



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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10th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This week, it has been an absolute pleasure to welcome the students into the academy and to begin to get to know them. Students have returned exceptionally smart and eager to learn. They have been a credit to you and we are delighted with the way they have modelled our values of aspiration, integrity and respect. I know this is only possible because of your support. Thank you.

As the new principal I get to pick up from where Mr Nixon left off and to ensure that there is no pause in our trajectory of improvement. You will have received today, a copy of our latest Ofsted report which highlights the progress that Mr Nixon and the team led last term and our next steps. You will be reassured to know that we have already been working on these areas and are determined to give your child the best educational experience possible. If you have not yet read the report and accompanying letter you can do so by clicking <http://www.ormistonden.co.uk/news/ofsted/>

I will continue Mr Nixon's weekly letter to you all to provide you with updates of what is happening within the academy and to also help to streamline the many communications you receive from us.

**KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS** - This week, in form times, students have been provided with knowledge organisers linked to all areas of the curriculum. A knowledge organiser sets out the key and important information that students need to know and retain for each subject area. For students to succeed they need a web of knowledge at their fingertips to draw on and make links to. To ensure that this knowledge is embedded, students will be expected to complete homework tasks using them, have them with them at all times and complete independent study from them. As parents we would value your help in supporting students with their independent study surrounding these documents. Students will receive guidance from their teachers, **which will be written in their planners**, on the task which they need to complete that week. Attached with this letter is a guide to support study using knowledge organisers at home. We think this is a really exciting opportunity for home and school based learning to meaningfully link up. You can also view the knowledge organiser on our website [here](#).

**READ ALOUD** - We are delighted to launch, in partnership with OAT, our new Read-Aloud programme to ensure students experience a wide range of reading texts during their time at the academy. This will support both their academic and their wider cultural development. We have developed a reading curriculum that covers a wide range of thought and experience which your child's form tutor will read aloud to them three times a week during registration. Research shows that listening to a good reader can have a greater impact on improving students' own reading than reading silently to themselves. We look forward to sharing a range of exciting activities connected to each book with you at home via the school's website. If you would like more information on the programme's vision and the curriculum your child will follow this year, please visit our website and click on the Academic tab and select the literacy tab where you will find the Read-Aloud information.



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**COVID 19** - At the time of writing, our lateral flow testing programme is almost complete with just Year 9 and 10 awaiting their final test today. I have been immensely impressed by, and appreciative of, the way our students have conducted themselves through this process and thankful for their contributions to making the academy as safe as possible.

Our testing programme could and would not have been a success without the support and dedication of our testing team, consisting of administrative and teaching support staff, many of whom have been testing alongside their usual responsibilities. My heartfelt thanks goes to all colleagues who have helped this process.

With our focus now shifting to home testing, with lateral flow test kits starting to be distributed this week, helpful advice and guidance can be found on our lateral flow test website page found [HERE](#), with a direct link to the academy's reporting form also found on this page.

We understand that the pandemic can cause or worsen existing concerns and we are committed to raising awareness, challenging stigma and educating the broader community in ways to manage any difficulties. To this end, in conjunction with our updated assembly, form time and PSHE curriculum, our website also includes a wealth of [general safeguarding information](#), including topics such as mental health, healthy relationships, online reporting forms as well as parent/carer support. Please do contact the safeguarding or year teams should you require any support.

**YEAR 11 P6 INTERVENTION** - To support our Year 11s with achieving their best possible outcomes this year, we are excited to start period 6 interventions on Monday 13th September. Maths will be on a Monday with English being on a Thursday and both sessions will run from 3.10pm to 4.10pm. Invitations will be sent to those identified as needing additional support, however all Year 11 students are welcome. We will also have our raising achievement centre open daily from 8.00am and during both break and lunchtime, and after school from 3.10pm to 4.10pm should your child want to study independently. We are planning a raising achievement evening on 7th October and will write to you again shortly with further details.

**YEAR 7 ASSESSMENTS** - Starting on the 13th of September, Year 7s will begin a two week period of assessments in English, maths and science. To ensure this is a positive experience for your child, we will explain the process during form time, spread the assessments across the two week period, and their class teacher and an additional staff member will be on hand to support the process. The information from these assessments will help us determine any gaps in your child's knowledge and skills, to put support in place and ensure they catch up quickly to fully access all of their lessons. Please refer any questions about these assessments to Mrs Ryan [gryan@ormistonden.co.uk](mailto:gryan@ormistonden.co.uk) (Head of Year 7) in the first instance.

**YEAR 8 and 9 HPV VACCINATIONS REMINDER** - Please complete the online consent form before the portal closes on 14th September. You can view the letter [here](#).

**WEEKLY DINNER MENUS** - We have welcomed a new catering provider to Ormiston Denes this term and are delighted to be able to share the weekly menus with you on our website [here](#).

**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS** - Student photographs have been released to the website. Parents who have registered will receive an auto notification informing them their images are ready to view.

The website for these codes is [www.getphotos.co.uk](http://www.getphotos.co.uk). The online cut-off date for orders to be placed for free postage back to the school is 21st September 2021.

**HERITAGE OPEN DAYS** - As part of this year's Heritage Open Days, the Cultural Education Partnership has organised two children's heritage walks on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September. The walks are family friendly AND full of interesting facts about history of North and South Lowestoft and each one ends at a larger Heritage Open Day event that is following on from the walks. You can find out more information [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Williams', written in a cursive style.

Mrs [Kate Williams](#)

Principal