

DISCOVER DENES

Spring 2026

Trips, visits and events.



Sporting Success Stories.



World Book Day.



Easter treats.



Much more inside....

ASPIRATION—INTEGRITY—RESPECT

Principal's Welcome



The Spring Term at Ormiston Denes is always an important and a busy one for all students at the academy. Year 9s prepare for the next stage of their educational journey through the Options process and Year 11 "spring" into the final stages of their education, with mock exams and final assessments taking place. Year 10 focus on securing work experience places and Year 7 and 8 continue to have a range of opportunities to prepare them for their futures. Alongside the focus on education, there remains our priority of ensuring that all children at the academy thrive through visitor events, trips and many other enrichment opportunities. Take a moment to enjoy our Spring Term Discover Denes to get a picture of just some of what has taken place.

Kind Regards

Mrs Kate Williams

Principal

From Monday 13th of April, ParentMail will no longer be used by the academy for parent communication, payments or trip consent. Full details of the new system, how to log on and use it have been sent to parents already. All this information can be found on our website under 'Key info'. If you have any questions or difficulties in using Arbor, in the first instance please contact your child's year team.



What have our students been doing ?



Grace & Jake did themselves proud by representing the academy at Lowestoft's **Holocaust Memorial Service**. Both students delivered their readings with confidence and dignity, each reflecting the theme which was "Bridging Generations". Their thoughtful contributions honoured the significance of the occasion, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity and respect they demonstrated.

Some of our Year 8 & 9 students took part in the Suffolk launch of the **Dora Love Prize 2026**, an annual competition inviting young people to create meaningful projects linked to the Holocaust. Students joined in workshops and listened to guest speakers and said they found it thought provoking, moving and inspiring.



What have our students been doing ?

Year 8 enjoyed an inspiring visit from author Ashley Hickson-Lovence, who shared insights into his creative journey and encouraged students to develop confidence in their writing. Using visual prompts as a starting point, pupils produced thoughtful and imaginative pieces of work. We are grateful to Ashley for his time and for motivating our young writers to express their ideas with creativity and purpose.



As members of the East Suffolk Youth Council, **Jemima** and **Jake** were invited by Lowestoft MP Jessica Asato and fellow East Suffolk MPs for an inspiring visit to the Houses of Parliament.

The day included a behind the scenes tour of the historic buildings, followed by time in a parliamentary committee room where they discussed key topics with MP Jessica Asato.

What have our students been doing ?



A selected group of Year 10 students took part in an Immersive Science Day at East Norfolk Sixth Form College, gaining valuable insight into future study and career pathways. During the visit, students explored a lively careers marketplace featuring local employers, participated in hands on workshops led by EN6FC staff and specialists from the University of East Anglia, and learned about the wide range of opportunities connected to Science, Geography and Geology. The experience provided a stimulating and informative overview of progression routes beyond GCSEs.

What have our students been doing ?



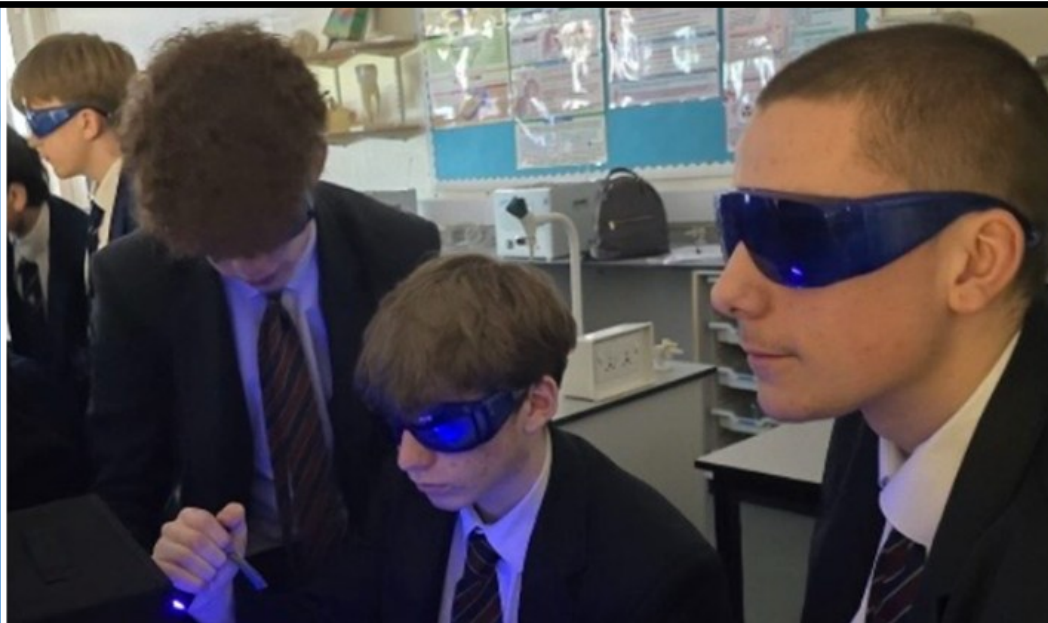
Our students performed exceptionally well at the recent debate event at East Norfolk Sixth Form College. Representing Ormiston Denes Academy with confidence, teamwork and resilience, they demonstrated strong communication skills and thoughtful reasoning throughout the competition. We are extremely proud of the way they conducted themselves and the high standard of debating they achieved.

What have our students been doing ?



Year 10 students enjoyed an enriching visit to East Norfolk Sixth Form College as part of the Festival of the Mind, where they explored the intersection of crime, investigation and scientific enquiry. The day included a DNA fingerprinting session led by Dr Mandy Hartley, alongside a practical fingerprinting workshop delivered by Steve Gaskin, a former Detective Chief Inspector with the Metropolitan Police. Students also took part in immersive virtual reality experiences, offering a unique perspective on investigative and analytical scenarios.

The visit provided valuable insight into sixth form study and offered an introduction to the exciting opportunities available within subjects such as criminology and psychology, broadening students' understanding of potential future pathways.



What have our students been doing ?

We are extremely proud of the achievements celebrated at our Year 11 Mock Examination Results Assembly. The outcomes reflected the dedication, resilience and ambition shown by our students throughout the year. As Miss Beales highlighted, consistent commitment — including attendance at Period 0 and Period 6 — has had a significant and positive impact on progress and attainment. The event was a powerful reminder that perseverance and hard work truly do open doors. We are grateful for the continued support of our post 16 partners, whose guidance and encouragement help our students raise their aspirations and plan confidently for their next steps, including East Coast College, Lowestoft College and East Norfolk Sixth Form College.



We had some very enthusiastic Year 7 students take part in a fantastic **Creative Writing Workshop hosted by East Norfolk Sixth Form College** and led by the talented Poppy Stevens — a community arts practitioner, poet and performer. Throughout the session, students worked together and individually to craft powerful poems based on the theme “Where I Live.” Some of their work was even recorded to contribute to an upcoming workshop at the Norfolk & Norwich Festival this May!



What have our students been doing ?



Our students headed to **East Coast College for the Festival of Careers**—a fantastic collaboration with the college, MENTA, and East Suffolk Council.

They delved into a world of possibilities: chatting with employers, discovering new pathways, and exploring what their futures could look like. With over 90 exhibitors from all kinds of industries, there was something to spark everyone's imagination!

A huge thank you to everyone involved in bringing this exciting and informative event to life. Our students came away buzzing with ideas!



What have our students been doing ?



As part of the **University of Suffolk NEACO Future Thinking Programme**, some of our Y8 students spent five weeks exploring what it means to be a learner – and finished with an exciting day on campus.

From campus tours and scavenger hunts to a business challenge and a talk about higher education, there was something for everyone.

Students loved chatting to current university students and seeing some amazing facilities – including the training medical wards!





Our talented students truly shone at this year's ODA's Got Talent, delivering an impressive and memorable showcase of creativity, confidence and performance skills. The audience was treated to a wide variety of acts, highlighting the breadth of talent within our school community and the courage students showed in stepping onto the stage.

A special congratulations goes to Ivana, who was crowned this year's winner following a stunning and powerful vocal performance that captivated both judges and audience alike. Her achievement is a testament to her dedication and talent.

Every participant should take great pride in their contribution to the event. The enthusiasm, effort and professionalism displayed by all involved made the evening a fantastic celebration of student achievement, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part.



Congratulations to **Poppy, Kymberli, Mila, Lacie, Emma, Toby, Harry & Ivana.**

Thanks to Miss Howard for organising the event, and to Mr Hissey & Mrs Robson for judging the talent.

Ski & Snowboard Trip – Easter 2026

What an unforgettable Easter adventure. After much anticipation and excitement, our ski and snowboarding trip departed on Friday 27 March, travelling by luxury coach over 900 miles to Tonale, in the Lombardy region of Italy, approximately 100 miles north east of Milan, deep in the Italian Alps. After a long but enjoyable journey, we arrived the following day, collected our skis and snowboards, and prepared for five exciting days on the slopes.

The first day is always a busy one, with students and equipment transported up the mountain and students settled into their respective groups with instructors for the week. Beginners focused on mastering the basics, including turning in a snowplough and, most importantly, stopping safely. Our intermediate skiers worked on developing parallel turns and confidently tackled red runs, with many progressing to the challenging black run at the top of the glacier.

We were fortunate to enjoy excellent weather throughout the week, with clear skies, plenty of sunshine and temperatures cold enough to maintain good snow conditions all day. Students were physically challenged, skiing or snowboarding for up to six hours a day, yet they demonstrated fantastic resilience and determination. By the end of the week, all students showed significant progress, improved technique, and increased confidence on the piste. Everyone also experienced the resort's glacier at 3,000 metres — the highest point of the mountain — providing a spectacular photo opportunity and, for some, an exhilarating descent.

Food played an important role during the trip, with hearty breakfasts at the hotel, hot lunches on the mountain, and delicious three course evening meals. Students particularly enjoyed the wide variety of pasta dishes — including an outstanding lasagne — and, of course, plenty of pizza.

Each evening included a structured après ski activity, such as bum boarding, quiz night, party night, and pizza night. Party night involved lots of preparation and enthusiasm, with students thoroughly enjoying the evening. One particular highlight was pizza night at a local restaurant, where everyone sampled traditional wood fired Italian pizza.

All too soon, it was time to return home. The trip was a great success, giving students the opportunity to experience a different culture, develop new skills, build friendships, and enjoy healthy exercise in the mountain air.

Students interested in taking part in a future ski and snowboarding trip are encouraged to speak to Mr Armstrong for further details.

Ski Trip 2026



Ski Trip 2026



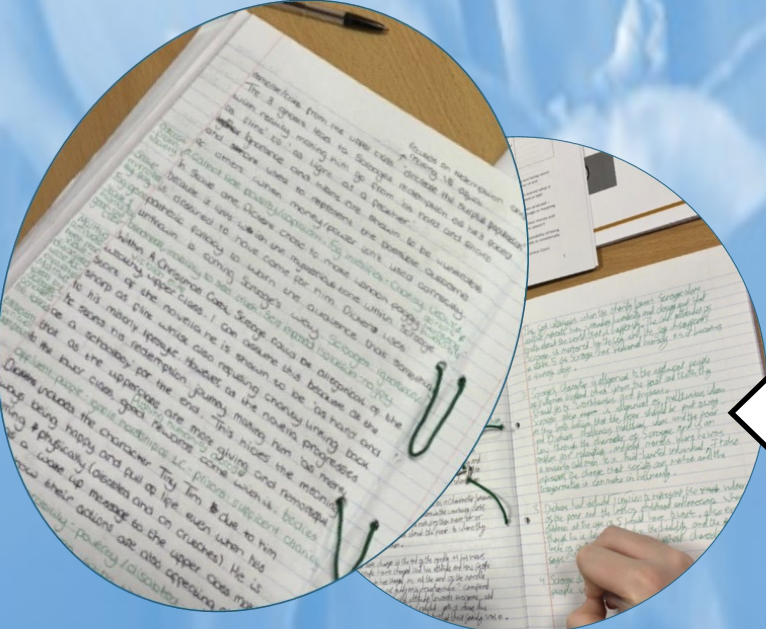
Proud of our students, everyday!

Year 10 students were given the opportunity to stretch and challenge themselves in science lessons through the Bear Island challenge, introduced by Mrs Pattinson. The task, based on A level style scientific thinking, required students to apply their knowledge analytically and approach complex concepts with confidence and precision.

Our students rose to the challenge impressively, demonstrating maturity, focus and strong problem solving skills as they engaged with the higher level content. A special mention goes to **Kyran, Rodrigo** and **CJ**, who exemplified excellent teamwork and enthusiasm during the lesson, captured perfectly in a memorable photograph. The experience highlighted students' readiness to challenge themselves and aspire to academic excellence beyond GCSE level.

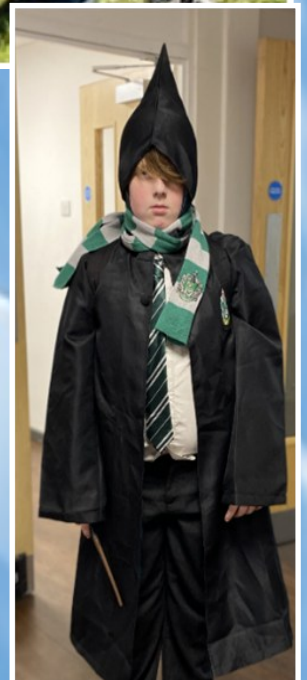
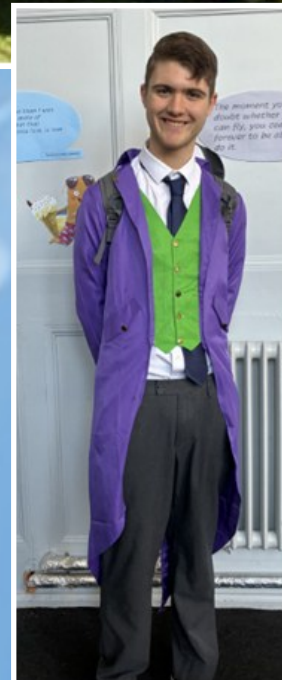


Year 9 students smashing their common assessments

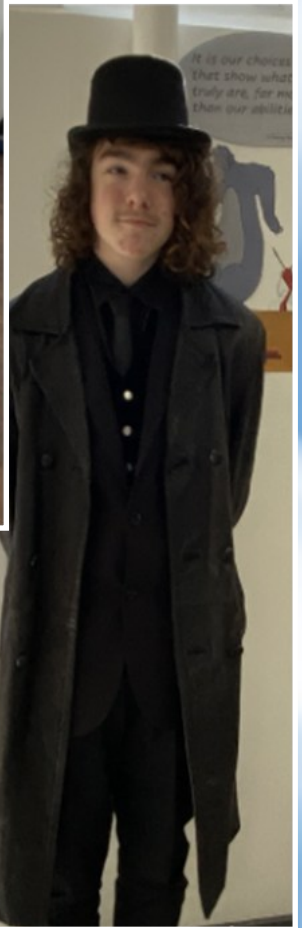


Beautiful examples of our Year 11's class work

World Book Day 2026



World Book Day 2026



It was a term full of basketball



Congratulations to our outstanding Year 11 girls — **Fran, Izzy, Grace, Amber, Maci and Morgan** — who were a true credit to Ormiston Denes Academy. Consistently demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, a positive attitude and strong teamwork, representing the school with pride and maturity. They should be extremely proud of their achievement.

Our Year 9 basketball team delivered an impressive performance in a highly competitive tournament, securing a commendable fourth place finish against strong opposition.

Special mention goes to Alexis, whose three point shooting proved a highlight of the matches.

Congratulations to **Darryl, Ryan, Alexis, Senuk and Delvin** for their commitment and skill. Their achievement reflects both their hard work in training and their dedication to the sport.



It was a term full of basketball

We would like to congratulate our Year 8 students, **Johann, Teddy & Albie** who represented the school at a local basketball competition and achieved an excellent silver medal finish. Competing against strong opposition, the students demonstrated determination, skill and teamwork throughout the event.

This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of their success and the effort they put into training and competition.



A big shoutout to Year 7 pupils **James, Quecuto and Harley**, who represented the school superbly in a recent competition against other schools. The trio demonstrated outstanding teamwork, determination and positive spirit throughout, giving their very best at every stage. They are a credit to themselves and to the school, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.

Other sporting stories



A huge well done to our incredible students who took part in a recent cross country event, tackling challenging conditions with resilience and determination. Battling through mud, rain and puddles, they showed real grit, perseverance and sportsmanship from start to finish.

Despite the tough terrain (and very muddy shoes!), their commitment and positive attitudes were a credit to both themselves and the school, making us extremely proud.

Congratulations to **Autumn, Aidan, Praise, TJ, Delvin, Luke, Pheobe, Jack, Toby, Fran and Cheyenne** for their fantastic efforts and team spirit throughout the event.



Continually working hard and showing passion for the love of football—**Hollie, Imogen, Holly, Mollie, Ella, Jasmin, Phoebe, Lydia, Ava and Makaela**. Well done!

Dates for the diary

Summer term: **Monday 13th April to Thursday 16th July 2026**

Bank Holiday Monday: **Monday 4th May 2026**

Half Term: **Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026**

Thursday 7th May: **Year 8 Parents' Evening**

Thursday 18th June: **Year 7 Parents Evening**

Friday 26th June: **Year 11 Prom**

Saturday 27th June: **ODA Summer Fete**

w/c Monday 29th June: **Year 10 Work Experience Week**

Thursday 2nd July: **Enrichment Day 2**

Friday 3rd July: **Enrichment Day 3**

Tuesday 7th July: **Year 6 Transition Day 1**

Wednesday 8th July: **Year 6 Transition Day 2**

Friday 10th July: **Sports Day**

Thank you and Farewell



After nearly 16 years of dedicated service, Mrs Sam Mitchell will be leaving Ormiston Denes. Throughout her time with us, Sam has been a highly valued and integral member of our administration team, more recently making a significant contribution within our SEN team. Her commitment, professionalism and support for students, families and colleagues alike have been greatly appreciated. We thank Sam sincerely for her many years of service and wish her every success and happiness in her future endeavours.

Egg-citing End to Term

Eggtrordinary things were happening on the final day of term!

As a reward for egg-cellent attendance and maintaining no negative slips throughout the term, students were treated to a special inflatable show, hosted by our Senior Leadership Team, along with a well earned Easter treat.





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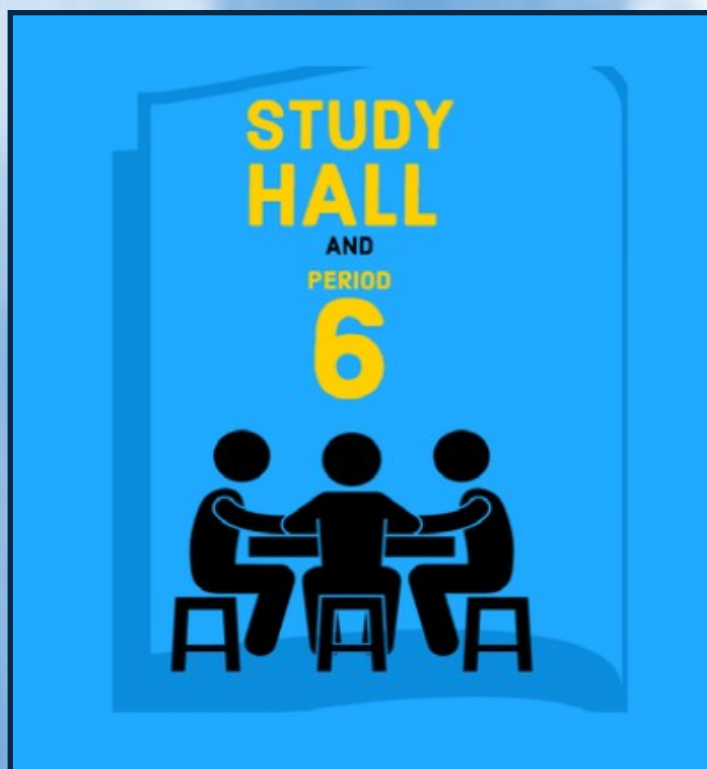
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