

## END OF YEAR LETTER – JULY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the close of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and to reflect on some of the incredible achievements and developments that have shaped our community this year.

One of the standout moments was our spectacular production of **Annie the Musical**. The talent, dedication, and professionalism displayed by our students and staff made it a truly unforgettable experience. It was a wonderful celebration of the performing arts, and a powerful reminder of what our young people can achieve when given the chance to shine. A special thank you to Mrs Jones, Miss Smith, Mrs Rushton, Miss Wood, and the staff from Ormiston Packmoor Academy for their hard work and dedication.

In the world of sport, our students have enjoyed exceptional success, both locally and nationally. From football and netball to athletics and leadership, the level of commitment and teamwork has been inspirational. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the way that they represented our academy with pride and determination. I must also mention our school **Sports Day**, which was a fantastic event that was enjoyed and embraced by all. If you haven't already seen it, you can watch the highlights [here](#).

This year, we saw the rise of our **OHA Chess Team**, led with great enthusiasm and expertise by Mr Salt. What began as a small club has developed into a thriving team with a growing number of students now taking part regularly. Chess not only fosters strategic thinking and patience but also encourages a strong sense of camaraderie and healthy competition across year groups. We look forward to seeing our team compete in tournaments throughout 2025/26.

January saw the implementation of our mobile **phone-free policy**. The positive impact this has had on the culture and climate of our school cannot be overstated. We have seen improved focus in lessons, better social interaction, and a calmer, more respectful atmosphere across the academy. Thank you for supporting us in making this bold but important change.

Our **Personal Development Days** have provided students with rich, meaningful learning experiences – from career exploration and life skills to wellbeing and community engagement. We are proud to offer a broad range of opportunities that help our young people grow into confident, responsible, and well-rounded individuals. At the time of writing, our Year 7 cohort has just departed for the beach, and Year 8 are busy experiencing their first taste of Duke of Edinburgh.

In the classroom, we made significant investments in **teaching and learning**, ensuring that both staff and students have access to high-quality resources, training, and support. This ongoing commitment is already having a positive impact on classroom experiences and outcomes and will remain a key focus as we move into the next academic year. Students have responded positively to our universal call for attention and have embraced our routines for checking listening and understanding.

At the heart of everything we do - both here at OHA and across Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) - is a shared commitment to providing every student with the very best education. As part of this commitment, OAT is introducing a **new, Trust-wide curriculum**, that reflects the highest standards and is designed to support excellent teaching in every classroom.

To ensure this important development is implemented successfully, OAT has added an additional three INSET (staff training) days to the 2025/2026 academic year. These days will be used to deliver high-quality professional development to our middle leaders, who play a key role in shaping the teaching and learning that happens every day in your child's classroom.

In the 2025/2026 academic year, the academy will therefore be closed to Students for the following INSET days:

- Monday 1st September
- Tuesday 2nd September
- Friday 17th October
- Friday 24th October
- Friday 5th December
- Monday 5th January
- Monday 23rd February
- Monday 20th July

A full list of term dates, inset days, and bank holidays, can be found on our [here](#).

Finally, as we celebrate all that we have achieved together, we also say goodbye to several valued staff members who are leaving us at the end of this term:

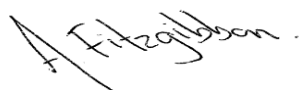
- Miss Snape (Learning Support Practitioner)
- Miss Travis (Maths)
- Mrs Dingle (Maths)
- Miss Spencer (Science)
- Mr Birks (Cover Supervisor)
- Miss Awde (Cover Supervisor)

We sincerely thank them for their significant contributions to the life of the academy. Their passion, professionalism, and dedication have made a lasting impact on both students and colleagues alike. We wish them all the very best for the future – they will always remain part of the Horizon family.

As always, none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our parents and carers. Thank you for working in partnership with us to ensure that every student at OHA can thrive.

I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming students back in September, ready for another successful year.

Warm regards,



**A Fitzgibbon**  
Principal