



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

2nd July 2021

Dear Parent/ Carers

One of the things I have come to realise is that this is the first proper summer term I have ever had at Ormiston Denes, as last year we were still in lockdown. What has been great is to see sports day in action – even if it was a little damp on Wednesday – as these are the things that add to a school. The students enjoyed competing and were encouraged along by their peers and their form tutors. It is events such as this that are a positive sign that the school is moving towards normality and the signs from Government would appear to suggest that bubbles will not be needed in September. I cannot over-estimate the impact that bubbles have had on the school as whilst it has kept us all as safe as possible under the circumstances – a priority of course – the stress and pressure on staff having to move from room to room for a whole academic year has been immense. I cannot thank them enough.

We are finalising our last day of term plans (Friday 16th July), and advise that students will be leaving site at 1.25pm. However, we will be able to provide child care for any student until 3.10pm if this early finish is not suitable for you or your child. If you need this additional childcare please email admissions@ormistonden.co.uk.

Thank you for your understanding following my email yesterday about re rooming a number of Key Stage 3 classes. I described it to students as a “belt and braces” approach to safety, a phrase quite a few of them hadn’t heard before. As always both students and staff have been brilliant.

Yesterday I attended the virtual national OAT Principals’ Conference and it reminded me of what we have missed during the pandemic. Although it ran smoothly and was useful, one important ingredient was missing: human contact. At these events, the chance to chat with fellow principals from around the country is invaluable, as it is where you get the chance to build up a relationship and get to hear about what is happening in schools. OAT is a trust with schools as far apart as Grimsby, all the way down to the Isle of Wight, not far off 300 miles away.

This weekend I will be home alone as my wife is away seeing her Dad. It means I will not have seen her from last Sunday night all the way through to this Sunday evening. When I am on my own, I often use it as an opportunity to experiment with some new recipe ideas along with making some pasta and a few (fruit) scones, but I will have Oscar and Maisie. No doubt I will watch some of Wimbledon and if it’s dry cut the grass. I am not a great football fan, but I promise I will cheer on England if they get to the final.

Yours faithfully

Jim Nixon
Principal



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