Meridian Media

A newsletter made for Ormiston Meridian Academy students and parents/carers



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and so much more...

Editor-Mrs Martin

Senior Team Introduction

As another exciting term draws to a close, we are delighted to share the amazing activities and accomplishments that have taken place here at Ormiston Meridian Academy.

The Autumn Term has been nothing short of extraordinary, filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to excellence.

One of our key priorities this term has been fostering independent practice in lessons, with an emphasis on resilience and confidence in extended writing tasks.

We also engaged with parents during our Year 7 Settling-In Evening and look forward to sharing insights from this in our next newsletter.

Our Year 11 GCSE Preparation Evening provided students and families with tools and strategies for exam success. Teachers shared practical revision techniques and subject-specific insights, helping families support their children during this crucial time. This was followed by the GCSE Celebration Evening, where we honoured the hard work and resilience of last year's Year 11 students—a truly inspiring occasion.

Students have enjoyed a wealth of opportunities this term. Year 11 attended a fantastic careers event at the NEC in Birmingham, and some visited Oxford University for an insight into life at one of the world's most prestigious institutions.

Mrs Eldershaw opened 'The Hive' at lunchtimes, offering a quiet study space for Year 11.

Year 7 explored the wonders of space in the 'Stardome' and will soon enjoy a festive pantomime trip—a memorable cultural experience.

Our academy raised £410.41 for Children in Need and £340 at the Christmas fayre, reflecting our commitment to inclusion and support for those in need.

Mrs Stewart also collected and distributed coats to the local community ahead of winter.

We celebrated Christmas Jumper Day with students and staff showing festive spirit and solidarity.

Staff and students joined in 'Odd Socks Day', a symbolic event promoting individuality and raising awareness about bullying.

On November 11th, the whole academy united for an act of remembrance, laying wreaths in our remembrance garden, created from over 1,000 poppy petals bearing heartfelt messages from students.

This term also featured our 'Brilliant Book Brigade', celebrating students' pride in their work and excellent presentation.

This will be my final newsletter as I retire after 32 years in education. As we look forward to the festive season, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible students, dedicated staff, and supportive families for making my time at Sandon/Ormiston Meridian Academy an absolute pleasure.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2026. Thank you for reading, and I hope you enjoy this edition of Meridian Media.

Mr P. Martin







News and Events

Mrs Martin





Important Date or Events

What: Y10 parents' evening

When: 11th February

Where: In the school hall

What: Y9 Options Evening

When: 11th February

Where: Ormiston Meridian Academy

What: Y8 parents' evening When: 5th and 12th March

Where: In the school hall



News and Events



After a busy Remembrance Day, we celebrated Children In Need 2025, welcoming our students and staff to a wonderful a day of fun, excitement, and fundraising.

During this day, we had numerous events such as the famous cake sale, which sold out completely during both break time and lunch time. £410.41 was raised, in total, which is just incredible!

We at Ormiston Meridian Academy wanted to thank everyone who helped organise the event or donated to the charity they have helped change the lives of children who need it most.

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone that took part.



Alfie Thake Morris Student Leadership Team





News and Events

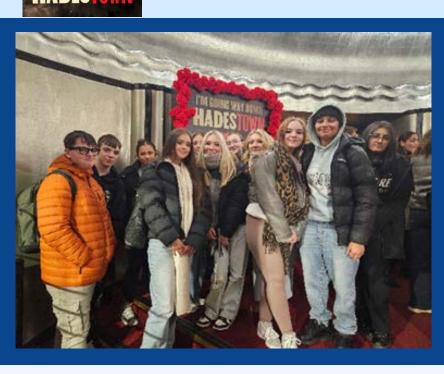


An unforgettable day was had with the Drama and Dance departments in November when they whisked a group of enthusiastic KS4 students off to London for a dazzling West End experience!

After a relaxing train ride to London Euston, our adventure began with a short and across continents, discovering the vibrant cultures of Egypt, Greece, Africa, and Japan. Brimming with inspiration, we continued on to the iconic Covent Garden, weaving through its gardens. The highlight of the day came as we took our seats at the Lyric Theatre for a spellbinding performance of Hadestown. The production was nothing short of spectacular, leaving everyone buzzing with excitement. And as if that was not enough, we rounded off the evening with a magical visit to a Christmas Market, complete with hot chocolate to keep us warm before our journey home. It was an absolutely brilliant day from start to finish, and now we are counting down the days until our Residential trip in February!

HADESTOWN

Miss James and Mrs Prendergast





COMMUNITY BOOKCASE



FREE BOOKS!

Take home a book today from our community bookcase. We have a variety of genres and age ranges available.

FIND THE COMMUNITY
BOOKCASE IN THE
WAITING ROOM NEXT TO
RECEPTION.



Uniform and Equipment



Mrs Martin

Year 7 Top Ten Equipment

As a student at Ormiston Meridian Academy, you are expected to attend your lesson with the following 'TopTen' items:

1 black pen x 2	2 red pen x 2	3 pencil x 2	4 rubber	5 whiteboard pen
6 scientific calculator	7 highlighter	8 reading book & timetable	9 plastic refillable bottle	10 ruler



Don't forget a bag to carry your equipment.



Years 8-11 Top Ten Equipment

As a student at Ormiston Meridian Academy, you are expected to attend your lesson with the following 'TopTen' items:

1 black pen x 2	2 red pen x 2	3 pencil x 2	4 rubber	5 whiteboard pen
6 scientific calculator	7 highlighter	8 timetable	9 plastic refillable bottle	10 ruler





Uniform Checklist





GETTING IT RIGHT MEANS:

- You respect the school
- You are part of a team
- You will get praise from your teachers
- Visitors will think you are a good student



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Performance Kit Expectations

Male students compulsory kit includes:

an academy branded round neck t-shirt, academy branded shorts, plain black football socks, trainers and football boots.

Optional kit includes:

an academy branded quarter zip mid-layer, academy branded tracksuit bottoms, and plain black trainer socks.

Female students compulsory kit includes:

an academy branded round neck t-shirt or an academy branded polo shirt, academy branded shorts, hair bobble, plain black football socks, trainers and football boots.

Optional kit includes:

an academy branded quarter zip mid-layer, academy branded leggings, and plain black trainer socks.

If you choose to wear non-academy branded kit from an alternative retailer, you must ensure that this is **plain black** with **no logos**.

If students are not fit or well enough to take part physically in PE, they are still expected to bring their full performance kit to take part in an officiating or coaching capacity.







University Spotlight-Our Visit to Oxford

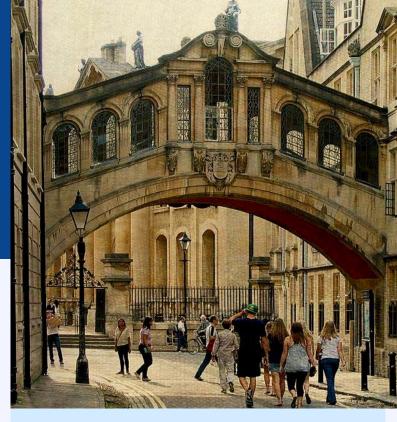
Mrs Eldershaw

This edition's university spotlight article takes a slightly different form as it's an account about our Year 11 visit!

On Wednesday 12th November, after some confusion with the coach going to the wrong Ormiston (rude!) we were on our way to Oxford! We arrived at University college, Oxford where we were greeted by Savannah, who is our link fellow at the college. Savannah works with us to help encourage students to visit the college and help to break down any barriers, or address any misconceptions that Oxford isn't for everyone! Savannah is actually a former Stoke resident, who enjoyed telling us how much she misses oatcakes!

Our first activity was a small lecture, hosted by Savannah where she addressed misconceptions that Oxford (and Cambridge, known as Oxbridge) are not accessible to students from all walks of life. We discussed the range of courses available, the proportion of students who attend from state vs public (fee paying) schools and the proportion of international students. Interestingly, we discovered that is actually cheaper to live as a student at the University of Oxford than it is in most city universities!

Following our lecture, we were treated to a delicious lunch in the University College dining hall.



"The University of Oxford is considered not only one of the best in the UK, but also in the world..."





After lunch we went on a very interesting college tour around the grounds, bumping into some of the students (and seeing lots of bikes!). We were informed about the history and architecture of some of the buildings including the library (which is open 24 hours a day!) and we really got a feel for what life at Oxford could be like!

We finished our day with some short presentations from current students about their undergraduate studies and what they have been researching. These fascinating insights into the studies of communicable diseases and also how Science is helping to re-write History, really helped to open students' eyes to the endless knowledge university life affords us.

The only slight negative about our visit was that it was too cold to see Percy...the campus mascot who is a Tortoise! He is named after Percy Shelley (Poet) who has a memorial and statue dedicated to him at the College. Maybe one day one of our Ormiston Alumni will have a memorial dedicated to them there... remember, there are no bounds to what you can achieve! Reach for the stars!



House Points Update

Mrs Prendergast





TOP KS4 FORMS

HALF TERM 1

Yousalza

Bridgewa







Important Date or Events

What: February half term When: 16th-20th February



Origami Society

Who - Miss Shaw and Miss Rowley

Where- S59

Why – learn a new skill, enjoy mindful craft, learn about Japanese culture

When - Fridays WEEK B



Anything else – Miss Shaw might teach you a little bit of Japanese if you want to learn the language!



Debate Society

Do you enjoy debating?

Do you like to voice your opinion?

Do you enjoy hearing other people's points of view?

Then debate society is just the place.

Every Thursday Week A in S62 3:15pm-4:15pm with Mrs Sims

We will hold topical, humorous and fun debates each fortnight.

How does this lead to a career?

If you are thinking of becoming a lawyer, barrister, a politician, a journalist or a broadcaster (just to name a few) this could be just the place for you!

Maybe you want to improve your debating skills?

Develop your confidence or oracy skills or learn something new.
This is the society to do all of those

This is the society to do all of those things and more!











Reading and the Library

Mrs Martin

Welcome to our school Library page!

I hope you are looking forward to a well deserved rest over the holidays.

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to my student library team. This is made up of pupils, from all year groups, who give up their own free time at break and lunch to assist in the running of the library. They issue and return books, organise the shelves and share their knowledge of books to help other choose the right book for them. Without them the library would not be the thriving, student led space that it is. Thank you all for your effort, hard work and time. If you interested in joining the library team please speak to Mrs Martin.

This term we have been busy in November learning about Diwali, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. As part of non-fiction November we encouraged to students to take out non-fiction books for extra library reward stamps. Remember stamps mean prizes!

In December, the student library team decorated the library for Christmas. We have enjoyed exploring books that are themed around the Christian Festival of Christmas and celebrating the fictional world of seasonal literature. We ran a competition asking pupils to recommend their favourite seasonal book for students to read over the Christmas holidays. As we go to print I have already received hundreds of entries and look forward to announcing the winner in the new year.



"Did you know we stock a wide range of materials including magazines, revision guides, comics, gaming manuals and much more...?"





Looking for something to do on the cold Winter nights?

Come to the library and explore the cosy Winter read on our winter display. Take out any book from this display and receive double stamps on your library loyalty cards.

10 stamps= Bookmark

20 stamps= Bronze certificate and pin badge

30 stamps= Silver certificate and pin badge

40 stamps= Gold certificate and pin badge

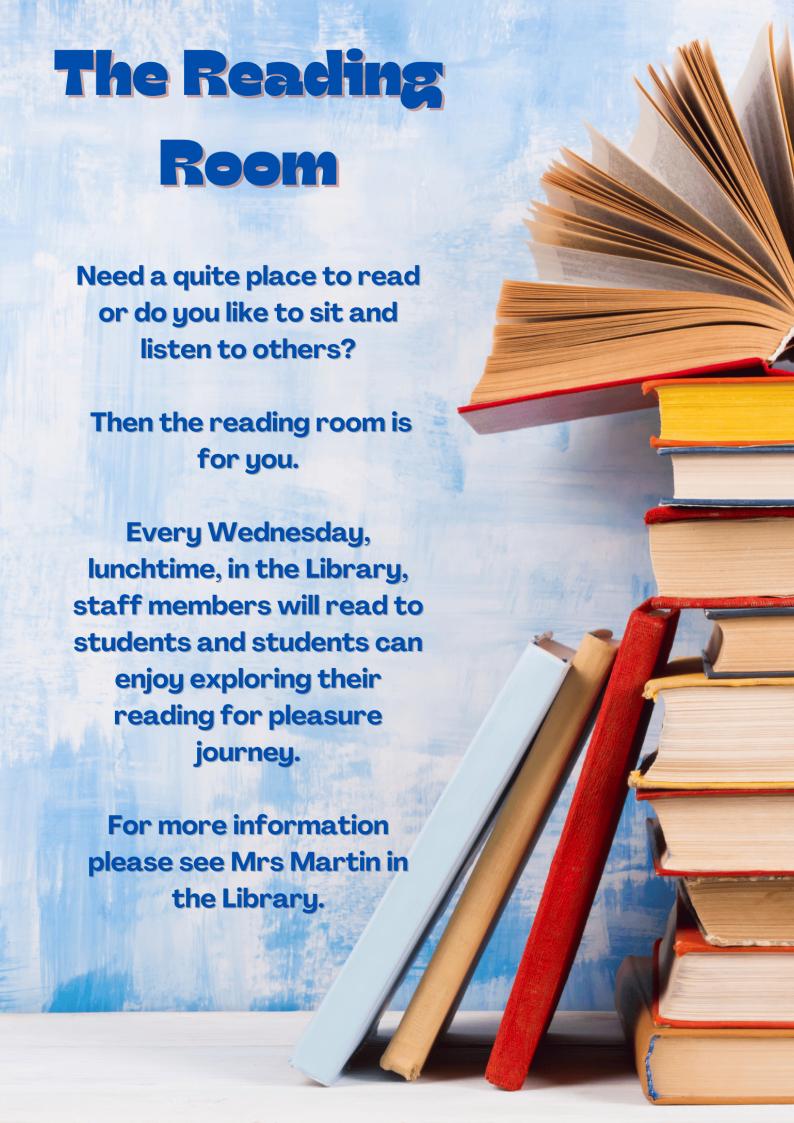
50 stamps= Platinum certificate and pin badge

Next half term, we are exploring STEM in January and get in the mood for love in February, with our Valentines Day writing competition.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the library in the New Year.

Mrs Martin





Subject Spotlight Child Development

Mrs Sims

Year 10 Child Development cohort explored their senses during a practical lesson.

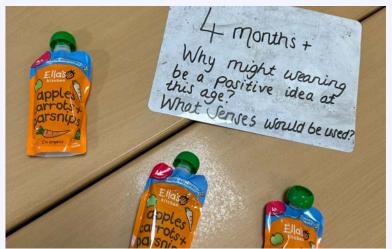
The lesson focused on babies aged 4-7 months and their weaning journey. The students identified ingredients, consistency, age range and taste tested a range of baby foods.

Both classes thoroughly enjoyed the activity and gained a huge sense of understanding too!

In addition year 10 were acting in the role of a primary school teacher, students explored tone, body language and accents when reading stories to children.

If you want to find out more about Child Development please see Mrs Sims







EARLY BABY DEVELOPMENT





Brilliant Book Society







Love reading? Want to make friend and discover new books?

Then come and join us in the library....

Monday and Wednesday 3.15-415pm.

All years are welcome.

See Mrs Martin, in the Library, for a permission slip.



Careers Education in CORE Mr Temple

This term, pupils have been actively engaging in a series of activities designed to build essential life and career skills during their CORE sessions. These lessons aim to prepare students for future opportunities by focusing on personal development, workplace etiquette, and understanding the world of work.

Key topics covered include:

- · Self-discipline and routine building Developing habits that support success in school and beyond.
- · Self-assessment of skills Reflecting on current abilities to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- · Introduction to manners Practicing greetings, politeness, and active listening to enhance communication.
- · Exploring passions, interests, and skills Helping pupils understand what motivates them and how this links to career choices.
- · Basic etiquette in diverse settings Learning how to behave appropriately in different social and professional environments.
- · Labour Market Information (LMI) Gaining insight into job trends, growth sectors, and future employment opportunities.
- · Impact of words and actions Recognising how behaviour influences relationships and career prospect





"This term, pupils have been actively engaging in a series of activities designed to build essential life and career skills during their CORE sessions."

Careers Education in CORE Mr Temple

Why These Skills Matter:-

Employers consistently highlight the importance of soft skills such as communication, self-management, and adaptability. By learning good manners, building routines, and understanding the impact of their actions, pupils are developing qualities that make them stand out in interviews and the workplace. Exploring passions and skills helps them make informed choices about future careers, while knowledge of Labour Market Information ensures they are aware of emerging opportunities and sectors. These foundations are essential for success in education, employment, and life.

What is Igniting Futures?

The whole point! We aim to empower a generation of young people to transform a society and make an everlasting positive contribution to our country. By delivering a unique 'Igniting Futures' curriculum focused on skills, professional decorum and prospects, we ensure students are motivated to achieve lifelong and limitless employment. We provide in-depth knowledge regarding the vast range of opportunities and experiences that are available to them as young adults; further education, university, apprenticeships and ultimately employment so that they can enter career path that serves them for the rest of their lives.





"Exploring passions and skills helps them make informed choices about future careers, while knowledge of Labour Market Information ensures they are aware of emerging opportunities and sectors."

Careers-Visit NACRO

Mrs Latham

Mrs Latham took a group of Year 11 students to Nacro on Monday 17th November 2025 to have a look around their facilities.

Nacro is a small training provider that caters for post 16 students, where it is now based in Hanley. Thank you to our host Jay Gardener who gave us an in-depth tour.

Please see below more information from their website.

https://www.nacro.org.uk/who-we-support/how-we-help-young-people/

"At Nacro Education, everyday we help hundreds of students realise their potential and gain the skills, knowledge, and experience they need to progress confidently onto their next step.

Our Education Centres operate across England offering college level provision, smaller class sizes, skilled and experienced tutors, practical workshops, and one-to-one support, to ensure our students have what they need to progress to further levels of study or start their career.

Nacro Education is open to students aged 16 – 19+, no matter your previous education experiences. Some of our students loved school, and some have struggled in mainstream education, some are looking to launch their careers with a hands-on vocational course, some might have SEN and benefit from our tailored one-to-one support. What brings our community together is the desire to get set for a bright future."



Nacro>



Achievement-Celebration of Excellence Awards Evening

Miss Peacock

On Thursday 4th December, we welcomed back students from the Class of 2025 for our Celebration of Excellence Awards Evening. With a red-carpet entrance and live musical performances (from K Shahzad Y7 and S Cooke Y11), this special occasion recognised the hard work and excellence of our former students.

The event was a heartwarming occasion, with proud parents, family members, and dedicated teaching staff in attendance to honour the hard work and progress of our students. We would like to congratulate all the very worthy winners of the awards.

Notable awards were presented to:

- · Jessica Swannell, awarded the Principal's Award for Overall Achievement
- · Hannah Mathews, awarded the Vice Principal's Award for Exceptional Progress
- · Jack Powell, awarded the Anthony Ashton Award for Services to the Academy
- \cdot Yaa Boateng, awarded the Gareth Jones Rising Star Award
- \cdot Hayden Cartlidge, awarded the Tracey Podmore Award for Exceptional Attendance

In addition, over 50 other awards were presented to recognise the excellence of individual students in their GCSE and BTEC subjects. Students were awarded for both academic achievement awards and special recognition awards.

We would like to thank our Sponsor – School's In – for their contribution to the evening as they provided all of the trophies for the event.

We are already looking forward to celebrating the successes of our current Year 11 students in 2026!







- EMPLOYERS WANT!
 - CAREERS!

ACHIEVE HIGHER
OUTCOMES AT GCSE's
& IN LATER LIFE

WEEK A Y7&8
WEEK B Y9&10
3:15PM-4:15PM



MFL:-Pen Pal Partnership with the British Council in Paris Mrs Andre

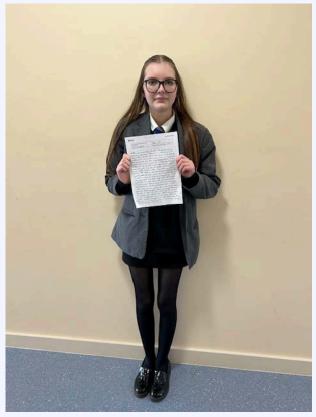
We are delighted to announce a new Modern Foreign Languages pen friend project, created in partnership with the British Council in Paris.

Forty-one pupils from Years 7 to 10 have been selected to take part and were excited to receive their first letters from their French correspondents this week.

By the end of the academic year, each participant will have exchanged one letter per term—an excellent opportunity to build cultural understanding, practise French, and enjoy a valuable international experience which may lead to lasting friendships.









France



HAIL Society



Don't have access to a computer at home or just need some help with HAIL?

Do you need to revise?

Then come along to the library.....

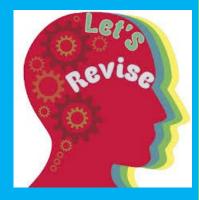
Monday-Thursday 1.25-2.10pm & 3.15-4.15pm.

All are welcome.

Just turn up, no need to book.







Safeguarding-**Staying Safe**

Mr Martin

Internet Safety over the Christmas Period https://ormistonmeridianacademy.co.uk/ne ws/2025/12/5/parents-e-safety-net-skipssafety-net

Thank you

Safeguarding Team

During School Hours children can report or disclose any Safeguarding Concerns to their year group Pastoral Manager:

Y7 - Mrs P Walters

Y8 - Mrs A Berisford

Y9 - Mrs M Bills

Y10 - Mr A Martin

Y11 - Mrs C McGlynn

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mr S Darlington - DSL Mrs A Berisford - DDSL

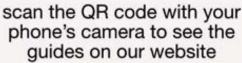
Safeguarding over the Christmas period:-If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999 or 101

• If the child is not in immediate danger, but you're still concerned that they need risk support, you can make a referral to the Integrated Front Door for Stoke-on-Trent Children and Family Services on the online portal:

childrensportallcs.stoke.gov.uk/web/ portal/pages/marfprof

- If you have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm, you can call the Integrated Front Door on 01782 235100 (Mon-Thurs, 8.30am - 5pm and Fri, 8.30am - 4.30pm), or call the Emergency Duty Team on 01782 234234 if you are calling out of office hours, at weekends or on bank holidays.
- To request information and advice: childrensportallcs.stoke.gov.uk







Mr S Darlington Designated Safeguarding Lead /ice Principal



Miss M Bills Year 9 Pastoral Manager & Safeguarding Support

Miss P Walters

ear 7 Pastoral Manager

& Safeguarding

Support



Mrs A Berrisford Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 8 Pastoral Manager



Mr A Martin & Safeguarding Support



Miss C McGlynn Year 10 Pastoral Manager Year 11 Pastoral Manager & Safeguarding Support

The Mental Health Support Team



Available now in your local Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire schools and colleges

Panic Management Sleep

Anxiety Coping Strategies



Low Mood Problem Solving

Worry Management Exam Stress



The Mental Health Support Team works with schools and colleges to embed a better whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing, as well as offering support to parents, carers, children and young people. We use CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) informed principles to provide support and interventions for a range of common mental health difficulties.



Where To Find Us

Scan the QR code to be taken to the Combined Wellbeing Portal, where you will find a list of Mental Health Support Team schools, as well as a range of self-help resources and other services. Alternatively, please contact us on the email address below.



MHSTEnquiries@combined.nhs.uk https://combinedwellbeing.org.uk/







Anti Bullying Week-Odd Socks Day

Miss Rowley

This year's anti-bullying week saw the return of Odd Socks Day, on Monday 10th November. Anti-Bullying Day took place on Monday 10th November. The "Power for Good" message encourages everyone to use their influence and power positively to stop bullying by speaking out, offering support, and creating inclusive communities. Well done and thank you to everyone who participated in Odd Socks Day!









Parent Partnership

By Mr Craddock

We're pleased to remind you that from January 2026, we will be transitioning to a new parent communication and information system: Arbor. This will replace Synergy for all parental communication.

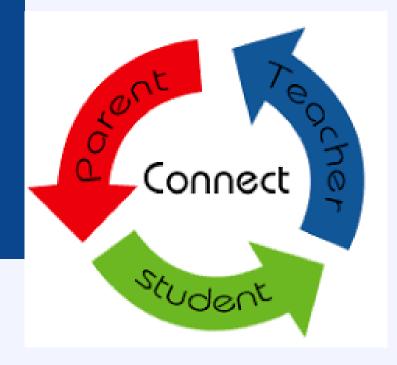
Arbor is a modern, user-friendly platform designed to make it easier for parents and carers to stay connected with academy life. It will bring a range of benefits including:

- · A single, streamlined app for accessing key information such as attendance, behaviour, timetables, and communications.
- \cdot Improved messaging and notifications, helping you stay informed and up to date.
- \cdot Simpler access to homework (HAIL) and reports, all in one place.
- · A more intuitive interface, making it easier to navigate and use on mobile devices.

To be ready for the switchover, please download the Arbor Parent App now from the App Store (Apple devices) or from the Google Play (Android devices). However, we will not be able to share usernames and passwords until the system goes live in January. You will receive these in the first few days of the new term via email.

Thank you for your continued support as we take this positive step forward in improving communication and engagement across our school community.

Mr Craddock Associate Assistant Principal (Digital Learning and Communication)









See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app



Log in in seconds with Face ID

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone

Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings

See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more

Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

Scan the QR code to download the Arbor Parent App, and use your email address to log in







Parent Partnership

Mr Craddock



We are continuing to gather portfolio evidence towards achieving the Leading Parent Partnership Award.

Thank you to all parents who have contributed via social media, at parents' evenings / special events or have completed the whole-school survey (see below).

We will be in a position to receive our first set of external feedback on this after Christmas.

Feedback at the Year 9 Parents Evening in November was extremely positive, with over 100 parents rating the support they receive as an astonishing 9.42 out of 10. Thank you for all of your comments which praised the positivity of staff, the organisation of information received and academic support. All individual comments that named teachers have been passed on to them.

Whole-school survey

We would like to ask all parents and carers to complete a short survey, giving us their feedback on:

- · Attitudes and behaviour
- · HAIL (homework)
- · Communication
- · Attendance

You can access the survey in any of the following ways:

- 1) By following the link sent to you in the Synergy Parent App
- 2) By going to our school website and clicking on Our Academy > Parent Voice 3) By typing https://ormistonmeridianacademy.co.uk/our-academy/parent-voice into your computer or phone
- 4) By using the QR code below:



Cricket Society



Who?: All levels of experience and ages groups welcome!

When: Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm

Where: In the Sports Hall.

Please see Miss Gregory for more details.

