



ORMISTON PARK ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS 2024 EDITION

Message from the Principal—Munira Said

As we mark the end of term and move closer to Christmas, Ormiston Park Academy has been a place of hopeful anticipation. We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Christmas lunch with the students, creating a warm and festive atmosphere that brought everyone together. The Christmas Fayre was truly a highlight, offering a wonderful opportunity for the entire Ormiston community to mingle and share in the joy and spirit of the season. It was heartwarming to see families, staff and students come together, exchanging festive cheer, enjoying the delightful stalls, and participating in activities that truly embodied the holiday spirit. Events like these not only strengthen our sense of community but also create lasting memories that we will all cherish.

I would also like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy and rewarding few months at our school. It is always a pleasure to witness the growth and development of our students, and this term has been no exception. We have introduced the OAT curriculums in all core subjects and ensured that all subject areas are fully resourced with the necessary curriculums and teaching materials. We hope that this huge investment will enable our students learn and acquire the necessary knowledge to excel in their educational journey.

This term, we have seen a remarkable level of engagement and enthusiasm in our classrooms. From academic achievements to extracurricular successes, our students have truly excelled, and I am incredibly proud of their efforts. Our teachers have continued to work tirelessly to provide the best educational experience possible, and I am deeply grateful for their dedication and commitment. They have gone above and beyond to ensure that each child is supported, challenged and encouraged to reach their full potential.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support. Your involvement in school events and encouragement of your child's learning have all contributed to our school's success. It truly is a partnership, and together, we create an environment where our students can thrive.

Looking ahead to the new year, we have exciting plans in the works. We are continuing to improve our facilities, develop new programmes, and ensure that every child receives a well-rounded and enriching education. I encourage you to stay involved and engaged with the school community as we move forward, and I look forward to sharing more updates with you in the future.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable break. We hope that you take this time to recharge, spend time with loved ones, and come back ready for the challenges and successes that lie ahead.

Thank you once again for being an essential part of our school community.



Message from the Executive Principal—Jodie Hassan

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to reflect on the term at Ormiston Park Academy. Together, we have made significant strides under our ethos of 'Believe and Achieve', with students rising to the challenge of meeting new expectations and embracing our PARK values of Perseverance, Aspiration, Responsibility, and Knowledge.

I have been truly inspired by the way our students have embodied these values. Their perseverance in overcoming challenges, aspiration to reach higher goals, responsibility in adhering to our improved standards, and their hunger for knowledge have all contributed to a more focused, respectful, ambitious and happy learning environment.

It has been heartening to witness students embracing our improved routines and actively contributing to a positive and focused learning environment. I have been delighted to receive feedback from external reviews where our children have talked eloquently about their feelings of being safe and cared for at school. Well done to all our learners.

I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable support of our parents and carers. Your encouragement at home and collaboration with our staff have played a crucial role in moving Ormiston Park Academy forward. We truly appreciate your partnership and commitment to our shared vision of success for every student.

This term has also been personally meaningful for me. My first teaching role, starting in 1995, was at Aveley School, which later became Ormiston Park Academy. Returning here as Executive Principal feels like coming full circle. It was an absolute delight to meet some of my former students at our Year 6 Open Evening earlier this term. I must admit, it reminded me of how old I am now! But not only that, seeing my first set of students who turned out into such lovely and successful adults, reminded me of what a privilege it truly is to be a teacher. Many of my first Aveley students are now choosing secondary schools for their own children, and hearing their reflections on their time here has been both nostalgic and affirming. Ormiston Park Academy will be a great school, and I'm so glad to be back and part of this journey with you all.



As we head into the festive season, I want to thank our entire school community—students, staff, and families—for your commitment to our shared vision. The collective belief in our potential is what drives us forward, and I am confident that, together, we will continue to achieve even greater things in the New Year.

I hope everyone takes time to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones. This season reminds us of the importance of kindness, gratitude, and community—values that unite us all.

Wishing you a restful and joyful Christmas break. Let's return in 2025 with renewed energy and determination to build on the fantastic progress we have made this term. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish you a restful and joyful holiday break.

With my very best wishes.



**BELIEVE
AND
ACHIEVE**

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Message from OAT CEO - Tom Rees

I was recently contacted by a teacher called Jon who visited one of our schools to do some work with them around reading. As he went to leave at the end of the day, Jon's car battery died. He was stuck in Peterborough, a long way from his home and young family in North Lincolnshire.

Of course, the staff at the school came to his help. They found jump leads to try and restart the car, and when this didn't work, they dropped him at the station. Jon wrote to me to say thank you, for the kindness that he was shown. In his message he said he 'was properly looked after' and described the school staff as 'lovely, lovely people'.

This was nice to read, but unsurprising to me. In every Ormiston school I visit, I am taken by the warmth of the school community and the sense of community and

character in each of our schools.

This time of year is exciting for many as we look forward to the Christmas holidays. It can also be a time of stress and anxiety – and for some, a time of sadness. But it's also a time of kindness and generosity.

In Ormiston, we are focused on work to improve pupils' educational outcomes because we know this is important in giving children choice and opportunity in their futures. But we are also focused on creating schools that enrich the lives of young people and the adults within them, through friendship, shared values and kindness. Thank you for all that you bring to our school community and for the contribution you've made this year. I hope that you enjoy the last week of term and that you enjoy a well-earned break when it comes.

Happy Christmas!

P A R K

Perseverance, Aspiration, Responsibility and Knowledge



Message from the Chair of the IAB - Aron Whiles

I am delighted to be able to write to all Ormiston Park Academy families as part of the end of term newsletter. By means of introduction, I am Aron Whiles and I chair the Ormiston Park Academy Interim Advisory Board (IAB). Our role is to support Ms Hassan and Ms Said on their ambitious improvement journey for Ormiston Park Academy.

The IAB have met four times over the course of the Autumn Term and have been really impressed by the rapid improvement we are seeing at the school.

This is in no small part down to the hard work and commitment of leaders and staff, but also pupils who have responded really positively to the higher standards and expectations on them. Finally, I would like to thank staff, parents and carers; because your support is crucial to the school's ongoing improvement journey. On behalf of the IAB, I would like to wish you all a safe, enjoyable and restful Christmas break and the IAB are looking forward to a successful 2025 at OPA!

Message from Senior Vice-Principal—Humayun Rashid



As Senior Vice Principal of the Academy, and having had the privilege of working here for over five years, I've had the opportunity to witness the school's growth and development at various stages.

This year, with responsibility of overseeing operational matters, it has been both rewarding and insightful.

The Academy is on a steady upward trajectory, and with the support of our new Principal and Executive Principal, we are making great strides in our improvement journey.

It's truly a pleasure to be part of this dynamic team and to be actively involved in shaping the future of our school.

The introduction of our PARK values has brought the school community together with a common language, fostering unity and understanding. This has already had a very positive impact, particularly in improving student behaviour and communication between staff and students. We have seen a significant improvement in student conduct, driven by our shared PARK values.

As Christmas approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local community for the immense support you have given us throughout the year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Believe and Achieve



Message from the Vice Principal — Lynsey Padmore

The Year 11 Student Leadership Team has started the year well and are taking their leadership responsibilities very seriously. A student leader has been appointed in every tutor group across year groups. All student leaders have been awarded gold ties and attend regular leadership meetings with me. The wider Student Leadership Team has led several fundraising events. We have raised money for Cancer Research, Diabetes UK, Children in Need, Save the Children, and Dementia UK.

Responsible for Attitudes, Behaviour and the Personal Development of students.

As we come to the close of 2024, I would like to reflect on the term and share some highlights in areas that I lead across the academy.



Save the Children



PARK Values

The PARK values- Perseverance, Aspiration, Responsibility and Knowledge have been embedded across the academy. It is wonderful to see students aligning their behaviour, actions, and decisions with the core values of the school community.



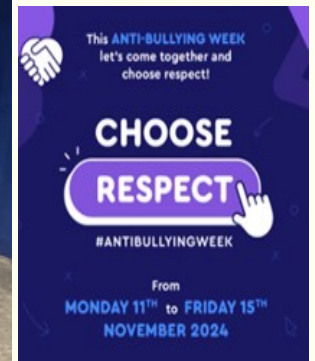
Assemblies

Students come together every week for assemblies delivered by Heads of Learning, Senior Leadership Team and other staff members. Assemblies are aimed to be informative for our students, ensuring that our PARK values are clearly embedded. Topics have included: Mental Health Awareness, Protected Characteristics, British Values, Remembrance Day, Anti-Bullying, Understanding SEND and Enrichment Opportunities.



Student Voice and Anti Bullying

This term, we have appointed Student Voice and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors hold a drop-in session every Thursday at break time – an opportunity for students to raise concerns or seek support. Our Student Voice Ambassadors sit on the OAT Regional and National Student Voice Committees, ensuring Ormiston Park Academy is actively involved in initiatives and priorities across the Ormiston Trust.



OAT Student Voice Ambassadors- Nicole, Ansh and Beatrice

Reading

Reading is a key priority at Ormiston Park Academy. Students who find reading challenging receive additional support through Lexonik, an intervention designed to accelerate literacy and empower learning.

I am delighted to announce that Marie Everitt has been appointed as Literacy Coordinator for Ormiston Park Academy.

Message from Ms Everitt– Literacy Co-ordinator

I am working with colleagues to ensure that students receive a robust reading curriculum that benefits all students at Ormiston Park Academy.

The library now features a fantastic new soft seating area and a multimedia revision area. It is a great space that students are encouraged to visit.

This term, I've worked closely with the Careers Lead, Mrs Montgomery, to introduce a careers advice section in the library. Here, students can find resources on Post 16 education and university. We are committed to supporting and encouraging our Year 10 and 11 students as they aspire to achieve their goals for 2025 and beyond.



Poetry competition 2024 winners

Rewards

Our final assemblies of 2024 were a fantastic opportunity to reward and celebrate our students for their hard work and achievements throughout the term. Heads of Learning presented a variety of awards, including subject accolades and value awards, recognising the dedication and progress of our students. To further celebrate their success, each year group enjoyed a reward breakfast and a special Principal's lunch.

Jack Petchey Achievement Awards

The Jack Petchey foundation aims to inspire and motivate young people by recognising their achievements and encouraging them to reach their full potential. Every month one student is nominated for a Jack Petchey award. All winners will be invited to the Jack Petchey Award Ceremony in March 2025.

REWARDS LUNCH WITH THE PRINCIPAL



Christmas Fayre



Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was a wonderful celebration of the festive season that was well attended by staff, students, parents, carers and the wider Ormiston Park Academy.

It was wonderful to see so many of families join in this activity-events like this strengthen the bond between the school and the wider community. They provide an opportunity to foster collaboration and build relationships. We hope to organise similar events in the future.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Christmas Jumper Day





Message from the Vice Principal — Andrea Crombie

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as a member of the senior leadership team at Ormiston Park Academy. I joined the academy in September after teaching and leading in five previous secondary schools across Essex, Kent and most recently London.

This is a special year for me as it marks my 30th anniversary in teaching! I began teaching in 1995 and my specialist subject is Science. I have a particular interest in developing teaching and learning practice and keep up to date with the latest developments in educational research through lots of reading and by engaging in training whenever possible. Before coming to Ormiston Park Academy, I was fortunate enough to study for my NPQH which is the nationally recognised qualification for headship.

As Vice Principal, I am leading on the Quality of Education across the school. All the academies in the Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) have been concentrating on securing attention this term. Securing attention is essential if pupils

are to make the most of the opportunities afforded to them. We have introduced an active listening routine which ensures that our pupils give their full attention in lessons and we have explained to them how this links to their learning. As a scientist, I am fascinated with how the brain and memory function and I share this knowledge with pupils as often as possible.

I have very much enjoyed my first term at Ormiston Park Academy and feel privileged to work such an amazing group of pupils. In the Spring Term, we will be concentrating on how much thinking pupils do in lessons as well as continuing to help all pupils to pay full attention to their learning. We will also be concentrating on making sure Year 11 students are 'exam ready'.

I would like to wish all pupils and their families a happy and safe holiday. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2025!



Safeguarding

At Ormiston Park Academy, safeguarding is a top priority, and we are proud to be a "telling school". This means we actively encourage our students to speak up about anything on their minds—whether it's something positive, how they're feeling, or any concerns they might have. We believe that open communication is the foundation of a safe and supportive school environment. Our brilliant pastoral team plays a key role in making this possible. They are always available to listen, provide guidance and ensure that every student feels valued and cared for.

Message from the Assistant Principal — Susan Gakungu

Celebrating Our Behaviour Curriculum

We recently introduced a behaviour curriculum rooted in our core PARK values: Perseverance, Aspiration, Responsibility and Knowledge. These values are the foundation for how we guide and support our students in developing positive behaviours that contribute to a successful and harmonious school community. Through this curriculum, we have clearly outlined our expectations, helping students understand not only what is expected of them but also why these behaviours are essential. Good behaviour is the foundation of a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment, and it plays a key role in preparing our students for success both in school and beyond.

To encourage and celebrate students who consistently live by our values, we recognise good behaviour in several ways. These include awarding achievement points, hosting reward assemblies and inviting students to Head of Learning and Principal's Breakfasts. These initiatives meaningfully celebrate students who exemplify our values, inspiring them to maintain and build on their positive contributions. It has been inspiring to see how many students are striving to earn these points, showcasing resilience, ambition, accountability and a love for learning.

We also want to thank parents, carers, and staff for your support in reinforcing these values at home and in school. Together, we are building a community based on respect, responsibility, and shared excellence. We look forward to building on this success in the new term. Have a Merry Christmas.



Message from the Assistant Principal — Karima Fekih



My name is Karima Fekih. I am one of the new members of the Teaching and Learning team and I am thrilled about the opportunity that was given to me by joining the new Senior Leadership Team at Ormiston Park Academy.

I am a French native – born and educated in Paris, where I took my first degree in English Language and Literature. After completing my degree, I moved to London for further studies, earning degrees in Italian Language and History at Middlesex University and French Colonialism at the University of North London.

I began my teaching career as a Lecturer in French for Economics and Business at London Metropolitan University, coaching government officials to deliver speeches in French for EU meetings in Strasbourg and Brussels.

As a Lecturer, I worked with a diverse range of people, the common denominator within all these professionals was to wish that they had paid more attention in French lessons when they were at school.

I embarked on studying for a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, specialised in Spanish, so that I could become a secondary school teacher in the UK. Within five years of teaching, I was recognised for my excellence in teaching and classroom

practice.

Being an Advanced Skills Teacher enabled me to pursue my passion for teaching and learning. I advised on classroom organisation and teaching methods, led professional learning groups, provided model lessons and supported teachers to improve their classroom practice.

Joining Ormiston Park Academy is my ultimate accolade because I can apply my skills and experiences while sharing my expertise across the academy. It also offers me the opportunity to continue learning and growing as a teacher, leader, and role model within the Ormiston Park Academy community.



Remembrance Day



Head of Learning for Year 11 - Mr Clarke



As we come to the end of this term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of Year 11 students at Ormiston Park Academy. It has been a challenging and rewarding term, with students showing dedication to their studies, both in and out of the classroom. The progress they have made is commendable, and we are very proud of their efforts.

As the Christmas break approaches, it is vital that students take some time to relax and recharge. They have worked incredibly hard, and this break provides a much-needed opportunity for rest. I encourage all Year 11 students to take care of their health and well-being over the holidays, and to enjoy this time with

their families. Please remind them to stay safe and be mindful of their surroundings during the festive period.

Looking ahead to the new term and new year, it is important that our Year 11 students return with a renewed focus, ready to continue the hard work required in the lead-up to their GCSE exams. The next few months will be crucial in their preparation, and we encourage them to make the most of all the resources and support available, including attending any interventions or revision sessions scheduled. These additional sessions will be invaluable as we help them prepare for their exams in the summer.

Once again, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students back in January, ready for the final push towards their GCSEs.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and best wishes for a restful and enjoyable holiday season.

HEAD OF LEARNING MESSAGES

Head of Learning for Year 10— Mrs Collins



As we approach the festive season and the end of a successful term, I want to take a moment to thank our Year 10 students for their hard work and commitment throughout

this term. Your determination and effort have been truly inspiring, and you should feel proud of what you have accomplished.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support, especially in ensuring that our students uphold our uniform and behaviour standards and for being there every step of the way. Your partnership is invaluable and we are grateful for the role you play in our students' success.

Now is the time to relax and enjoy the Christmas break. Take this opportunity to recharge, spend time with loved ones and come back refreshed and ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the new term.

Head of Learning for Year 9—Ms Simpson



As the term draws to a close and the preparations for Christmas are well underway, I would like to thank you all for your support towards our Year 9s and the tremendous progress that they have made this term.

This year is an exciting one for your children with the end of Key Stage 3 and choices made for the beginning of Key Stage 4. I have been delighted to hear the talk amongst students focused on their recent

compound assessments and to hear the positive comments about new schemes of learning that have been put in place recently across all academic subjects here at Ormiston Park Academy.

It is wonderful that our young people are taking pride in their learning and in their school environment. I am very proud of them for the efforts that they are making.

Uniform, conduct and attendance have all improved recently and this is in no small part thanks to you as parents and carers.

Do encourage your children to rest and enjoy their Christmas break and to return in January refreshed and ready for all the new and exciting learning opportunities here at Ormiston Park Academy both in the classroom and beyond.

Please ensure that the 15th of February and the 7th of March are in your diaries for Parents Evening and Progress Evening respectively. Meanwhile, I hope you and your families have a restful Christmas break and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Head of Learning for Year 8– Mr Samuel



Having completed the first term of the academic year, I'd like to extend my warm appreciation for your support thus far. We started the year with a number of key priorities, aimed at preparing our students and accelerating the learning journey.

Our students demonstrate our PARK values and they understand their responsibilities and obligations within the Ormiston Park

community.

We want our students understand the importance of good attendance. I always use the phrase – “when you're not in school, you're not learning”. The new year resolution for all Year 8 students should be improved attendance as this is what will secure them excellent outcomes and experiences. Students were awarded certificates and prizes in recognition of excellent behaviour for learning across different subjects.

As the school breaks for Christmas, students are encouraged to take time to rest and enjoy time with friends and family. I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and restful holiday.



HEAD OF LEARNING MESSAGES

Head of Learning for Year 7- Mr Choudhary



As we approach the festive season, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. It has been a pleasure to see our Year 7 pupils settle into secondary school life and embrace our ethos of *Believe and Achieve*.

Throughout this term, we have encouraged pupils to embody our core values of *Perseverance, Aspiration, Responsibility, and Knowledge* in all they do—whether in the classroom, during extracurricular activities, or as part of our wider school community. These values are integral to shaping not only academic success but also the character and resilience of our young people.

As we head into the holidays, I hope you all enjoy a safe, restful, and joyful break. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back in the new year, ready to continue their journey of growth and learning.



Enrichment

We are placing extra emphasis on mental health, well-being and personal growth. Balancing schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and personal time can be challenging, but it's so important to take care of yourself. Since September, our school has seen an exciting range of enrichment activities offered to students. We have had a fantastic variety of clubs: Boxercise, Science Club and Drama Club, giving everyone the chance to explore new interests and develop their skills outside the classroom. As we head into the second half of the school year, there are many exciting events and clubs coming your way. Please check the tutor presentations and displays to see what we have to offer. Whether you are looking forward to upcoming trips, enrichment clubs, or sports teams, there is something for everyone. Take time to participate and enjoy what makes our school community so special!

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Nicole and Richard in Year 7 who both won the OAT French Spelling Bee at Ormiston Park. They were able to correctly spell 45 out of 50 French words that they learnt especially for the competition which is an amazing feat.



Choir Club

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Onyema's choir club, who made the school proud with their lovely carol songs at the Christmas Fayre. It has been amazing to see so many students getting involved and discovering new passions.

Year 7 Panto trip to watch Snow White Panto 18th December

Year 7 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Thameside Theatre to see the Christmas pantomime, Snow White. It was a fun-filled trip that brought lots of laughter and holiday cheer, and great to see our young boys and girls experience something different.



Message from the Assistant Principal (SENCO)- Mr Lee Challis

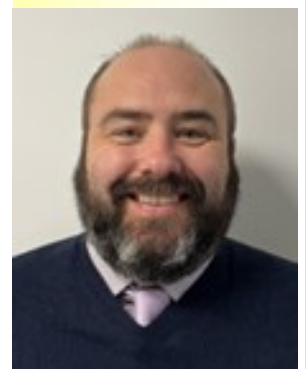


I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at Ormiston Park Academy. With a passion for supporting students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), I have spent much of my professional career dedicated to this field. I truly believe in the importance of the *graduated response* outlined in the SEND Code of Practice—an approach that puts the student at the heart of all decision-making and planning. In my work, I'm committed to ensuring that every student has a voice in their own learning journey and the support they receive.

Before I embarked on my career in education, I began my professional journey in the military, serving as a specialist dog trainer with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. After returning from active duty, I felt a strong desire to give back to my community in a new way, which led me to teaching. Over the years, I've had the pleasure of teaching subjects such as Music, Maths, and Cooking, but it is in the realm of SEND where my true passion lies. It is the challenge and the reward of supporting students with diverse needs that continues to inspire me each day. I am excited to work with students, staff, and families here at Ormiston Park Academy to ensure that every child is given the support and opportunities they deserve to thrive.

Message from Business Manager- Mr Jamie Woodhead

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Business Manager for Ormiston Park Academy. I joined the academy in November 2024 and have experience in leading and managing finance and operations across a number of Essex secondary schools. My role is to manage and oversee operational aspects of the school, including finance, HR, facilities management, health & safety, IT, catering and GDPR.



These operational elements of a school are such an important part of your child's experience here at Ormiston Park. They are what I like to call enablers. For example, finance enables us to invest in first-class teachers, it enables the purchase of excellent resources and training for our staff to ensure they can be the best at what they do. Facilities management and health & safety regulations enable us to provide a safe, warm and engaging environment for your child to spend their school life in. IT enables your children to access the resources and learning portals that they need to complement their learning and to achieve the very best outcomes at the end of their career here. The GDPR enables us to keep your child's data safe, while enabling appropriate sharing of ideas and other data to help enhance and further student progress.

Everything I do within my operational function has the students' needs at heart. Whether it be facilities management, health & safety or finance, the operational decisions we make will always be in the best interests of the school.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first half-term at Ormiston Park and look forward to the journey that the school is now on. I wish all of our families, students and wider community a very merry Christmas and a successful and prosperous new year.



