

26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of Half Term

As we approach the end of a very busy half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on some real successes over the last eight weeks and some bits that we will be working on moving forward.

The vast majority of students have returned eager and hard working after the summer break. There has been a number of students who have really improved their attitude and determination in lessons from last academic year and are really seeing the benefits of this. Students are taking responsibility for their learning and showing a real appetite to learn the new knowledge that is being taught by their teachers. Year 11 have really typified this approach, from their work in morning intervention sessions, their diligence in lessons, to their enthusiastic approach to Period 6 sessions. On a number of occasions this year, we have had over one hundred and forty students turn up for specific subject intervention sessions taking place after school. We wish them every success in their upcoming mock examinations. A particular well done to our new Year 7 cohort for their positive attitudes as they get used to their new surroundings. As a year group they have been extremely impressive, and we are looking forward to seeing their full potential over the coming months.

Mr Rose and Miss McGowan have done a fabulous job in launching our new House System. There has been a number of really well attended House Competitions that have engaged both students and staff. I have been really impressed with the number of students wanting to take part and represent their House and this was really evident through the House Assemblies this week. Well done to all the students who have embraced this and keep those House Points coming! Please take a moment to check on your son / daughters House Points under the achievement tab on Edulink.

Learning across the academy has been very positive since our return in September. Students have engaged well with their new topics, subjects and teachers and have started to develop some very positive learning routines. We realise that some of our young adults might not always communicate with you what they are learning, and this will be done by staff through parents' evenings and our reporting systems, however, please follow the link to our website that will give you a clear overview of what is being taught in each subject from Y7 – Y11. If you have any further questions about learning, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

<https://ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk/curriculum/subjects>

Providing all of our students with rich opportunities is something we are really passionate about at OHA. We want to ensure that your child gets these opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. Please take a moment to look at our Enrichment Timetable and speak to your son / daughter about what opportunities they might want to get involved with when we return after half term. Our clubs have been excellently attended so far this year, it has been a pleasure popping in to see them in action and seeing so many students engaging with the different activities. A special mention to our Cadets and Duke of Edinburgh Programmes that have once again provided our students with amazing opportunities to develop their resilience.

[Enrichment Timetable](#)

Our passion to deliver rich opportunities for all our students ties in really well to our OHA Core Offer; ensuring all of our students experience at least three activities through our Personal Development Days. After half term we will see Year 7 travel to Knowsley Safari Park, Year 8 experience a disability awareness day, learning BSL & taking part in disability sports. Year 9 are going to Keele University; Year 10 will take part in a work experience and interview day and Year 11 will be visiting Liverpool Hope University.

When we return after half term, we will continue to focus on two key points:

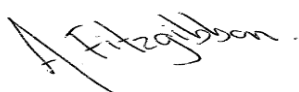
1. Punctuality to lessons
2. Attendance

We have a small group of students in each year group who struggle to attend their lessons on time. We are working closely with these individuals and their families to ensure all barriers are removed and they can take responsibility for arriving to their lessons on time. We have spoken at length to students about the importance of punctuality and how poor punctuality is dealt with in the workplace. Please take a moment over half term to speak to your son / daughter about how crucial it is that they attend all lessons on time and when there, they work to the very best of their ability.

Attendance continues to be a focus for all of our students in the academy. Over the last half term, we have had a number of students who have missed more than one day of learning due to sickness. We realise that some sickness cannot be avoided, however, we have spoken to all students about being responsible and getting themselves in to the academy if they are feeling only a little unwell. Well done to all the students who have managed 100% attendance this half term, we are hoping to increase this number over the coming seven weeks.

Thank you for all your support over the first half term, please take the time to stop and enjoy some well-deserved family time when the half term holiday arrives.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Fitzgibbon  
Principal