

28th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the festive season approaches I'd like to make you aware of all events coming up over the Christmas period that students and yourselves can participate in.

Food collection between now and Monday 18th December:

Every year Ormiston Park Academy collect food for local homeless charities and food banks. Our parents and carers are always generous and last year the Essex and London Homeless charity collected 20+ large boxes of food kindly donated. This year students are invited to bring in any non-perishable donations (sealed cans, bottles, packets of food- no fresh fruit or veg please). Bring items of food for the collection between now and Monday 18th December. This will be a house competition and every item brought in will be awarded with one house point to the student donating, if a student brings in 5 items they will receive 5 house points, 10 items 10 x house points etc. House points will be awarded during tutor time and added to SIMS by tutors. Once the house points have been awarded the food will be brought to main reception and displayed in houses by tutor representatives.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch- Thursday 7th December:

OPA will take part in the 'Save the Children Christmas Jumper day'. Students and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform. Christmas Jumpers can be worn in place of a blazer or underneath the blazer if your child would prefer to wear both. Students are invited to donate £2.00 to the Save the Children Charity. Donations will be collected during tutor time. We'd like to collect as much money as possible for the charity and see many students wearing a Christmas jumper, if however they are unable to donate £2.00 they can donate less and students can still wear a jumper to school if they are unable to contribute to Save the Children. Christmas jumpers can be shop bought or homemade, the more Christmassy the better. There will be a prize for the 'BEST' Christmas jumper.

Christmas lunch will be served on the 7th December. It will be nice for students to sit and eat Christmas lunch together wearing their Christmas jumpers. A full Christmas Roast Turkey lunch with all the trimmings will be served/ a vegetarian option will be available. There will be just ONE opportunity to purchase food on this day, usually food is available at both breaks. Students will not be able to buy any food during food break 1 while the catering team prepare lunch. Christmas lunch will be the only option for food break 2. If students do not like Christmas lunch they can bring a packed lunch and still sit and eat with their friends who are eating Christmas lunch. The cost of Christmas lunch will be £2.60 for dinner, dessert and a drink, so unless your child is entitled to free school meals, please ensure that there is enough on the card to cover the cost. Unfortunately we are unable to 'lend' the money. Breakfast club will run as usual in the morning.

Year 7 Panto trip Tuesday 12th December- Year 7 are going to the Thameside Theatre in Grays to watch 'Jack and The Beanstalk'- Deadline for payment is Wednesday 29th November.

Ormiston Park Christmas Market- Thursday 14th December 4.30- 7.30pm. Parents and Carers are invited to our Christmas Market in the heart space. This should be a lovely evening for the community, parents and carers will be running stalls and selling various items suitable for Christmas presents. Year 11 will run a hot chocolate station and money raised will go towards their prom. Park life will be selling Christmas cookies and mince pies for charity. We are also expecting a very special visitor and children under the age of 10 are invited to visit him in his grotto!

Christmas Cabaret- 14th December 6.30pm Miss Oxenham our Head of Performing Arts is preparing a short Christmas Cabaret performance in the Theatre. Students who are performing will be informed this week and bring letters home. Tickets will be available via parent pay for £3.00.

Last Day of Term – 20th December. School will be closing to students at 12.30pm on Wednesday 20th December 2023. Passenger Transport and the bus company have been informed about the early closures. Please note that the No. 32 bus will still come into school at 12.30pm but if your child uses the No. 22 they will need to catch this from Usk Road. We return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024 at the normal time.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support and wish you an (early) Happy Christmas and joyful New Year.

Yours faithfully

OPA