



ORMISTON SIX VILLAGES ACADEMY



12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

May I begin by reiterating my gratitude for yesterday's support with getting your children home when we had to close due to the lack of running water. I'm sure you will understand why a school cannot remain open without running water and the ability to flush the toilet and wash hands.

The way our community pulled together to ensure the safe evacuation of over 700 children was very impressive and I thank you all. It is very rare that an emergency closure is necessary, and if it does happen it is generally due to extreme weather conditions such as snow.

I am also indebted to the efficiency of staff yesterday morning. Within a matter of minutes of receiving confirmation from the Water Boards that there was a serious issue with water and that we would need to close, parents were emailed, staff were informed and a signing out procedure was in place outside reception. Students followed instructions and had their consent text messages ready enabling them to proceed rapidly through the sign out tables. Well done Six Villages!

Please find this week's notices below.

Year 11 Parents' Consultation

Rescheduling this event is a priority. Parents' Consultation will take place **next Thursday (18th January)**. All arrangements remain unchanged and this will still be a face to face event. I apologise for the obvious short notice, but look forward to welcoming you all next week and thank you for your patience in the meantime. If you have any queries relating to your appointments, which will be at the times you booked them, please contact Miss Ryder at Reception on 01243 546800 or rrr@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk.

Year 11 group photo

A reminder that the Year 11 group photo will be taken on Monday afternoon, which will be available for families to purchase if they wish.

Year 8 HPV immunisations

If your child did not bring home a leaflet about these detailing how to provide consent, you may wish to check their school bag. The Immunisation team will be on site on 7th February. The portal 'Cinnamon' for parental consent will close on 2nd February. After this time parents and carers can all the immunisation office to complete consent over the phone. They can be contacted on 01273 696011 ext 8100. As well as HPV immunisations, there will be some catch up MMR administered and parents of those children will have been contacted by the Immunisation team.

Year 9 Parents' Consultation – Save the date

This event will take place on site in the Gate Theatre. Information about booking appointments will be issued in the near future. In the meantime, please save 1st February in your diaries.

Tutee of the Week

70	Dexter W	80	Daisy K	90	Lily H	100	Riley M	110	Alex H
7R	Chloe P	8R	Izabella A	9R	Elsie F	10R	Imogen E and Grace R	11R	Liam S
7M	Bailey S	8M	Gideon L	9M	Tom M	10S	Erin J	11M	Fin L
7S	Theodore R	8S	Kavya P	9S	Conor P	10T	Ollie M	11S	Olive C
7T	Lola-May M	8T	Jazmin P	9T	Finley B			11T	

Sparx Superstars

Congratulations to this week's superstars who have reached a new XP level.

Nicole S	Wilbur T	Harley S	Rose H	Zia M
Chloe T	Ava H	Josh W	Kavya P	Clemmie R

Spring Term Fixtures

Week commencing	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
15 th January	Year 7 – Girl's Football Return to school - 5:45pm	U14s – Boys Basketball Return to school – 5:45pm
22 nd January	U14s – Girl's Football Return to school 6pm	U16s – Boys Basketball Return to school – 5:45pm
29 th January		U16s – Boys Basketball Return to school – 5:45pm
5 th February	Year 9 – Girl's Football. Return to school - 6pm	U16s – Boys Basketball Return to school – 5:45pm

What children and young people need to know about free speech vs hate speech

The focus this week from National Online Security is about free speech vs hate speech. They share the following information and advice and I hope you may find a few moments to go through this with your child.

Freedom of expression is enshrined in international law. Some individuals, however, misunderstand the right to share their opinions as a license to target others with the most horrendous prejudice. So how do we balance people's prerogative to have their voice heard against everyone's right to live in a respectful, inclusive society? This conflict frequently unfolds in the digital world. Online posters can be falsely accused of hate speech, while actual hate is often defended as merely being 'free speech'. To help children and young people learn to identify the boundaries and recognise genuine hate speech when they see it, the guide at the end of this letter provides some helpful definitions and guidelines.

Key dates 2024

18 th January	Year 11 Parents' Consultation, at the academy, 3.15pm-6.15pm
15 th January	Year 11 group photo
17 th January	Tea/coffee and chat with the governors, 2.50pm, all parents and carers welcome
25 th January	Year 10 Work Experience Launch, 6pm
1 st February	Year 9 Parents' Consultation, 4pm-7pm
7 th February	Vaccinations
12 th -16 th February	Half term
22 nd February	Year 9 Options Evening, 6pm
26 th February-1 st March	Year 11 mock week
7 th March	Futures Fair (careers)
28 th March	Last day of spring term

You are warmly invited to drop in for a cup of tea or coffee with the governors on Wednesday at 3.00pm; governors are very keen to meet you and hear your views so please do pop in if you possibly can.

Ofsted Parent View

My Friday letter is sent out to over 1000 parents each week. Following my request to complete the Ofsted parent view questionnaire last week – 6 parents kindly completed it! Come on Six Villages, can we do better than this?! We really do value your views so can I make a plea to please share your view [here](#). You will be asked to register if you are not already registered. Our postcode is PO20 3UE. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views. This is really important to us.

Yours sincerely

Paul Slaughter
Principal

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, facts and tips for adults.

What Children & Young People Need to Know about FREE SPEECH VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly; being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives...

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert
The Global Equality Collective is a coalition of over 100 LGBT+ organisations, all working and campaigning in solidarity for the rights of our most vulnerable groups in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisations named in the BBC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL EQUALITY COLLECTIVE

The National College

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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