



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers,

16th January 2026

This week we have had assemblies focused on characteristics of successful people and have celebrated our own success stories at the academy through awarding certificates and prizes for attitude towards learning. We are delighted to see these developing further from the high standards achieved in the first half term. One area in which students sometimes fall behind is engagement in homework. This is something you can support by ensuring all Sparx and Tassomai homework is completed. Students can do this at home or in Study Hall.

Some of our year 11 students completed Travel and Tourism exams this week with others completing Catering exams over the next couple of weeks, and I wish them all the very best.

A reminder we have our **Year 11 Parents Evening on Thursday 22nd January from 3.30pm**. Invitation have been sent along with guidance on how to make appointments with your child's form teachers.

As we set out in a letter to parents last week at Ormiston Denes Academy, we believe all students should have the opportunity to succeed at the highest level. All aspects of our school life aim to inspire students to aspire and be ambitious. This includes our commitment to ensuring every pupil makes strong progress and achieves their full potential. To support this, Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) is introducing the OAT Common Assessments across all schools in the trust, starting this year with English, Maths and Science.

Our mid-year assessment window starts **week beginning 19th of January 2026** for students in years 7,8 and 9. Class teachers will ensure students are supported to record these dates and lesson for their assessments.

The results will help teachers:

- Focus on key concepts that need strengthening.
- Adapt lessons to meet pupils' needs.
- Provide interventions if progress slows.

As part of these assessments, we will also be training Year 9s how to conduct themselves whilst entering and sitting an assessment in the assembly hall as they continue their journey towards Key Stage 4 studies. We will also be training students how to better apply their access arrangements in formal assessments.

All students are continuing to work on their reading through the Lexonik Vocabulary programme, which is run in all tutor times from year 7 to 10. This introduces them to a strategy for how to understand words by learning about their different parts, such as prefixes or root words. This week they learned about 'bio', meaning life, which comes up all over the curriculum, such as in Biology, Geography, English and Chemistry. Next week they will encounter the word stem 'spec', meaning to look or see, like in the word spectator or spectacles. Each week, a new word part is introduced, so over time they will unlock the power to read more and more independently.

Suffolk County Council is pleased to confirm that the government announced an extension to the Household Support Fund from April 2025 to March 2026. The grant will be issued as a £45 supermarket voucher for each eligible child from their provider Pluxee to cover **February half term 2026 and Easter Holidays 2026**.

The **Form Time Focus** next week is "Respectful"



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Next week we will be teaching the following PSHE topics. 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 – Do I really need insurance?

Year 10 – How do religious people respond exploitation?

Year 9 – How can someone leave a gang?

Year 8 – How can I help someone who is hurt or choaking?

Year 7 – How can I look after my teeth?

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on “Is global politics relevant to you?”. 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