ORMISTON
DENES ACADEMY

Dear Parent and Carers, 27th November 2026

We held our **Christmas Fayre** last night and had a fantastic turnout, it was lovely to see you all. Amongst the visitors, it was lovely to see some of our ex-students and even more pleasing to hear them speak so fondly about Denes and how much they (now) appreciated their time here. A big thank you to all the stall holders and to the team at Denes who pulled this all together.

This week a group of **Year 7 students went on a STEM** trip to the John Innes Centre. Miss Welsh was excited to feedback to me that all students were a real credit to the school. Stand outs included Archie D who was brave enough to ask the first question and who showed off his potential with a presenter feeding back that he was extraordinarily quick at solving a nail balancing problem. David I went on stage to let off an Alka-Seltzer rocket, Chris M was praised for the questions he asked, and panellists praised all our students for asking the best questions they had ever been asked! It is fantastic to see our students showing off their potential.

We are inviting our **Class of 2026 students** back into the academy on **Thursday 3rd December from 5pm to 6pm** to collect the certificates and work. It's a great opportunity for us to catch up with them, and for them to proudly tell us what they are up to and how they are getting along.

There is a strong link between **attendance and achievement.** The more time you spend in lessons, the more opportunities you have to develop your knowledge, ask questions and build your skills. Every lesson is a chance to learn something new. Don't let avoidable absences stand in the way of your goals. Being present today helps you prepare for tomorrow!

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and personal development, we will be welcoming the **Joe Dix Foundation** to work with students on the issues of child criminal exploitation, county lines, knife crime, serious youth violence and the risks that can affect young people today. Through an age-appropriate presentation based on the real-life experiences of the Dix family, students will learn how young people can be targeted, the warning signs to look out for, and where to seek help and support if they have concerns for themselves or others.

Students will attend the presentation with their year group during a timetabled lesson on the day. They will be prepared in advance for the themes that will be discussed, and year teams will be available throughout to provide additional support for any young person who may need it during or following the extended assembly-style session. While some of the content covers serious and sensitive issues, the presentation is designed to educate rather than alarm, helping students develop the knowledge, confidence and resilience needed to make informed and safe choices as they grow into adulthood.

The **Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme** will open for bookings in one week at 3:00pm on the 27th of November 2026 for our Winter activities. They have lots of fun, festive and fabulous things on offer again this year. Every activity includes a nutritious meal for each attending child and provides a fantastic opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, stay active and enjoy the school holidays. A variety of activities can be viewed from now, with bookings opening at 3:00pm on the 27th of November 2026 via our booking page: https://eequ.org/suffolkhaf for all listings. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the Suffolk HAF team at HAFenquiries@suffolk.gov.uk.

The **Form Time Focus** for next week is “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 – Am I allowed to vote?
Year 10 – How can I examine myself?
Year 9 – How might people be influenced?
Year 8 – Is happiness the same for everyone?
Year 7 – How can we deal with racism?

Denes Discussion. Is cancelled this week in lieu of student surveys.

Have a lovely weekend.
Yours faithfully



Kate Williams. Principal