



Dear Parents/Carers

9th October 2025

Year 10 GCSE Information Summary

On Thursday 18th September 2025, Ormiston Denes Academy hosted the *Welcome to GCSE Evening* for Year 10 students. It was fantastic to see so many families in attendance. For those unable to join, this letter outlines the key messages shared.

Why Year 10 Matters

Year 10 marks the beginning of the GCSE journey. All work completed from now contributes to final grades. Some subjects, such as BTECs, include assessments e.g. Pearson Set Assignment (PSA's) that must be completed in school under exam conditions. Attendance is essential, as every grade contributes to a points score used for college applications.

Keys to Success

- **Attendance**

Students with 95%+ attendance consistently achieve better outcomes due to access to expert teaching and pastoral support. Even when slightly unwell, students should attend where possible support is always available.

- **Home Learning**

Students use two online platforms:

- *Sparx* (Maths) – due Wednesdays
- *Tassomai* (English, Science, History, Geography, MFL) – due Sundays

Deadlines are in student planners. Higher completion rates have been linked to better grades.

Students should take responsibility for tracking and completing tasks.

- **Study Hall**

Year 10 students are encouraged to attend Study Hall voluntarily. It runs daily from 3:10–4:10pm and offers a quiet study space with refreshments. Building good habits early is key.

- **Revision Techniques**

Effective revision should begin early. Recommended strategies include:

Mind dumps, quizzing, dual coding, flashcards, and spaced practice – known as the *Denes Desirables*.

- **Work Experience**

Scheduled for 29th June–3rd July 2026. The process is managed via *Unifrog*. Students who attended the RAC evening received a guide booklet. If not yet received, please contact the academy. Placements should be secured by December due to high demand.

Careers & College Events

Planning for post-16 options can feel overwhelming, but support is available from Mrs Richings and Mrs Gibbons. Year 10 students are encouraged to attend upcoming college open events:

- **Lowestoft Sixth Form College**
 - Wed 12th Nov 2025
 - Wed 24th June 2026

- **East Coast College (Lowestoft Campus)**
 - Wed 12th Nov 2025
 - Sat 27th June 2026

- **East Coast College (Great Yarmouth Campus)**
 - Sat 11th Oct 2025
 - Thu 20th Nov 2025
 - Sat 27th June 2026

If you have any questions or require any support, then please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to working together to ensure success for your child as our Class of 2027!

Yours Sincerely,



Miss Grimmer

Head of Year 10



Miss Beales

Assistant Principal – Raising Achievement