



17th June 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

Year 7 parents' evening

Last night it was a pleasure to welcome our Year 7 families to the academy for possibly the first time. Whilst we had some logistical blips at the start for which we apologise, the rest of the evening was a real success. There was a lovely buzz around the building and it was wonderful to see so many happy faces leaving at the end. Working in partnership together to help our young people be successful is so important and events like this really help us build that partnership. If you did not have a chance to fill in our exit survey and would like to do so, please complete the form that has been sent to you via ParentMail.

Year 11 exams and finish dates

Our Year 11 cohort are nearly through their exams and they have done exceptionally well; we are very proud of them. Next week's exam programme and booster session timetable is as shown below. I would like to make it clear that following the physics booster on Wednesday 22nd June all students return to normal lessons. However, following the physics exam on Thursday 23rd June, all students will have finished their time at Ormiston Denes Academy and should leave site (returning for their leavers' assembly on Tuesday 28th June).

Period	Monday 20/6	Tuesday 21/6	Wednesday 22/6	Thursday 23/6
Pre-Exam Breakfast and Booster	Chemistry Pre-exam	History Pre-exam	Year 11 Photograph 9am	Physics Pre-exam
1	Chemistry Paper 2	History Paper 2 The American West	Physics Booster	Physics Paper 2
2				
3	History Booster	Physics Booster	Normal Lessons	Leave ODA after exam
4	Normal Lessons			
5				
6	History			

Year 7-9 end of year assessments

This academic year, we return to running a wider range of end of year assessment for our KS3 students. Students will be supported in their preparations by teachers in lessons but also through their head of year in their assemblies and with revision skills through tutor time programme. This undoubtedly can be a worrying time for students, rest assured we have plans in place to support them at each stage of the process. These assessments provide us with

key information on how much of the academy's curriculum your child has learned and where we need to provide support for children that have not retained this key information.

The KS3 assessment window begins on the 27th of June and will end on Friday 15th of July.

GL progress and reading (NGRT) assessments will also be conducted during this window. These are externally marked assessments that show your child's progress through KS3.

Exams in the hall will be no longer than one hour and have been spread over three weeks to reduce the demands on the students.

Where subjects aren't running exams, they will conduct assessments in class during this period, or students will complete portfolios of work for the more practical subjects.

Our aim is to provide you, as parents and carers, a full picture of your child's progress at the end of this academic year. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's head of year and subject teacher. The programme can be found [here](#).

Personal development /PSHE subjects for next week are;

- Year 7 - Challenging differences, breaking down stereotypes in society
- Year 8 - Staying safe, grooming
- Year 9 - Life beyond school, the importance of happiness
- Year 10 - Life beyond schools, careers and work experience

Attendance

Following our attendance reward event at the end of last half term where we celebrated the highest ever number of students with 100% attendance so far this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to build on those successes as we head towards the summer break.

Our [attendance guide](#) outlines our approach to supporting and challenging absence, as *every day matters*. We are currently developing an updated half termly attendance report, through Go4Schools, which will show how your child's attendance has changed each half term, over the academic year, in terms of percentage, but also days missed, so it is easier to understand.

These reports will be distributed through form time as part of your child's action planning activities, so it works with the attitude to learning and progress reports. We will update you further in due course as we roll this out into the next academic year.

Mental health support

With the examination season in full swing, as well as the challenges following the pandemic, mental health may be adversely affected. Unfortunately, this can sometimes escalate to incidents of self-harm. Our [mental health](#) and [safeguarding](#) pages have useful advice and guidance, with updated links on advice for [parents and carers](#) supporting a child who may [self harm](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any support.

Have a wonderful weekend

Yours faithfully



Kate Williams
Principal