



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers,

27th February 2026

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back into the academy this week. As always, thank you for your support in ensuring that they have the correct equipment to be ready to learn. This includes their bag, their planner, knowledge organiser, black/blue pen, pencil and a ruler.

Thank you for all your efforts in downloading and logging into the **Arbor Portal and Parent App**. We have had a very successful week, and students have been able to access meals without issue. The next step, which you see available on both the portal and app, is further payment options for trips and school items, such as ties. **For further help and support, please click on this link** or email the school at info@ormistonden.es.co.uk and we will support you in managing the movement from ParentMail to Arbor.

Early next week, we will be conducting our **annual lockdown drill**. We are informing you in advance so that you can speak with your child about the importance of this procedure. Staff and students will receive prior notice that the drill is taking place, though the exact time will not be shared. During the drill, staff will clearly narrate each step of the process to help ensure students remain calm. Students have responded admirably during recent fire drills; however, remaining in a classroom during a lockdown drill can feel different for some. The drill will be brief, lasting no longer than 5–6 minutes. It has been scheduled at a time that allows students to have a break immediately afterward, giving them the opportunity to reset before their next lesson.

In the unlikely, but possible, event that we need to activate our lockdown procedure, we want to reassure you that the academy fully understands your concerns for your child's welfare and that we will do everything possible to ensure their safety. During an actual lockdown, please do not contact the academy, as incoming calls may block essential communication with emergency services. Likewise, you should not come to the academy, as this could interfere with emergency service access and may put you and others at risk. You will be contacted by the academy when it is safe to collect your child, along with details of where to do so.

Suffolk HAF programme will be going live for the Easter Holidays on **28 February 2026**. Activities will be live for booking from this date. Suffolk HAF provides activities for families who are eligible for means tested Free School Meals (FSM). Families can book via [booking system Eegu](#) (all sessions include a healthy meal). Families can browse HAF listings (via the link above) between now and the 27 February 2026. There is some provision for children with SEND or who require support but are not eligible for FSM (with a referral form). Please contact HAF (via HAFenquiries@suffolk.gov.uk.) if you would like to know more details.

The **Form Time Focus** next week will be "Responsible"

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 – Mock Exams. How can I vote?

Year 10 – What is sexual harassment?

Year 9 – What does a democratic country look like?



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Year 8 – What are units of alcohol?

Year 7 – What is menstruation?

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on “Should a defection mean a by-election? 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