



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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15th January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

It has been a good week with everyone now deep into their 'lockdown routines' for remote learning and onsite learning as well. We are also looking to introduce other initiatives to extend our provision such as enrichment for students on site, different student online meetings (for example student leaders) and assemblies. We are also looking at how we can arrange online meetings between parents and heads of key stage, so we will let you know when they have been set up.

One really noticeable difference in school is that the assembly hall now looks like a hospital with testing stations and PPE kit everywhere. On Thursday, I went through the process of getting a 'lateral flow test' and it went very smoothly. I cannot thank my staff enough for all the time they have dedicated to not only setting up and arranging the tests then supervising them, but all the training they have had to go through as well. It is extremely time consuming and also stressful and certainly not what I ever thought I would be asking my staff to do. For further information regarding the lateral flow testing process please [click here](#).

At this moment in time, student engagement in their learning has never been so important so my thanks to everyone who took part in the Year 10 Parents' Evening last night.

We are monitoring all student engagement in their remote learning, so please encourage them to take part as they will benefit in the long run. Following updated Government guidance, students are to follow their timetable and base their remote learning broadly on the following hours:

- Years 7-9, minimum 5 hours\*
- Year 10, minimum 5 hours\*
- Year 11, minimum 5+ hours - as they are working towards a formal qualification this year. \*

*\*This will not all be live lessons directed by teachers or online. It will also include time given to students to complete work or learning independently.*

As mentioned last week, we have now improved our website to make it easier to access all of our remote learning resources, including:

- Information for students and parents that can help guide your pastoral/tutor calls with families.
- Information about requesting extra data for families experiencing hardship.
- A question and answer guide about what to expect from the academy from remote learning.

You can access our remote learning information directly by [clicking here](#) and in addition to parent information, there are student quick access guides, IT support and guidance and the Google Classroom setup.

I am pleased to confirm that free school meal vouchers for those families eligible to receive them will be issued next week, then every fortnight afterwards.



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The safeguarding and mental health pages of the website have been updated with additional useful links, including details of support sessions, run by the local authority, for parents to support their child with any concerns regarding self-harm. And a reminder that concerns/worries can be reported either by contacting the academy, or using the online reporting form found on our website.

As you will know we are making regular calls to all students during this period of lockdown. Some staff will be using a mobile phone to call you, some staff will be using the school phone system – and this number will show up as a private number on your phone. If you chose not to answer a private number, we will leave a message and would appreciate a call back so we know that you and your child are doing OK.

I hope you continue to stay safe and have a nice weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Nixon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jim Nixon  
Principal