



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

19th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It is my pleasure to write to you all as the new principal of Ormiston Denes Academy from September 2021. Both the academy and its community are incredibly special with limitless potential, and I can't wait to continue the journey of improvement that Mr Nixon and his team have led over the last two years. I would like to outline some of the small changes we will be making to continue to raise standards, alongside important details regarding asymptomatic testing of students in September and the return dates for students.

In accordance with revised national guidance, we will be conducting on-site and supervised lateral flow tests for students on our return to the academy in September. This involves 2 tests, spaced 3-5 days apart and this also means a staggered start for our students:

- **Years 7 and 8 - return on Friday 3rd September 2021**
- **Year 11 - return on Monday 6th September 2021**
- **Years 9 and 10 - return on Tuesday 7th September 2021**

Students will arrive at the academy on the date stated above **by 8.45am**, after which they will attend an extended form time, to include an induction and welcome programme, as well as an assigned testing appointment.

Whilst testing is not compulsory, it is strongly encouraged and by taking part in our testing regime, you are making a vital contribution to our collective efforts to ensure the health and safety of our community. An updated consent form will be circulated during the summer break via [ParentMail](#).

Once the supervised tests are completed, we will shift to twice-weekly home testing for students for the remainder of September, after which testing will be reviewed. This is also in conjunction with updated national guidance.

Further information about the testing programme, including video, storyboard and privacy notices, can be found on our [lateral flow testing](#) webpage which can be accessed from our website during the summer break.

Since March I have been working with Mr Nixon and the staff to build an understanding of what is working well and what the priorities need to be in September. There has been significant work spent on improving the curriculum for all students and ensuring Denes is a great place for all learners to achieve, and this will continue. We have been working hard to ensure that learning takes place in a Covid safe way within specialist teaching spaces and that students can return to moving around the academy, and will continue to move towards this goal whilst maintaining any protocols issued.

One change will be to reinstate a shorter morning break and a slightly longer break at lunchtime. We are delighted that there will be a new catering contractor in place in September and students will be able to enjoy the new menus. A second change is that the academy is moving to five one hour lessons per day, which will help break learning into more manageable chunks with more opportunities to revisit and retain new learning.



@OrmistonDenes



/OrmistonDenes

Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft NR32 4AH

Tel: 01502 574474

www.ormistonden.es.co.uk

I know that a lot of work has been undertaken to ensure the students at Ormiston Denes Academy have an exceptionally smart uniform. In September students will continue to be expected to meet uniform and presentation expectations, and these have been reissued alongside this letter to help you prepare for the new term. **We have also reviewed uniform rules and have made the decision to no longer allow any jewellery in September.** We want to ensure that all conversations focus on learning and not on the number of pairs of earrings being worn or that need to be removed. To avoid inconsistencies, feelings of unfairness and unnecessary debate, no jewellery will be allowed to be worn by any student at any time. Any jewellery worn will be confiscated and will be retained by the academy until a nominated adult can collect it. Students who do not meet these expectations will be sanctioned in accordance with the behaviour policy. To help your child adjust to this, we will provide guidance in form time and assemblies during the first few days back in the academy, but would ask that you also make sure your child does not come to the academy wearing jewellery.

To support our policies it is important that any holiday changes to hair colour are rectified by September and that sufficient time is allowed to ensure that any new piercing can be removed when children return. Please note that clear retainers are not allowed

Students will need to bring the following equipment to school and this will be checked on a regular basis:

- School bag.
- Pencil case, containing: black/blue/green pens, pencil(s), eraser, pencil sharpener, 15cm ruler, protractor and pair of compasses.
- Academy-issued planner.
- Reading book.
- Scientific calculator (Casio FX-83GT or FX-85GT recommended).
- Water bottle.
- PE kit for all PE lessons and after-school sports clubs.

Alongside the arrival of myself and Ms Bramble (as Senior Vice Principal), in September there are some other changes to the senior leadership team in the academy. Mrs George will be replacing Mr Senior as Assistant Principal for Key Stage 3, and she will also lead on personal development across the academy. Mrs Read will be replacing Mr Dougherty as Assistant Principal for Quality of Education, and will work closely with Mr Donovan to improve quality first teaching. Mr Jones will continue as Head of Key Stage 4, with a responsibility for student outcomes, and both Mr Donovan and Mr Lowden continue in their roles as Vice Principals. I know each member of the team has put students first and gone above and beyond at every stage, and I would like to thank Mr Nixon and his team for all their support and hard work in ensuring a smooth transition for September and to wish them the very best for their new roles or retirement.

I look forward to getting to know you all in September.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Kate Williams
Principal

Main school uniform

Boys:

- Blue blazer with gold badge⁽¹⁾
- White buttoned up shirt
- Blue and burgundy striped tie⁽¹⁾ *This must reach between the top button of the blazer and the waist*
- Grey trousers⁽¹⁾
- Grey V-neck jumper with burgundy trim (optional)
- Plain dark grey or black socks
- Plain black polishable shoes

Girls:

- Blue blazer with gold badge⁽¹⁾
- White buttoned up shirt or blouse
- Blue and burgundy striped tie⁽¹⁾ *This must reach between the top button of the blazer and the waist*
- Grey trousers⁽¹⁾ or blue and burgundy tartan skirt⁽¹⁾
- Grey V-neck jumper with burgundy trim (optional) ⁽¹⁾
- Short plain dark grey or black socks or plain dark grey, black or natural coloured tights
- Plain black polishable shoes

⁽¹⁾**These items must be purchased from our approved supplier, Screens.**

Please note the following footwear is not acceptable: sandals, boots, trainers/ trainer type shoes or shoes with logos/stripes, or plimsolls. Fashion belts, wide, coloured and/or ornate designer are not allowed, however a slim, plain black belt with a small, simple buckle can be worn. Buckles should be of a discreet size (no more than 7cm diameter).

Please note that students will be expected to borrow items of uniform from the academy should they not be in full uniform.

For serious or persistent concerns or where other strategies have been unsuccessful, students may be taught separately from their peers or sent home for the infringement to be rectified. Ormiston Denes Academy reserves the right to determine what constitutes acceptable in regards to student presentation/appearance. Students who do not follow this guidance may be sent home for the matter to be rectified or taught separately from their peers.

PE Kit

Years 7 to 10:

Compulsory items;

- Blue ODA crew neck t-shirt⁽²⁾
- Blue ODA shorts⁽²⁾ (unless ODA skort or ODA tracksuit bottoms worn)
- Plain blue football socks
- Trainers or football boots where appropriate

Optional items;

- Blue ODA quarter zip jacket⁽²⁾
- Black base layer (under PE kit in colder weather)
- Blue ODA skort⁽²⁾
- Blue ODA tracksuit bottoms⁽²⁾

- Blue and white ODA football socks⁽²⁾
- Shin pads

⁽²⁾**These items must be purchased from our approved supplier, Screens.**

⁽³⁾**These items must be from our approved supplier, Screens. Please note that future availability will be limited due to the new kit.**

Year 11 only (students may either wear the old or the new PE kit):

Compulsory items;

- Red ODA polo shirt⁽³⁾ or blue ODA crew neck t-shirt⁽²⁾
- Plain black shorts or blue ODA shorts⁽²⁾ (unless ODA skort or ODA tracksuit bottoms worn)
- Plain black football socks or plain blue football socks
- Trainers or football boots where appropriate

Optional items;

- Blue ODA quarter zip jacket⁽²⁾
- Black base layer (under PE kit in colder weather)
- Black and red ODA skort⁽³⁾ or blue ODA skort⁽²⁾
- Blue ODA tracksuit bottoms⁽²⁾
- Blue and white ODA football socks⁽²⁾
- Shin pads

Please note: Ormiston Denes Academy makes the final decision as to what is or is not acceptable in all aspects of a student's appearance. We are happy to provide guidance where necessary, prior to purchase, should you be unsure.