



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

21st May 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

One of the things I would like to stress in this email is the importance of punctuality. My own personal mantra is to be there early, wherever there is, as being just in time creates stress and hassle. In the wider world, arriving late for an interview means you are unlikely to get appointed, arriving late puts your job in jeopardy; arriving late – even by a minute – means you don't catch the plane or bus. It is an important life skill and one that frustrates us personally when we are waiting for someone. Punctuality to lessons is important, that's why I emphasise to staff and students that the second bell after break is the start of the lesson. All students should be in the classroom working, otherwise quality learning time is lost.

In relation to lessons, I thought it would be useful for you to know that recently the Governing Body supported a proposal to move from 75 minute lessons to 60 minute lessons from September. This change has a number of benefits including adding pace to learning along with giving the flexibility with the curriculum, as a result of 5 additional periods in the school week. An hour's lesson is very common in schools and is something I discussed with a couple of members of the leadership team after only being here a few months but Covid came along and introduced other priorities. I fully support the change introduced by Mrs Williams and believe everyone will benefit. The start and end times of the school day will remain the same but moving to a 5 period day will obviously impact on the timings of break and lunchtime. More information on this will be announced after half-term.

You can visibly see the relief on the faces of Year 11 now that their assessments have largely finished, just a few are now doing some catch up work. Also, thank you for your support in the change to mask wearing. Whilst the majority of students are not wearing them in lessons, some students continue to do so, but it is being accepted as the norm which is good. Students have been sensible, and staff have appreciated it.

Thank you for the feedback received so far regarding our relationship, sex and health education curriculum. The consultation period remains open until 18th June and details on this can be found on our website.

Last weekend I wrote a letter to each of my boys, it is something I love doing and they enjoy reading. This weekend I will be doing some scone making, a mixture of fruit and plain, and playing a few pieces on my saxophone (Faure is one of my favourite composers). If the weather is nice, we will probably go into Lincoln City Centre and enjoy browsing in some shops then eat out late afternoon.

I hope you have a great weekend too.

Yours faithfully

Jim Nixon
Principal



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