



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

14th January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

It has been a pleasure to watch our students pick up where they left off at the end of last term demonstrating enthusiasm and commitment to their learning. Classrooms have been focused and it has been a pleasure to see staff trying out approaches that were the focus of our January inset day. It is clear we are a real community of learners.

I have been impressed with the Year 10 and 11 students undertaking external exams this year. Against the backdrop of Covid and with such uncertainty, they have been positive and determined showing aspiration and integrity. Well done to all who have been involved.

Next week, Year 11 students will be involved in college interviews with East Norfolk Sixth Form and will have a virtual careers presentation from Sizewell B. We also have a range of sporting activities from rock climbing to tenpin bowling for our KS4 students.

All Year 11 students were sent a short career and post 16 survey via a Google Form this week. This survey will allow us to best support students in making their applications, preparing for interviews and with their career aspirations. May I ask parents to encourage all students to complete this important survey.

This week we had an ex-student return to the academy. Briony has generously offered to come into the academy and work with our dance troupe in preparation for our spectacular Dance Showcase, which is taking place on Friday 1st April at the Lowestoft Players Theatre (more details will follow closer to the time). Briony is currently studying performing arts at East Coast College and was an inspiration to our students.

Read Aloud - Our exciting Read Aloud curriculum continues to grow, with the texts for the rest of this academic year now available for you to see on the academy's website [here](#). Once students finish these set texts, they'll have a free choice from the ones that precede their year, as there are some really exciting stories and characters they may have not had the opportunity to listen to before. Nearly 90% of students in the academy, when surveyed, recognised the importance of reading to their development and the climate for learning in each session has been fantastic - when the National Leader for English visited he thought that it was an excellent example of how reading could be delivered. A big well done to both teachers and students!

Assessments and Reports - You should now have received the report for your child's autumn assessments and attitude to learning scores (you can access these through [Go4Schools](#)). For Year 11 students, this contains the most up-to-date grade to support applications to colleges and sixth forms.

We will work with all students in the academy to set targets with the aim to improve their approaches to learning, but we would ask that if you have not done so already, that you take some time to read the report and celebrate your child's success and hard work but also discuss the areas that they still need to develop. If you have any questions about your child's progress please get in touch with the relevant Head of Year.



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Supporting Mental Health - We appreciate that the Christmas break, coupled with the ongoing pandemic pressures, may have an impact on mental health. As part of our partnership with Kooth (an online mental health and wellbeing service), a series of virtual questions and answers, information and training sessions on how to use this service have been launched. Should you wish to learn more, please see the Kooth section of our mental health website page which can be found [here](#).

PSHE topics being covered next week

- Year 7 Friends, respect and relationships.
- Year 8 /9/10 Relationships - disrespect nobody.
- Year 11 Relationships and sex.

Have a lovely weekend

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kate Williams
Principal