



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

10th December 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

At Denes it is beginning to look and feel a lot like Christmas. Our beautiful Christmas trees are lighting up the academy and brightening our community. You may well have seen our wonderful external tree, the one in our Entrance Hall is even more stunning. It is so tall it touches the balcony level! It also smells amazing and looks even better as a result of the decorating efforts of our students.

More important than the decorations and even the Christmas dinner served this week is the Denes Christmas spirit. Today we have supported the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day but as importantly, have shown immense generosity supporting our local food bank. Last year our donation weighed 478KG of food (equivalent to the weight of 100 cats), let's hope we beat it this year. Thank you so much to everyone who has got involved. You are making a real difference to those who need it.

We recently ran a homework competition with our KS3 students to design a Christmas card that we could use as our official Christmas card this year. We were overwhelmed by the amazing cards we received – you may have seen some of them on our social media pages. Well done to all students who completed the assignment and congratulations to the top 3 who each received a prize, awarded to them yesterday:

- 1st prize Ella Year 7
- 2nd prize Serena Year 8
- 3rd prize Mark Year 8

If you have any items of school uniform including PE kit, we will gladly take them in and recycle them for students who may need them, either because they have outgrown their current uniform or are not in a position to replace certain items. Our aim is to create a second hand uniform shop in which all items are free to those who need them. We can also support families with good quality school shoes and coats so please consider sending items that are no longer needed our way.

Further to the recent anti-bullying week, our website has been updated to include the topic of "banter" and the serious impact this unacceptable language can have on young people. Our anti-bullying page can be found [HERE](#) and the resource, developed by the anti-bullying alliance, can be accessed directly [HERE](#).

In accordance with recently updated national guidelines, students returning to the academy next term will complete one on-site lateral flow test. Whilst we are using the same consent information that was collected for the previous tests, should you wish to change your preferences please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be sending another copy of the consent form if we do not yet have a consent preference on file.



@OrmistonDenes



/OrmistonDenes

Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft NR32 4AH

Tel: 01502 574474

www.ormistonden.es.co.uk

The day and time of testing will be dependent on the year group in which your son or daughter is enrolled, with each tutor group assigned a staggered arrival slot. The overview of testing and start dates can be found below:

- **Monday 3rd January - school closed, public holiday.**
- **Tuesday 4th January - school closed to all students for staff training and testing set up.**
- **Wednesday 5th January - Year 11 and Year 10 in for testing at the times shown below and returning home afterwards.**
- **Thursday 6th January - Year 7 and Year 8 are in for testing at the time shown below and returning home afterwards. Year 10 and Year 11 are in school as normal.**
- **Friday 7th January - Year 9 are in for testing at the times shown below and returning home afterwards. All other year groups are in school as normal.**

Wednesday 5th January 2022				
09:00	10:00	CWL	GWE	Year 11
10:00	11:00	JTU	SSD	Year 11
11:00	12:00	JTH	TGR	Year 11
12:30	13:30	MAR	BFO	Year 10
13:30	14:30	TWO	YTA	Year 10
14:30	15:15	JNI	RMR	Year 10
Thursday 6th January 2022				
09:00	10:00	AGT	SPO	Year 7
10:00	11:00	ABT	CMC	Year 7
11:00	12:00	DHS	JWE	Year 7
12:30	13:30	HDR	JSW	Year 8
13:30	14:30	DDK	HPT	Year 8
14:30	15:15	LGR	OBA	Year 8
Friday 7th January 2022				
09:00	10:00	ABE	AGL	Year 9
10:00	11:00	GBE	MBB	Year 9
11:00	12:00	PGR	SPW	Year 9

Lateral flow testing will take place in the assembly hall. Students will arrive through main reception, where they will register, complete the test in the hall, then exit through the fire escape doors back outside to the front of the academy via a one-way system. Please continue to test during the Christmas break. Lateral flow test kits have been distributed again during form times this week. In particular, we politely request a test is completed just before students return, in order to complement the on-site testing. If you need any more tests, please do not hesitate to contact us. Further information on lateral flow testing can be found [HERE](#). By taking part in our testing programme, you are making a vital contribution to our collective efforts to ensure the health and safety of our wider community.

The academy's LGBTQ+ support page on the website has recently been updated to include Anna Freud's specific assistance for mental health. Click [HERE](#) to access this webpage, where you can also download a copy of their self-care wellbeing checklist.

As part of the academy's procedures and policies to ensure student, staff and visitor safety in emergency situations, we hold an annual lockdown drill. This involves students needing to remain silent, in their classroom, under staff supervision. This will last approximately 10 minutes and is scheduled to take place on Monday 13th December 2021. This procedure is routine practice. Whilst highly unlikely to be used, it is important we are prepared for a lockdown in the event it is required. We appreciate your co-operation and understanding.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'K'.

Kate Williams
Principal