



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers,

24th April 2026

We are always proud of our students, but this week we had two stories that want to share with you. Firstly, Year 8 student **Owen** has achieved a perfect 100% scores in the Raspberry Pi 2026 Coding Challenge. To put this into perspective, 48,998 students took part nationally and it is extremely rare for anyone to achieve 100%. In addition, another Year 8 Student **Jemima** applied and submitted a campaign video last year to become a Member of Youth Parliament for Suffolk. We received the great news that Jemima has been successful in her application and is now one of 395 young people who will represent her local community taking part in national campaigns and debates as well as holding government to account for youth issues.

We are always reminding students how to **keep safe on-line** and want to share a similar message to parents. Here is something for all parents to note;

If something feels wrong on your child's phone, act quickly:

- Block the user on the app
- Remove/report harmful content
- Save evidence (screenshots, usernames) before deleting
- Talk calmly with your child about what happened

Most apps like Snapchat, TikTok, and Instagram have built-in block/report tools in settings. Quick action reduces risk and prevents further harm.

NHS Norfolk & Suffolk are holding a series of parent/carer workshops. These free virtual workshops (Zoom) are designed to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. The workshops are 60-75 minutes long. **On Wednesday 29th April at 1pm** the workshop is on **Understanding and Supporting Your Child/Young Person with Self-Harm**. Knowing your child or young person is finding things difficult and engaging in self-harm can be frightening and confusing for parents/carers. This workshop aims to develop parents'/carers' understanding of self-harm and will cover: "What is self-harm?", "Why does self-harm happen?", and "What can I do to help?". [book here](#).

Additional on Thursday 30th April at 1pm, the workshop will be on **Tools for Managing Worry and Uncertainty in Young People**. Life is always unpredictable, but over the last few years we have been living with a much higher degree of uncertainty than is usual. This workshop introduces strategies that parents/carers can support their children and young people to use to help them cope better with uncertainty now and in the years to come. Being able to adapt in situations by learning to understand emotions and cope with changes reduces stress levels and is a great skill for life. [book here](#)

Suffolk County Council has announced that the discretionary grant vouchers for students in receipt of free school meals will be provided for May half term 2026. A **£15** supermarket voucher will be provided from their voucher provider Pluxee. For full details including the requirements for schools, please read this [Discretionary Grant Fund Vouchers for families in receipt of Free School Meals \(FSM\) - May Half Term 2026 information document](#).

Additionally, SENDIASS are now taking bookings for parents and carers to attend a session where specialist teachers from the [Social, Emotional and Mental Health Service](#) will explore ways to help children and young people to understand and manage their feelings and strategies schools may use. [Register for session](#)



@OrmistonDenes
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Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft NR32 4AH | Tel: 01502 574474
www.ormistonden.co.uk



The **Form Time Focus** next week will be “Respectful”

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 – Revision

Year 10 – Are all parents the same?

Year 9 – What is consent?

Year 8 – What does consent mean?

Year 7 – Careers – work life balance.

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on “is Space travel inspirational? 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', written in a cursive style.

Kate Williams.

Principal