



ORMISTON  
DENES ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

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ASPIRATION, INTEGRITY, RESPECT

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Ormiston Denes Academy has been through several stages on its route to the great school that it is today. The school first opened its doors in 1910 as Lowestoft Municipal Secondary School. The cost of the new building was £9,143 and it was designed by Messrs Brown and Burgess and built by Charles Roper, both of Ipswich.

In 1920 the school was renamed Lowestoft Secondary School. In 1940, 327 students out of 470 were evacuated to Worksop along with the headmaster and 21 teachers.

After the war, the school changed status to Lowestoft Grammar School and in 1950 became Lowestoft County Grammar School. It remained as a grammar school until 1970 when it became Denes High School. The school was extended to accommodate 1,250 students. In 2004 the Denes became a specialist school in business and enterprise.

In 2013 Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) was chosen by the governors to become the umbrella organisation. Denes High School became Ormiston Denes Academy. OAT is one of the largest not-for-profit multi-academy trusts in England.

Ormiston Denes Academy is now a Year 7 to Year 11 academy, welcoming students from the surrounding area. The buildings are very different from 1910, having been extended many times but the site still retains huge playing fields.

The main building, fronting onto the road, is still as beautiful as when it was built, but now has the mature trees to complement it. Come and see for yourself, you will be pleasantly surprised.



LOWESTOFT SECONDARY SCHOOL, CIRCA 1930



## A WELCOME FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus, I hope it gives you a taste of the uniqueness of our academy. I am all too aware of the importance of choosing a secondary school for your child, it can feel quite daunting as not only is every school very different, but so too is every child.

Ormiston Denes Academy is not just a building filled with teachers and children with lessons taking place, it is a very special community, committed to ensuring that every day is better than the one that went before it, and that every individual becomes the best version of themselves. This was confirmed by Ofsted (March 2025) who reported that *“the school is highly ambitious for every pupil to succeed academically and develop personally”*. We know that there is no limit to potential and that whilst challenges may come along, everyone can overcome these if given the right support and guidance.

Our core business is to educate every young mind so that each young person leaves us with a full range of qualifications, ensuring all are well-rounded and able to go on to access the next stages of their lives. Like Nelson Mandela, we believe that “education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world” and we want our students to become active global citizens who make informed choices to shape the future and make it better for the next generation.

These high aspirations are reinforced through everything we do. Our personalised approach is complemented by

good quality teaching throughout the academy and we expect our staff to make a difference. Students have access to a wide array of specialist learning spaces and are able to access a broad range of activities that extend beyond the academy day. We believe that every child has a talent, and our job is to make sure they find it.

As a parent myself, I know how important it is to ensure your child is happy at school and that they deserve the very best. I also think that it is crucial to see a school in action in order to make a genuinely informed choice. What is right for one child may not be right for another. To help you make that decision, I would like to invite you to visit us and see how we work, not just on open evening but also during a normal day. You are welcome to tour the school at any time and I invite you to email [oda\\_tours@ormistonden.co.uk](mailto:oda_tours@ormistonden.co.uk) to make arrangements for this. We are proud of what happens here, and we delight in showing Ormiston Denes Academy in action.

In closing, I would like to say that I hope you choose Ormiston Denes Academy as we have so much to offer your child. Remember, young people can go on to achieve great things if we give them a really good education and care for them as individuals, and that’s exactly what we will do.



Mrs Kate Williams  
Principal




*“Lessons are calm so that pupils can focus on their work. The school is a safe and friendly place. Pupils are kind to each other.”*

Ofsted, March 2025



“You teach your lessons very well and I always understand what the task is. Thank you for being a great teacher.”

 Year 7 student

## CORE VALUES

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We believe in putting the child at the very centre of everything we do in meeting individual needs within an inclusive community. We believe in high standards in all that we do, regardless of how small or seemingly insignificant the task in hand. Our academy believes in people and recognises that whilst systems and structures are very important, our role is about people whether they are children or adults. Good relationships are at the very heart of our school. Our ethos is to translate the academy motto of **Aspiration, Integrity and Respect** into action, otherwise they are simply words.

### ASPIRATION (being **READY** to learn)

Aspiration is defined as having the motivation to achieve a goal. At Ormiston Denes Academy we ensure our students have a range of opportunities to consider future career paths, ensuring they are determined to succeed.

### INTEGRITY (taking **RESPONSIBILITY**)

Having integrity means that you live in accordance with your deepest values, you're honest with everyone, and you always keep your word. We encourage this value through character education and by role-modelling it in all aspects of daily life. We expect our students to take responsibility for their actions and to uphold our values.

### RESPECT (being **RESPECTFUL** to others)

We pride ourselves on our inclusivity and the mutual respect we show each other which ensures Ormiston Denes Academy is a community where everyone supports each other.

Alongside these long standing values, we also have a commitment to kindness and to ensuring our students are proud of themselves, of their learning, their achievements and of their community.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership is a critical part of our academy, in line with our core value of **Responsibility**. We believe that when students' voices are heard and when young people have the opportunity to lead, they become architects of their futures and active advocates of our community.

Every form has the opportunity to elect a Form Representative, who is responsible for listening and expressing the views of their fellow students to the Student Council. They work alongside Subject Ambassadors, who aim to support curriculum areas through student voice and enrichment opportunities. Leading our Student Leadership team are the Prefects, who are appointed after a rigorous

selection process to represent the whole school and lead on developing their own projects connected to our key priorities.

Finally, all students have the chance to have their voices heard, through initiatives such as our "You Said, We Did" programme, or through student committees including Pride and Environment.

We aim to provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills as well as facilitating a partnership between students and staff. Nurturing these vital skills during their time in school will directly support them in further education and in their future careers.

"To me, being part of Student Leadership means acting as a strong, positive role model to others and listening to the voices of all students, so they feel heard and valued. Through this position, I want to provide opportunities for all students and have a positive impact on the whole school community: students, teachers, parents, visitors, and the wider community as well."

● Head Prefect, 2025



"Pupils have many opportunities to develop their leadership skills."

● Ofsted, March 2025



“My daughter has only been at Ormiston Denes since September, but I am impressed with everything, especially her teachers.”

 Parent

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# CURRICULUM

At Ormiston Denes Academy, we are passionate about ensuring students leave us having fulfilled their potential in a broad range of subjects and have the opportunity to succeed at the highest level.

The curriculum we offer gives the balance of a wide curriculum base in Years 7, 8 and 9 before allowing students to specialise in the subjects they enjoy the most in Year 10. We aim for all aspects of our school life to inspire students to have aspirations and be ambitious. We enhance our students' opportunities and create social justice by ensuring our curriculum is designed for all students to have rigorous academic challenges, whilst enabling them to make positive life choices so they are healthy, polite and respectful.

## KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7, 8 AND 9)

Years 7, 8 and 9 are organised so that all students cover a broad range of subjects. There is a standard core

curriculum of English, mathematics, science and physical education. Students also study geography, history, personal social and health education (PSHE) and religious education. Technology & performing arts works on a rotation and includes technology, art, catering, IT, music, dance and drama. All students have the opportunity to specialise in one of three languages: French, German or Spanish

## KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 AND 11)

Students in Years 10 and 11 continue the core curriculum of English language and English literature, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, PSHE/RE and physical education. In Year 9, students made the decision on their option choices for the start of Year 10, either continuing to develop their subject knowledge from Key Stage 3 or choosing a specialist Key Stage 4 course. All students select three options with all having access to the English baccalaureate (Ebacc).



“You have done so much for me... helping me revise in Year 10 and now in Year 11. You have encouraged me to do my best.”

Year 11 student





## ENRICHMENT, TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES

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At Ormiston Denes we see the value of encouraging our students to experience new things and to 'look beyond'. We plan a diverse programme of events and activities to encourage all students to think about their futures and ensure that they 'Aim High.' Our extensive enrichment programme aims to raise achievement and complement the work of teachers in the classroom, challenging all students to excel beyond expectations and embed the time-management skills that they will need in the future. We provide opportunities to engage with higher education providers, outside speakers and attend events that aim to raise aspirations, develop their talents and interests, build on their self-esteem and help them become more effective and independent learners. Through the wealth of activities on offer we ensure that every student has the opportunity to discover and develop existing and new talents and interests as well as reminding them that learning can be fun.

Enrichment is about balancing the learning experience of the 'whole child', ensuring that our students not only perform well academically but that they improve their independent learning skills so that when they leave the academy they do so with the ability to enjoy and continue their learning journey. Enrichment is about equipping our students for the future.

We also run an extensive range of lunchtime and after-school enrichment activities for students to choose from. Students can just turn up to clubs – no need to book.

Ormiston Denes Academy students are encouraged to participate in as many clubs and activities as possible. This is both to broaden experiences – providing students with additional opportunities to discover something new, and to strengthen understanding – spending additional time on a subject they are interested in or need extra support with.

“This is why I send my son to Ormiston Denes; the support you give is great. There is nothing like it at the other schools”

 Parent



## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Students deserve to have their successes recognised and valued. Our rewards system celebrates our values system, great effort and excellent achievement. It values students as individuals and their collective efforts.

Weekly assemblies praise and reward students for effort and achievement across various subjects. Recognition is also given to those with the highest number of positive points. Form tutors also nominate students on a weekly basis to attend a Principal's Breakfast for showing **Aspiration, Integrity or Respect**.

Effort data is analysed on a half-termly basis and form tutors receive an individual report and presentation, which

is used to praise and motivate a whole form group and individuals.

On a half-termly basis students are rewarded during assemblies where various prizes are issued with formal certificates.

At the end of each academic year, each year group holds a special Rewards Assembly to celebrate students who have accumulated the most reward points, in a variety of subjects, across the year.

Always getting things right is acknowledged through our termly Club Zero celebratory events.

## ACADEMIC AMBITION

At Ormiston Denes Academy, we are passionate about ensuring students leave us having fulfilled their potential in a broad range of subjects and have the opportunity to succeed at the highest level.

As such, the curriculum we offer gives the balance of a wide curriculum base in KS3 before allowing students from Year 10 to specialise in the subjects they enjoy and that will lead to success in the next stage of their education.

Students study PSHE (including RSHE), RE (reflecting the religious traditions in Great Britain and taking into account other principle religions) and PE throughout the five years of their time at the academy.

We enhance our students' life choices and create social justice by ensuring our curriculum is designed for all students to have rigorous academic challenges, whilst enabling them to make positive life choices so they are healthy, polite and respectful.



Turning potential into reality  
is at the core of what we do.





## SPORTING EXCELLENCE

Physical education at Ormiston Denes Academy is centred around three areas:

- Participation, through enjoyment.
- Competition, teaching students to relish this and be successful.
- Providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to remain healthy and fit into their futures.

We seek to embed specific values which we believe will lead to success both in and beyond sport:

- Selfless commitment to your teammates and the importance of teamwork.
- The determination to never give up and to keep persevering, whatever the odds or the situation.

- Confidence, in your own ability and to not fear failure.
- Respect, of your opponents and for yourself through your conduct.

The extracurricular programme aims to cater for all students, providing a variety of both competitive and recreational clubs. We have one of the widest ranging sports programmes of any school within Lowestoft and there is something for everyone to attend and enjoy.

We also aim to provide students with world class sporting opportunities and trips. We are proud to run annual trips, from skiing the Italian alps, sports tours to Holland and attending the championships at Wimbledon.

“There is no limit to potential and whilst challenges may come along, everyone can overcome them if given the right support and guidance.”

🗨 Mrs Kate Williams, Principal





“Brilliant school. My daughter has progressed so well since being here.”

● Year 8 parent





# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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