



Dear Parent and Carers,

23rd May 2025

This week I and one of our governors, Mrs Reeves, had the pleasure of interviewing Year 10 students for senior prefect roles. It was a pleasure to listen to such articulate and passionate young people, to hear both how proud they are of their school but also their desire to make it even better. Students find out today, what roles they have been awarded and I look forward to seeing how they move student leadership forwards in the months ahead.

Enrichment Days – Years 7 to 9. Important Information

We have sent important information home via ParentMail regarding the upcoming Academy Enrichment Days taking place in July. This includes:

- An outline of the two-day programme
- A consent form for offsite activities
- Details about the voluntary contribution

Initial letters have been issued to parents outlining the plans, further details and consent requests will be sent closer to the time. Please ensure any voluntary contributions are returned by the deadlines stated in the letters.

Please note that both Enrichment Days are compulsory school days. Therefore, full attendance and participation are required.

Upcoming Year 7 GL Assessments

After the half-term break, our Year 7 students will begin a three-week period of assessments in **English, Maths, and Reading**. These assessments are a valuable opportunity to measure the progress students have made during their first year at the academy and to inform how we support their continued development.

What Will Be Assessed?

- **English and Mathematics:**
Students will complete curriculum-based assessments designed to evaluate their understanding and skills in these core subjects. The results are benchmarked against national averages, allowing us to compare our students' performance with peers across the country. This helps us tailor our curriculum and teaching strategies to ensure the best outcomes for every learner.
- **Reading (NGRT – New Group Reading Test):**
This nationally standardised test assesses both **decoding** (the ability to read words accurately) and **comprehension** (understanding and interpreting meaning). The NGRT provides a detailed picture of each student's reading ability, which is crucial for success across all subjects.

Why Reading Matters

Strong reading skills are essential—not just for English, but for success in **Mathematics, Science, and beyond**. Research shows that students with lower reading ages often struggle to access the language-rich content of modern GCSE exams, which have become increasingly demanding since 2017. In fact, the link between reading



ability and achievement in Mathematics is stronger than in some traditionally text-heavy subjects like English Literature and History. That's why we place such a strong emphasis on developing reading skills early.

These assessments are not just about scores—they help us:

- Identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Personalise learning support
- Ensure every student is on track for long-term academic success

End of term roundup. Please click here to hear what has made us proud this term

<https://ormistonden.co.uk/principals-half-term-message>

The Form Time Focus on our return 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 – Exams

Year 10 – What does the UK have to do with the Commonwealth?

Year 9 – What are STI's ?

Year 8 – Careers – Uni Frog session.

Year 7 – What do young carers do?

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on "Do young people understand the consequences of knife possession? If you would like to continue this discussion with your child, please click [here](#) for further resources.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



Kate Williams

Principal