



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

14th May 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

This week has been full of the usual school routines, including learning walks and talking to students. Many of them have said how much they appreciate the Key Stage bubbles as I have said before, but I am also pleased to say that the separate spaces, for example only Year 7 students, are also being used and appreciated.

Our ongoing focus on courtesy is part of everything we do as a school, and I do as a Principal. It is important that adults model the language we should use, and so as a result, I often find myself explaining to students that how you say something is often just as important as what you say. This can be something as simple as how we greet each other; it is important.

We had our Local Governing Body on Wednesday evening, which covered a number of aspects of the school that were on the agenda. Most of the meeting was about how the school is operating presently and it is important to note that the conversation and challenge is based on good knowledge and understanding, as Governors are now coming into school again to see it in action. Previously Covid restrictions meant this was not possible, however recent changes to the Government's guidelines means we are steadily moving towards as close to normal as we can be. Kate Williams was also in attendance, as the new Principal in September.

Following the latest Government guidance, from Monday 17th May face masks will no longer be recommended for students or staff in classrooms or communal areas within the school. However, if your child (or a member of our staff) wishes to continue wearing a face mask we won't have any objections to that. We will be recommending that face masks should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible. The reintroduction of face masks for students and staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to any localised outbreaks of Covid-19, however we will write to you in advance of any changes.

In the coming week, you will receive a letter about the academy's annual consultation process on the Relationship, Sex and Health Education curriculum which we have begun teaching this year within PSHE lessons. Your views are very important to the academy and we would like to represent the values of our parents and local community in these lessons. More so now as we start to come out of the pandemic, we have a shared duty to ensure children and young people know how to stay safe and healthy, as well as manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. We will also post some factual information from the Department for Education on our website and social media platform to support you to prepare for this consultation.

On Tuesday, Year 11 enjoyed some pizza. It was our way of saying thank you for their incredible efforts during what has been a very stressful period of ongoing tests. It was lovely seeing them tuck into the food and hear them express their appreciation.

This weekend I am 'home alone', although I will have the company of Oscar our elderly dog and Maisie the cat. My wife is down in Suffolk looking after her father, so I will have the responsibility of giving Oscar all his various tablets throughout the day. He also cut his paw last week so spends his evenings trying to remove the bandage that we put on.

I hope you have a good weekend

Yours faithfully

Jim Nixon
Principal



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