



ORMISTON SIX VILLAGES ACADEMY



19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the festive season, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout this term. Your encouragement and partnership have been invaluable in helping us provide the best possible learning experience for our students.

This term has been filled with successes, determination and progress and we are incredibly proud of how our students have embraced every challenge. Looking ahead to next term, we are excited to build on this momentum with new opportunities for learning and development.

Over the last two weeks year groups have celebrated the term with an enrichment day, celebration assembly and Christmas lunch. It was lovely to see each year group sit down to eat with their tutors, even if my 'dad' cracker jokes were so bad they caused a real 'crisis of cracker-credibility' – students may still be trying to piece together the punchlines!

Please find notices for next term below.

Lateness to lessons – new protocol

From the 12th January 2026, we will be running a new protocol to ensure that we maximise all of the time a student has in a lesson. This will be to ensure that they arrive on time to every lesson and so the learning can begin immediately.

Punctuality is absolutely crucial to the success of our students:

- Arriving late to a lesson means a student can miss learning time and can become flustered and confused about the content of the lesson
- Arriving late stops the teacher from delivering their lesson and disrupts the learning of others
- Punctuality to school and to lessons is essential in the world of work. If you are late frequently you may ultimately lose your job.

It is for these reasons that we will be introducing a new system where each lesson changeover will have a bell to note the end of a lesson and a bell that denotes the start of the next. Students will have that period between the lessons to get from one classroom to the next.

We have asked students to measure how long it takes to get from the two furthest parts of the school to ensure there is more than enough time to achieve this without being marked late.

Any student who has a legitimate reason for being late will be given a late slip.

Any student who is late without a late slip will be given a short lunchtime detention. Persistent lateness will result in a higher sanction.

We hope this new protocol will ensure that all students are successful in lessons and prepared for the world of work in their adult life.

Principal: Mr Paul Slaughter

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Year 11 parents' consultation – save the date

A reminder the Year 11 parents' consultation takes place on Thursday 15th January. This will be a hybrid event with online appointments in the afternoon following by face-to-face appointments in the Gate Theatre. We are currently encountering difficulties with setting up the appointment booking system, run by a third-party provider. We apologise for the delay in being able to open the booking system.

Uniform reminders

As we approach the school holiday, we kindly ask you to take this time to check that students have the correct school uniform ready for the new term. Please ensure all items meet the academy's uniform standards and replace any worn or missing pieces during the break. This helps students return in January looking smart and prepared for learning. Thank you for your continued support in maintaining high expectations. A reminder of the academy's uniform dress code and expectations can be found on the website [Ormiston Six Villages Academy - Uniform](#).

Early finish – Thursday 15th January

A reminder that students have an early finish on 15th January at **1.10pm**, due to the Year 11 parents' consultation. As usual, the school buses have been arranged to pick up at that time.

Music Tuition

Invoices for next terms drum, keyboard/piano lessons are live on parent pay, and the guitar/bass invoices will be sent out in the second week of January, as most of the lessons are completed, the final one for this group being Wednesday 29th January.

Any parents/carers of students who wish to start instrumental lessons in Spring 2026, can complete the application form. Following this an invoice will be put onto Parent pay.

[Ormiston Six Villages Academy - Music tuition](#)

If there are any parents/carers who wish to alter from group to masterclass lessons for the next timetable, should advise as soon as possible, so an updated invoice can be added to parent pay.

In January 2026 we have the opportunity for a free taster singing lesson for interested students. Information from West Sussex Music, the local music hub partner is below, and a form to complete from Six Villages for anyone interested.

[Music lessons - West Sussex Music](#)

[Taster singing lessons – Fill out form](#)

Star Badges

For every 1000 points a student receives they are awarded with a star badge in the celebration assemblies at the end of term. This is currently for years 7 and 8. Please encourage your children to wear them with pride.

Free School Meals

As usual, vouchers will be issued to eligible families on 19th December.

OSVA Times

The December issue of the academy newspaper will be available on the website. [Ormiston Six Villages Academy - OSVA Times](#) at 4pm today.

KS3 Common Assessments

We would like to inform you that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be completing common assessments in English, Maths, and Science during the weeks commencing Monday 19th January and Monday 26th January. These assessments are being undertaken by all students across our academy trust and are an important opportunity to review progress and identify areas for further support. Students will complete one assessment in each of the core subjects within their classroom, with their classroom teacher.

Additional information and resources will be available on Arbor, directed to the students, to help them prepare effectively.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child is ready for these assessments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Physical Education Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
All years football MCR	All years rugby - JHD	All years trampolining – LOR/MCR	All years basketball – LOR	All years badminton - MDE
KS4 gym club – MDE				

Spring Term Enrichment

Lunch

After school
2.50pm-3.50pm

Ormiston Six Academy – Enrichment Programme Spring Term 2026

Private lessons

PE Afterschool
clubs.

OAT Competitions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 MFL N/A/FY Final: Sat 11 March Sports Day 1-28 June OAT Writas English essay competition 11-28 March Chess Primary school tournament 14-15 Feb OAT Sports Cup S/E Final: TBC ORMISTON'S GOT TALENT	Wordle Club (by invitation) Hive EBR Football Club MUGA JCE Week A - Year 8 & 10 Week B - Year 9 & 10 Dr Who Club Hum4 CMH	Drum Kit lessons Sign up – see DMT/SRS Football Club MUGA JCE Week A - Yr 9 & 10 Week B - Yr 8 & 10 Italian Club MFL 1 PHE	Wordle Club (by invitation) Hive EBR Clean & Green Reception GAD Kung Fu Wyatt Studio	Band Practice Sign up – see DMT/STR Futsal Club (Girls Only) Sports Hall CJS Crafting and Calming Club/ Newspaper Club Eng4 KWM	Guitar/Bass Lessons Sign up – see DMT/STR Keyboard club Music Suite DMT Librarian Training invite only (librarians) Library EBH
	Futsal Club (Year 7) Sports Hall CJS	Chess Club Ma5 SHY	'Voices Together' singing group (no requirement to be able to read music) Music Suite DMT	Violin enrichment Music Suite DMT	All Sorts – Pride Club Hums 2 RRL
	Board Game Club Library EBH Y9 – DofE Bronze (Applicates Only) Y10- Silver (Applicates Only IT2 LOR HellCats Cheerleading Club Wyatt Studio All Years Football MUGA MCR Gym Club Gym MDE (KS4 Only)	Violin Enrichment Music Suite DMT Dodgeball Club Sports Hall LOR (KS3 Only) Board Game Club Library EBH Band Practice Sign up – see DMT Inclusion homework support Hive VNS Film Club Eng1 LMS All Years Rugby Field JHD	Football Club MUGA JCE Week A - Yr 8 & 10 Week B - Yr 9 & 10 Futsal Club (Year 8) Sports Hall CJS Table Tennis Club Wyatt Studio MDE/MCR Art Club Art 1 NGN Book Craft Library EBH Inclusion homework Support Hive LME All Years Trampolining Field LOR/MCR	Cornet enrichment Music Suite DMT Board Game Club Library EBH Football Club MUGA JCE Week A – Yr 9 & 10 Week B – Yr 8 & 10 Lego Club Tech 2 LOR Dungeons & Dragons Club Library EBH Inclusion homework support Hive MCE All Years Basketball Sports Hall LOR	Wordle Club (by invitation) Hive EBR Football Club MUGA JCE Week A – Yr 8 & 10 Week B – Yr 9 & 10 Futsal Club (Year 9) Sports Hall CJS STEM Club Sci2 JME All Years Badminton Sports Hall MDE

Spring Term Fixtures

Team selections are available on Arbor

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
5/1/26			U14 Basketball (A) TRS Collection time: 5:15	Boys Badminton Tournament @ FCC Collection time: 5:30 pm
12/1/26	U14 Girls Football (H) BL Collection time: 5:00pm		Yr7 Basketball Tournament @ TRS Collection time: 5:15 pm	
19/1/26		Sussex Cross Country Collection time: 3:50 pm	U14 Basketball (A) TRS vs CHS Collection time: 5:15 pm	
26/1/26		Yr7 Basketball Tournament @ TRS Collection time: 5:15 pm	WSW Junior Cross Country @ BL	Yr8 Rugby (H) FCC Collection time: 4:45 pm Yr11 Netball Tournament @ TRS Collection time: 5:15 pm
2/2/26		Yr9 Rugby (A) TRS Collection time: 5:15 pm	Yr7 Netball (A) FCC Collection time: 5:00 pm	Yr8 Rugby (A) MRC Collection time: 5:30 Yr11 Netball (H) CHS Collection time: 4:45 pm
9/2/26		Yr9 Rugby (H) BL Collection time: 4:45 pm	Yr9 Netball (H) TAS Collection time: 4:45 pm	U14 Girls Football (A) FCC Collection time: 5:00 Year 11 Netball (H) BL Collection time: 4:45 pm

Tutee of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have been nominated by their tutors this week:

7O	Lucas T	8O	Joe C	9O	Charlie M	10O	Amber R	11O	Tiana E-K
7R	Jesse B	8R	Molly B	9R	Katie B	10R	Isabella A	11R	Carys T
7M	Vanessa Z	8M	Evelyn S	9M	Leon B	10M	Sophie H	11M	Dominika F
7S	Violet T	8S	Amelia M	9S	Corey D	10S	Owen H	11S	Lucy F
7T	Beau L	8T	Sonny B	9T	Darcie-Sienna S	10T	Ava H	11T	Leon H

Director of Learning Tutee of the Week Award

Congratulations to the following students who have this award for making the best contribution to their year group this week.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Alexus E	Finley W	Laila F	Brandon R	Lucy S-F

Sparx Superstars this week!

Science

Leon O	Kieran T	Harry V	Sienna B	Ami P
Lola B	Emily M	Poppy B	Iszac H	Freya B

Maths

Taylor-Matthew S	Harry V	Oliver E	Leo W	Jazmin P
Emily B	Joleon A	Chloe L	Ruby T	Lara P

English

Freya T	Reuben W	Tom A	Jasper A	Rosie B
Rosie W	Mia SK	Dylan T	Ava W	Nathan N

Emochi - safeguarding alert

We have recently become aware of an app called *Emochi*, which is being used by some young people. While it may appear to be an innocent anime-style chat app, it actually allows users to create and interact with AI characters in uncensored roleplay scenarios, personalised backstories and visual storytelling with AI generated images. This includes content that can be highly explicit and inappropriate for children, despite the app claiming to have an age restriction.

The app has the ability to engage in content which is over the age of 18 and of a sexual nature and is easily accessible to any age even though there is an age 16 restriction.

We strongly advise parents and carers to check if this app is installed on their child's device and to have open conversations about safe and responsible online behaviour.

Underage Social Media Use

We are aware that some students have been accessing social media platforms that are not suitable for their age group. Popular apps such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and Discord all have a minimum age requirement of 13 years, while platforms like WhatsApp require users to be 16 years or older.

According to Ofcom, 99% of children aged 3–17 are online, and 9 in 10 children own a mobile phone by age 11. Alarming, three-quarters of social media users aged 8–17 have their own profiles, and 60% of 8–12-year-olds are already using platforms despite age restrictions. Among teens aged 13–17, almost 75% have encountered potential harms online, with 60% having been contacted in a way that made them uncomfortable. Globally, approximately 5.2 billion people—about 64% of the world's population—use social media, and in the UK, 23 million people (around 39% of the population) use TikTok. These figures highlight not only how ubiquitous these platforms are, but also the

importance of monitoring and discussing safe online use. We urge you to supervise your child's online activity, have open conversations about digital responsibilities, respect age restrictions, and work with us to ensure our students remain safe and protected online

What can parents do?

- **Check age limits:** Ensure your child only uses apps appropriate for their age.
- **Set parental controls:** Use built-in tools on devices and apps to restrict access.
- **Monitor activity:** Regularly review your child's friend lists, messages, and privacy settings.
- **Talk openly:** Encourage honest conversations about what they see and experience online.
- **Lead by example:** Model responsible social media use and explain why boundaries matter.
- **Report concerns:** If you suspect harmful content or contact, report it to the platform and inform the school.

I am raising this now, mindful that as we approach Christmas, many children will receive new devices such as smartphones, tablets, or gaming consoles. These gifts often come with access to social media and messaging apps, so it's vital to set up **parental controls**, check **age restrictions**, and agree clear **family rules** before use.

These restrictions exist to help protect young people from inappropriate content and online risks. We strongly encourage parents to monitor their child's online activity, discuss safe and responsible use of technology, and ensure that age limits are respected. By working together, we can help keep our students safe online.

Community Safety

Please see the attached advice from the Safer Arun Partnership.

Reaching Families – Spring Term Workshops

For further information on the workshops, please scan the QR code or visit the Reaching Families website or email: outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



All workshops are free of charge. Reaching Families is a parent-carer led charity which aims to empower parent-carers and families of children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex through the delivery of information, advice, training and peer support.

Dates for the diary

5 th January	-	INSET day
6 th January	-	First day of Spring Term 2026
15 th January	-	Early finish for all students, 1.10pm
15 th January	-	Year 11 Parents' Consultation
26 th January	-	Year 11 Group photo

Arbor

Can I issue a further plea for those parents and carers who have not yet created their Arbor accounts to do so over the Christmas holiday. In the interest of home-school partnership, I need you to be aware of your child's behaviour points, attendance and other important communications. Please see the letter of 3rd November on the website for instructions on setting this up [Ormiston Six Villages Academy - Letters from the Principal](#).

Happy holidays!

This season is a time for reflection, kindness, and community. While many celebrate in different ways, what unites us is the spirit of togetherness and hope for the year ahead. On behalf of the entire academy, I wish you peace, joy, and good health. May the coming year bring new opportunities and continued success for all.

Thank you for being an important part of our school community.

Yours faithfully



Paul Slaughter
Principal