



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers,

14th November 2025

We were so proud of our students, Grace, Jake, Jemima and Harry who represented the academy at the community **Remembrance Service** last Sunday. We also held our own service in the school, it was fantastic to see so many of our students in their various cadet and group uniforms. Everyone showed great respect throughout our service.

We have been running our **David Parr Competition** this week. Private David Allen Parr was a former student at Ormiston Denes Academy who sadly lost his life when serving for the British Army in Falklands War as a member of The Parachute Regiment; aged 19. In honour of his memory every year the academy takes part in a series of fitness tests used for entrance into the British Army to form the "David Parr Competition". The student who scores the highest wins the competition and is awarded the "David Parr Trophy" which was kindly donated by the Parr family in his memory. Students across the academy showed immense respect to when hearing the story of Private Parr and performed at their best to honour his memory. 'Lest We Forget'. The final results will be known next week, however I am told that students in Year 7 and in Year 9 are doing really well!

Governors visited the academy this week and met with students exploring their understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, digital safeguarding and kindness. Students spoke articulately and with confidence. Governors fed back that it was clear all these themes were an embedded part of the curriculum and were impressed with the knowledge shown by our students. They were, as always, excellent ambassadors for the academy.

Today we are supporting **Children in Need** with a non-uniform day. We are always happy to support this great charity.

We launch our **Anti Bullying week on Monday 17th November** and to start it off, we invite all students (and staff) to wear their odd socks to school on Monday. Wearing mismatched socks is a vibrant way to celebrate our individuality and embrace what makes each of us wonderfully unique. It's a fun visual reminder that we are all different, and that's our strength – a powerful message against bullying behaviour, unkindness, and a stand for acceptance, inclusivity, and kindness! We will demonstrate our united approach against bullying with special assemblies and interactive form sessions and activities. Look out for our special anti-bullying social media messages throughout next week.

From **Monday** there will be a couple of small changes to our Denes Diner Breakfast menu. Cheesy bagels will now be available every Monday, with waffles now available every Friday.

We're pleased to share that the annual ODA Enrichment Day programme starts on **Thursday 12th December 2025**. Our curriculum leaders, together with Mr Cooper (Careers Lead) and Mr Armstrong (Enrichment Lead), are planning an exciting mix of activities, workshops, and guest speakers to spark curiosity and help students explore new ideas. These days focus on the **OAT six pillars of enrichment**: Experience, Thinking, Practice, Contribution, Commitment, and Celebration. Each pillar supports students in growing academically, personally, and socially. We'll also keep a strong focus on **employability skills**, making sure every activity helps students prepare for their next steps—whether that's further study, training, or work. Attendance is compulsory, even though the timetable will look different. More details, including guidance on uniforms, will be shared soon. We can't wait to see students take part, learn new things, and celebrate their achievements!

This week, our Year 7 and Year 9 students began taking GL Assessment (PASS) surveys, and this will continue into next week. We are pleased to share that students have approached the process with maturity and respect, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility in the testing environment. As part of our ongoing commitment to student wellbeing, the school is also participating in a wider survey focused on understanding how children and young people feel about themselves and their school experience. This survey is being conducted across multiple OAT Academies and aims to gather valuable insights into students' perspectives. We want to reassure you that this is not a test—there are no right or wrong answers. Students are encouraged to take their time, read each statement carefully, and respond honestly. Their input is important and will help us better support their wellbeing and development.

The following week:



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The **Form Time Focus** next week is “Respectful”

We will be teaching the following PSHE topics next week. We will be teaching the following PSHE topics next week. If you have any concerns regarding the content of the PSHE lessons, please refer to our policy for clarification on withdrawals. The policy can be found [here](#).

Year 11 –Careers workshops

Year 10 – What is cancer?

Year 9 – What risks are linked to drug use?

Year 8 – What does county lines mean?

Year 7 – Is everyone treated equally?

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on “Are you comfortable advocating for yourself? 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

