



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers,

21st November 2025

Thank you for being so supportive in ensuring your children are ready for the academy this year. You have ensured they have bags and remember their five a day ensuring no minute is wasted. As the weather gets wetter and colder, we would appreciate some further support. We know that many students travel to the academy on foot or by bicycle and would therefore appreciate your support in encouraging children to wear coats to keep warm and dry and something reflective if on bicycles. This will help students remain healthy and ensure they are ready for school each day.

This week much of my letter provides you with an update on how we are developing reading in the academy.

Lexonik Vocabulary. We're pleased to let you know that students will once again be taking part in our Lexonik Vocabulary Programme, with sessions focused on morphemic analysis every Monday during afternoon form time. This programme offers direct vocabulary instruction that goes far beyond memorising word lists. Instead, students learn how to deconstruct word meanings by analysing roots, prefixes, and suffixes. This approach helps them make connections across subjects and better understand complex vocabulary. With the high reading demands of the curriculum—and even greater expectations at GCSE level—this work is vital. It supports students in developing the vocabulary and reading comprehension skills they need to succeed not only in school, but also in further education and the workplace beyond their time at Ormiston Denes Academy.

Read-Aloud. The Read-Aloud programme has seen its first half term completed this year, with students listening to high-quality reading from their teachers across a range of texts, such as *The Outsiders*, *Noughts & Crosses*, *The Curious Incident with the Dog in the Night-time* and *To Kill Mockingbird*. Reading aloud helps all students access rich vocabulary, complex ideas, and great stories—especially those who struggle to read independently. It supports academic success and builds a love of reading, while helping close the gap between fluent and less fluent readers. Here at Ormiston Denes Academy, students will regularly hear high-quality, age-appropriate books read aloud. This ensures every child, regardless of background, experiences powerful stories and ideas that support their learning and imagination.

In addition to this, The English department, library team and literacy intervention team continue to develop a culture of wider and supportive reading through curriculum time and monitor student wider reading through the fortnightly library lesson. Further information about recent reading comprehension screening will be sent via ParentMail for all students across the academy who have had reading tests in the Autumn term.

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

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 – making post 16 choices

Year 10 – What part of our bodies can be donated?

Year 9 – How can I recognise mental health?

Year 8 – What is a hate crime?



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Year 7 – How might people with disabilities be treated?

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on “Are honours still relevant”? If you would like to continue this discussion with your child, please click [here](#) for further resources.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Williams'.

Kate Williams.

Principal