



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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5th November 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back from half term and to see them settle back into learning so well. Thank you for your support in ensuring that students come to school with a mask to wear in communal spaces. Like all schools in Suffolk we are having to restrict visitors to the site at the moment but our work with you as families is so important, so please do continue to get in touch with us by telephone or email during this period so that we can work together to help your child be successful.

On Monday 1st November our Head of PE, Mr Woodrow had the pleasure of taking 10 enthusiastic and extremely polite Year 7 students to the Community Sports Foundation world class facility "The Nest" for a girl's football tournament. The tournament was organised by academy scholars from Norwich City Football Club. Mr Woodrow proudly reported "We played 5 games in total winning 3 and losing 2. Overall the girls came in 3rd place and only missed out on a place in the final on goal difference. The girls were an absolute credit to Ormiston Denes Academy and I hope playing at such a top facility which is geared towards excellence will only inspire them to continue with their football. Well done girls!"

November 11th marks Armistice Day. In addition to the two minutes silence at 11am, we will be inviting students who are part of the army or sea cadets, Scouts, Guides and St John's Ambulance to join me in laying a wreath in our Entrance Hall. This room displays a clock dedicated to those who fell in the first world war, our Roll of Honour boards remember former students who made the ultimate sacrifice in the first and second world wars and we also remember the death of David Parr who died in the Falkland Conflict. Students will be able to purchase and wear their poppies with pride throughout next week to remember all those who have sacrificed so much in conflicts over the years.

PSHE topics for discussion next week are:

- Year 7 Developing skills and aspirations. Aspiring and achieving your goals.
- Year 8 Developing skills and aspirations. Reviewing their values and goals.
- Year 9 Radicalisation and extremism.
- Year 10 Drugs and alcohol/ substance abuse and assessing the risks.
- Year 11 Post 16 options and career progression.

We understand that discussing sensitive topics such as online safety, sexual health and relationships can be difficult. To help with these efforts, in conjunction with our PSHE curriculum, we have updated our [parent/carers safeguarding page](#) to include #asktheawkward help sheets which cover a range of topics, to help start and guide conversations you may wish to have at home, as well as signpost to other organisations for support. These can be found [HERE](#).

The nasal flu consent forms for all students are being sent out, these should be returned as soon as possible to ensure your child receives theirs.



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With so many students unfortunately affected in recent months by Covid, it is essential that students attend school as much as possible. Thank you for reinforcing the importance of school at home and supporting good attendance.

As part of our partnership with Safer Schools App, we have been advised of reports of a viral post circulating on social media containing a video called "Evil Santa" on YouTube Kids. It is alleged that this video tells children to self-harm and encourage others to do so in order to receive more presents. Safer Schools have not been able to find evidence of this online at this stage but investigations are ongoing. Further details can be found [HERE](#).

Our Year 7 Settling In Evening on Thursday 11th November, is now a virtual event. You will have received an email from Mrs Ryan about this and in addition to taking part in the workshops available, over several evenings our form tutors will call any parent who wishes to discuss their child's well-being and progress. If you wish to discuss your child and will not be available on the days offered, please contact Mrs Ryan or Mrs Crisp and we can arrange an alternative time.

As an academy we are keen to support families who need help and to also upcycle to save the environment, if you have any good quality, current uniform and/or shoes that are no longer needed at home, please drop them off at reception. We know we have students who will benefit from your generosity.

If you have plans to commemorate Guy Fawkes Night with fireworks or a bonfire, please reinforce the importance of safety to your child. We hope that everyone has an enjoyable and safe weekend.

Yours faithfully

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

Kate Williams  
Principal