



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

28th January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

A successful Year 9 parents' evening was held last night. I know that there were some excellent questions from parents regarding how to support learning at home and about the options process. If you were unable to take part in the evening but have any questions about your child's progress, please get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Reading at Ormiston Denes. At Ormiston Denes Academy, we hold the belief that to access education, work and society reading is a non-negotiable component to unlocking young people's potential. We believe it is our duty to accelerate students' reading ability and build a reading culture that allows students full access to the curriculum. As we enter the Spring Term, I'd like to take a moment to thank you for your support so far and to outline some ways in which you can further help to support your child's reading ability as part of our academy-wide literacy strategy. Please:

- Take some time to listen to / monitor your child's reading at home and discuss what they are reading with them too.
- To support us; sign your child's planner to show that they are reading at home. We monitor reading at home via our library lessons which your child will have fortnightly.
- Follow the school's social media pages to get regular updates on strategies to support your child's reading both at home and in school.

If you are unsure of your child's reading age or would like to discuss ways in which you can help to support your child reading, please contact their class teacher in the first instance.

This week, students received their new spring term knowledge organisers and will be led through some key revision strategies in form time next week. The knowledge organisers contain all the core knowledge for their studies this term. Teachers will be setting homework and revision based on this knowledge and we would appreciate your support at home to ensure that you follow the homework frequency guidance set out in the planner on page 21/22 or found [HERE](#) on the academy website. You can also find electronic copies of the spring knowledge organisers at the same location. Included on the initial pages are ways in which you can help your child learn, recall and retain the information that will help them achieve in their assessments this term.

Pupil Premium is additional funding given to the academy by the government to raise the attainment of disadvantaged students and can be applied for online via the local authority using the following link:

<https://bit.ly/SCCFSMeals>

Research shows that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are at greater risk of underachievement compared to their non-disadvantaged peers. This support will not only help you and your family but will allow the academy to access the additional funding; therefore, providing further help and resources to enable our disadvantaged students to reach their full potential by accelerating their progress.



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A further digital safeguarding alert to be aware of this week is about an online horror character called "slender man" that has been said to haunt abandoned areas and abduct individuals. This is a popular character found on multiple online platforms including Tik Tok, Roblox and Youtube. More information can be found [HERE](#).

New updates to our safeguarding and online safety pages include parent/carer guidance on gaming platforms/consoles, how to manage issuing your child's first phone or tablet, Apple family sharing, parental controls and screen pinning. These materials can be viewed on our safeguarding page which can be accessed [HERE](#).

We understand the challenges that parents or carers may face when raising their children. Should you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. The local authority are also running parenting support workshops, details of which can be found [HERE](#).

Further to the changes in national guidance regarding face coverings, these are no longer required in classrooms or communal areas, however may still be worn should you wish to do so. Hand and respiratory hygiene, in conjunction with lateral flow testing are incredibly important in managing coronavirus, and we politely ask these are reinforced during the winter season.

We will shortly be distributing another round of lateral flow test kits. In the interim, if you need any further tests, please contact the academy and we will make the necessary arrangements for you. You can report your lateral flow test results to the academy [HERE](#).

On 1st and 2nd February, our Year 8 students will be taking part in Talk the Talk oracy workshops, paid for by Ormiston Academies Trust. These workshops aim to allow our students to speak confidently and persuasively, it prepares them for speaking and listening assessments and exams, it provides the tools to structure talks and essays and teaches students how to express ideas whilst keeping to the point.

Student leadership elections for OAT Eastern representatives are taking place within the academy over the next few weeks. We are looking for two students to represent Ormiston Denes in the Eastern region. Meetings will take place every half term and we are looking for students who want to make a change. The elections are taking place on Thursday 10th February so if you know your child would be perfect for this and would enjoy representing other students and the school, please ask them to speak directly with Miss Grimmer.

Finally, a number of you have raised concerns about road safety, as a result of parents mounting kerbs and encroaching on bike lanes outside the academy. We are seeking advice from various agencies as to how we can help keep our students as safe as possible but we have no legal jurisdiction on the roads/pavements. Could I plead with you all to not park on the main road to collect or drop off your children as there have been near misses recently. I appreciate your child may have to walk a little further but this inconvenience will keep everyone's children safe. Thank you for doing your bit to keep our community safe.

Yours faithfully



Kate Williams
Principal