



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We had a fantastic two days professional development training for staff, these days are planned well in advance and I remember the days when such things didn't exist, when teachers just came in for the first day of term without any preparation for teaching.

I used this time to emphasise what I am calling The New Denes, as this is an opportunity to reflect and evaluate what we want to achieve as a school. Part of this has been the introduction of a year group system and a change to the senior leadership team roles and responsibilities. We also have appointed some good teachers who have joined us in different departments.

It was therefore with great excitement we welcomed our Year 7 students yesterday. Their assembly and all preparation work was led by our Head of Key Stage 3, Mr Senior, our Head of Year 7, Mrs Read and our Year 7 Pastoral Manager, Mrs Turpin. As I've said before, I always believed we needed a year group system and your child will benefit greatly from this. It should also enhance our communications with parents and carers as the education is focused around year groups.

Our Year 7 students look very smart in their uniforms and I have to say their behaviour was nothing short of immaculate. They are based in the maths area of the school and will remain there until further notice.

Today we also welcomed Year 11 students and as I write this, the atmosphere is incredibly positive with everyone geared up for the start of the new academic year. We also look forward to every Ormiston Denes student being back on Monday and for the school to operate as close to normal as we possibly can.

I cannot emphasise the importance of attendance enough, this academic year and in future years. One of the comments I've heard from Scotland is that the students really valued being back at school and have made good use of their time and it is our intention for that to be the same here at Ormiston Denes.

I have been continuing to remind staff of the importance of balancing care for students and rigour in their academic work and this will be the approach right from the off. All Year 11 students will have a Period 5 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and this is compulsory. We have done a great deal of work on blended learning recently, having learnt from COVID, therefore homework and additional support will sometimes look very different and of course, be of good quality.

Ormiston Denes use Go4Schools to track homework, behaviour, rewards and assessment data which is also available for parents to view. If you have not already set up a Go4Schools account, please follow the instructions below and on the quick start guide attached.

- Go to <https://www.go4schools.com>
- Click on the Parents icon on the front page and follow the "First-Time User?" link and instructions, specifying a personal e-mail address for the request (the same one you have provided to the academy for other communication purposes).



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/OrmistonDenes

[www.ormistonden.es.co.uk](http://www.ormistonden.es.co.uk)

All after school compulsory catch ups will be notified via email. We would recommend using the Go4Schools app so that you are able to receive instant notifications from us.

A message from our technology department; please can Year 10 and 11 students who have art and catering make sure they bring in their own aprons for their practical lessons.

On a personal note, I enjoyed putting my suit on this morning. It's what I wear to work and this is the same with students and their uniform, and I believe there is a link between how smart you dress and your attitude to what lies ahead, as far as academic work is concerned. We will be expecting and maintaining high standards throughout this year and I am looking forward to working with you in achieving extraordinary things over the coming months.

All information is available on our website <http://www.ormistonden.es.co.uk/> and please remember to check out our Facebook and Twitter pages for useful videos and resources for the return of the academic year.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Nixon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jim Nixon  
Principal