of children’s goods for their own version of ‘Bags for Ukraine.’ Over 2 weeks we collected 19 boxes full of donated sweets, drinks, soft toys, books, colouring and craft equipment, hygiene products and much more.

Thank you to everyone for your support.



A welcome to our

Year 6 Students from our

Head Boy & Head Girl



ORMISTON
DENES ACADEMY

We've been at Ormiston Denes Academy for over four years! That's since 2017, so you can trust that we're experts on the happenings at our school. When we started in Year 7, we were feeling just as we imagine you are feeling now - nervous about some big changes. Hopefully, we can put your mind at rest by giving you some much-needed answers to questions we are sure you've been wanting to ask.

How will I make friends?

Both of us went to different primary schools, and met at Ormiston Denes. You will meet so many amazing people when you join us and make so many new friends that have the same interests as you. Friendships change throughout the course of your entire life, so we recommend letting the changes come naturally because we have no doubt that you will fit in with an awesome group of friends.

What will I learn about, and is it hard?

In Year 7, we spent our time exploring all of the exciting subjects you might be interested in specialising in later on in your time at high school. We got to have fun with catering lessons, learning to play the ukulele in music, and debating who we think Jack The Ripper was in history. Sometimes, lessons can get a bit boring or a bit tricky but our teachers will always go above and beyond to make sure we achieve our dreams, showing us how to do something complicated in maths or giving us a little pep talk when we're not feeling so motivated.

Will I get lost?

Something that's a little bit different to your school is the size of ours. This might seem scary at first, but everything is organised into departments so it's easy to know your way around. All of the maths classrooms are in the same part of the school, but in a different part of the school to the English classrooms. You are also given a map in your own school planner, so you know where everything is.

What is a typical ODA day like?

Recently, our normal timetable day changed from having four 1hr 15min lessons to five 1 hour lessons. Our school days begin at 8:45am, however breakfast is available from 8:00am to 8:45am everyday. From here, form time will last until 9:15am and Period 1 will end at 10:15am. We then have Period 2 until 11:15am, and finish with a break at 11:35am. Period 3 ends at 12:35pm, which Period 4 follows on from and finishes at 13:35pm. Lunch time lasts for 30 minutes (until 14:05pm), which leaves 5 minutes to get to Period 5 and ends the day at 15:10pm. You can partake in an extracurricular activity or Period 6 until 16:10pm, which is when the school day finishes for those students

What is a form tutor, and who is my year team?

A form tutor is the teacher you will spend the 25 minutes in form with every school day. You will typically spend the whole 5 years with your form tutor and they will spend this time with you going through events running at school, events outside of school or around the country and a class book you will read most days. Your year team are the members of staff specifically chosen to support and help your year group. Teams consist of both teachers and members of our pastoral team at school. All years have an assembly once a week delivered by your head of year or member of staff during form time, which consist of certain topics to educate and aware students on certain situations and rewards to celebrate their hard work and accomplishments

We'll be moving on from Denes by the time you begin, as we look forward to our future post-16. Good luck with all that you do, not that you'll need it!

Archie Muir and Lydia Murrant. Head Students

In February 2022 we asked the Students from our Student Voice Council if they would like to be involved in the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award and it was a definite yes, with 11 students signing up to be members of our Eco-Schools Council. We have an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award noticeboard with student contact details available for others to suggest ideas, or offer to help and the group meets once a week.



Eco-schools Green Flag Award

The first big project we did was to complete an Environmental Review of our Academy, looking at the below 10 topics:

Biodiversity . Energy . Global Citizenship
Healthy Living . Litter . Marine . School Grounds
Transport . Waste . Water

We took the 3 least scoring topics, and are planning to work on improving, Marine, School Grounds and Waste. An Action Plan is currently being produced and we are hoping to:

- . Take a trip to a local recycling plant . Raise funds to buy recycling bins for our Academy . Set up a Gardening Club, the produce we grow will be donated to local charities . Arrange a 'beach clean' . Complete a whole school survey on single-use plastics and drive the results forward.

East Norfolk Sixth form are launching their Easter camps and are extending their provision to also include Dance Camp and Multi-Sports Camp. Due to Norfolk and Suffolk having slightly different holiday dates once again, they will be offering provision from Monday 11th April to Thursday 14th April so Suffolk schools can also attend! The days are suitable for children aged between 5-12 and run from 10am to 2pm. The cost of each day is only £10 which includes a hot lunch.

Carlton Marshes Easter Egg event. Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th April 10am to 12pm. Booking in advance via

Easter break & events



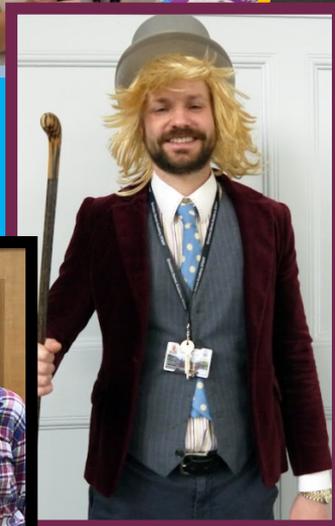
Eventbrite. Join their Easter celebrations and discover egg-laying animals on their egg

hunt, test your nest-building skills in the wood and enjoy some Easter-themed crafts. This session will involve an approx half-mile walk across uneven ground. Suitable for children aged 5+.

Head to **Somerleyton Hall** and Gardens between Good Friday and Easter Monday for the children's Easter Egg Hunt. Visitors will complete the Easter trail between 01am and 4pm from 2nd April to 5th April around the stunning gardens and receive an Easter Egg prize. Tickets must be booked in advance via their website.

World Book Day 2022

The day proved to be full of fun and excitement, with lots of staff dressing as characters from their favourite books, talking about these books and delivering learning, making links to important and seminal texts in their curriculum areas or from their personal lives. Our work is to ensure that all our students in small or big ways, make connections to the importance of reading.



Upcoming Parents Evenings

Thursday 5th May —Year 8 Parents evening

Thursday 16th June —Year 7 Parents evening

School Events & Trips

9th May. Y7 Aspiration workshop

16th May. Y7 UEA campus trip

1st July. Year 11 Prom

Week commencing 11th July. Year 6 Transition event

Dates to be aware of

Monday 2nd May, school is closed for Bank Holiday.

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June, school is closed for half term break.

Monday 27th June, school is closed for staff training.

Thursday 21st July, last day of the school year.

Don't miss out



*Many Thanks to: Butterfly Photo by Sagar Kulkarni , Green Planet Photo by Daniel Olah
and Easter Eggs Photo by Annie Spratt, all available on Unsplash .com*



ORMISTON
DENES ACADEMY

Yarmouth Road
Lowestoft
NR32 4AH
Tel: 01502 574474

www.ormistonden.es.co.uk



/OrmistonDenes



OrmistonDenes



@OrmistonDenes



ASPIRATION • INTEGRITY • RESPECT