

July, 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you today with immense pride, excitement, and a heartfelt commitment to the future of both our incredible schools — **Flegg High Ormiston Academy** and **Ormiston Venture Academy**.

Since January, I have had the privilege of leading both academies and have seen firsthand the strength, character and potential that exists across both communities. I am now delighted to share with you that this will continue, as I take on the role of Senior Principal of both Flegg and Venture, alongside a Senior Vice Principal Leadership Team leading across both schools.

This is more than a leadership change — it is a clear and ambitious vision for the future. A future built on partnership, values, and a deep belief that every child deserves a world class education.

At Venture, this vision has been years in the making — a relentless, unwavering pursuit of excellence that has now been recognised in our **Outstanding Ofsted judgement in every category**: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, and Leadership and Management. The report celebrates that **“pupils do excellently at Venture”** and benefit from the **“highest expectations of what they can achieve.”** It praises the **“meticulously designed curriculum,”** the **“superb behaviour,”** and the **“palpable sense of purpose in classrooms.”** But beyond the judgement itself, what matters most is what inspectors experienced — what we see every day: exceptional teaching, a deep culture of aspiration, and students who are not only achieving academic excellence but growing into confident, compassionate young people prepared to lead happy, successful lives.

At **Flegg**, we are rapidly building the same momentum. Ofsted recently recognised that **“behaviour has improved significantly,”** that pupils **“are polite and want to learn,”** and that there are **“increasingly high expectations” for what they can achieve.** The transformation underway is not only visible — it is tangible in classrooms, corridors and conversations.

Now, by working in true partnership, both academies will benefit from a **shared vision, expertise, resources and opportunity**. Students at **Flegg** will continue to feel the transformation and commitment to ensuring it is on a rapid journey of improvement and wider collaboration — one that knows how to secure long-term, meaningful change. Students at **Venture** will also gain with opportunities to broaden their experiences, collaborate with peers, and help shape the future for others. It is exciting to already see our **Union of Flegg students and the Union of Venture students** working together to share their ideas and vision for the future.

Bringing our two schools together will involve aligning our values and vision — it’s about strengthening what makes each school unique while building a shared future rooted in the same belief: **every child deserves a World Class education.** This is a vision I started with as the Principal of Venture and will now carry forward for every child at both Flegg and Venture. Our schools are united by values of high aspiration, integrity, compassion and the drive for excellence — and now, through this collaboration, we are setting the bar even higher.

In practice this means:

- **Exceptional teaching practice shared across both schools**, ensuring students benefit from the very best approaches in every subject, every lesson.
- **Increased enrichment and student leadership opportunities**, with cross-school initiatives giving students even more chances to grow, connect and lead.
- **Shared curriculum and academic rigour**, tailored to the needs of each school, but always grounded in the principles of excellence.
- **A united focus on personal development and character**, with both schools sharing a vision for confident, respectful and resilient young people.

At the heart of both schools is our unwavering commitment to our **values**. In both academies we will ensure we focus on supporting our students to develop both in and out of the classroom. Growing in their time at the academy while preparing them for exciting futures beyond where a culture where aspiration, creativity and innovation are the norm.

We understand that with **change often comes uncertainty**. The decisions being made now are not just about the present — they are about shaping the long-term future of our academies and communities. I know that without seeing the full picture, it can be difficult to understand how each part fits into a wider vision. That's why **I would like to warmly invite you to join me and members of the leadership team** for a special presentation, where we will share our exciting long-term plans and the vision that will guide our next chapter.

This will take place on the evening of **Tuesday 9th September at 5.00pm**. We would like to extend this opportunity to families of all students to hear first-hand about the journey ahead — a journey rooted in our commitment to providing the very best education for every child.

This partnership is already proving what is possible. **Our students are thriving**. Our staff are energised and empowered. And most importantly, our communities are coming together in the shared belief that the future is not just bright — it is **bold, ambitious, and world class**.

I want to personally thank you for the support you have given us so far on this journey. Your trust, encouragement and belief have helped us achieve so much already — and with your continued partnership, **the best is yet to come**. Wishing you a safe, enjoyable and relaxing summer and looking forward to seeing our **students back on start of the autumn term on Wednesday, September 3rd**, breakfast in OTs opens from 8.00am, with students able to **make their way to lessons from 8.25am** and Ready to Learn in their Personalised Learning classroom at the usual time of 8:30am for all year groups. You can find the full calendar for the next year on our website.

With heartfelt thanks and a deep commitment to everyone in our community,



Simon Gilbert-Barnham

Senior Principal

Flegg High Ormiston Academy

KEY REMINDERS

Communication



Use and Importance of Go4Schools

- It provides you with crucial live up to date data and information on your child including:
 - ✓ What **extended learning** they have been set
 - ✓ What their **attendance** is
 - ✓ How many **Heart points** they have earned and a record of any **behaviour events**
 - ✓ How they have done in **assessments** and how they are making progress in all subject areas
- It is the tool that creates, stores and issues **half termly progress snap shots and reports throughout the year**

Please to help ensure communication is as clear as possible between the academy and yourselves, check that you can access both tools easily and regularly in preparation for next academic year

Timings of the Academy Day

- There will be a small change to the structure of the day next year. This will not affect the start and end times of the day but will be a change to the timings of lessons. Although it will mean a short reduction in lunch from 40 minutes to 35 minutes this change will enable us to bring planned and structured learning to tutor lessons (to be referred to as Personalised Learning Time or PL for short) that will ensure meaningful programme throughout this time. These timings are outlined below:

8.00am	– Breakfast Club
8.25am	– Doors open for students to make their way to PL rooms
8.30am	– Morning PL – Students need to be in their PL rooms by this time
8.50am	– Period 1
9.50am	– Period 2
10.50am	– Break
11.10am	– Period 3
12.10pm	– Period 4
1.10pm	– Lunch
1.45pm	– Afternoon Personalised Learning
2.00pm	– Period 5
3.00pm	– End of Academic Day
3.45pm	– End of Enrichment sessions and Period 6 sessions (some events may run longer)

Academy Term Dates for 2025-26

- These are available on our website for the upcoming academic year.
- Please note that Ormiston Academies Trust have included additional staff training days on 17th October, 5th December and 23rd February. These are an important step in the curriculum development across the trust and importantly within the classroom for every child.

Academy Uniform

For a full list of uniform please see our website <https://fleggormistonacademy.co.uk/key-info/uniform>

- For some, it may have been several months since you have given any thought at all to purchasing new uniform. Therefore, we thought it may be helpful to remind you that our main uniform stockists is Harrisons, located in Gorleston, although uniform may be purchased from alternative outlets. They have a wide range of sizes available in both trousers and skirts and will also stock the Flegg tie and optional Flegg 'V' neck jumper with the logo. It is important that the skirts worn are the correct style (22" four drop pleat skirt) and the trousers are navy, full-length tailored trousers. Shoes must be smart plain black. Boots, trainers and canvas shoes are not accepted. Makeup should be natural without the addition of false eyelashes and nails should also be natural without the addition of varnish, gel or acrylics.
- Hair should also be of natural colour and style. Students can wear a watch and a single stud earring in each ear, but aside from this, we do not permit any other jewellery, clear retainers and/or the covering of piercings with medical tape. Any items worn which do not meet our uniform expectations will be confiscated and available for collection at the end of the day. Please also be aware that certain piercings take several weeks to heal, so please keep this in mind if allowing your child to obtain one over the holidays. All students will still be asked to remove these, regardless of where they are in the healing process.
- Upon our return, students not correctly attired or not meeting our uniform expectations will be placed into our Reflection Room and will not return to lessons until the issues have been fully resolved. I should stress that this is absolutely the last thing we want as an academy, as we are keen to return in September and look forward to getting all students back into their lessons working hard and thinking hard. We will have spare uniforms available for students to borrow to support this but cannot guarantee that all sizes and fits will be available.
- If you have any questions relating to uniform please feel free to contact the academy and we will be happy to help.

Equipment:

We are keen to start the term well, making the most of every learning opportunity. Over the holidays, please could we ask that you purchase the items on our equipment list below and encourage your children to look after them carefully. These are essential items which are needed for lessons, assessments and examinations, we are training our students to be well-prepared, exam ready and organised. If there are any issues or concerns with this, then please do not hesitate to get in contact.

- Pens – Black or Blue
- Ruler, rubber, pencils and pencil sharpener
- Scientific calculator – Casio FX85 ClassWiz series
- PE/dance kit (The new kit is stocked at Harrisons)
- Scissors, highlighters and a glue stick are not essential, but advantageous
- Pink Pens for self/peer assessment – students will be provided this by the academy

Pupil Premium Eligibility Applications

If you believe you might be eligible it is an easy check and one that is well worth doing. Not only does this provide your child with Free School Dinners from our fabulous café, it also currently incorporates the Norfolk Voucher Scheme for families during holiday time and provides valuable resource to the academy to support the interventions and opportunities we have in place for children (including our enrichment programme).

- Norfolk County Council will review the voucher system as we move forward and further information can be found on their website but it is currently confirmed to October.
- We know circumstances change. If yours do then please do check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals. This can be done through the Norfolk County Council website.
- <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

Safeguarding Support

Over the summer holidays, safeguarding remains a top priority for families and communities. Children and young people may face increased risks, especially around water, online activities, and food insecurity. It's important to reinforce water safety—check out the [RNLI's water safety advice](#) and leaflets to help keep children safe at the beach or near the broads. With more time spent online, parents should review [ThinkUKnow's online safety tips](#) to support safe internet use. For families needing extra support, local foodbanks are available—find your nearest one via the [Trussell Trust foodbank locator](#). Staying informed and connected can help ensure a safe and supportive summer for all.

Mental Wellbeing and Kooth

Many parents and carers of children and young people are worried or concerned about their child's mental wellbeing. It can be difficult to know where to turn, or what services are available to support your child.

Kooth is an online platform to help young people with their mental health and wellbeing.

It's a welcoming space for your child to safely explore their feelings. They can anonymously talk to other people their own age on moderated discussion forums, and chat to mental health professionals via messaging.

They're a British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy-accredited digital mental health service, and provide free services through the NHS.

Their team of professionals are trained to offer clinically-safe advice while lending a supportive ear for whatever your child's facing.

More information for parents is available at: <https://explore.kooth.com/families/>

Summer Activities

- Big Norfolk Holiday Fun program is live [Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Active Norfolk](#)
- East Norfolk Sixth Form are offering a range of Summer Events <https://events.eastnorfolk.ac.uk/>
- Norwich Community Sports Foundation Holiday Fun [Norwich City Community Sports Foundation | EveryMove](#)

Dates for your Diary	Event
Tuesday 22 nd July	Last day of Summer Term
Wednesday 3 rd September	Start of Autumn Term OT's open for breakfast from 8.00am Move to Lessons from 8.25am Ready to Learn in PL at 8.30am
Tuesday 9 th September	Year 7 Kickstart Evening (3pm-5pm)
	Year 11 Step into Senior Year Evening (4.30pm)
	Principal Parent Presentation for all years (5pm)
Thursday 2 nd October	Year 6 Open Evening (5pm – 7pm)
Friday 17 th October	Additional Ormiston Teacher Training Day
Thursday 23 rd October	All years Academic Review Day and our annual Careers Fair
27 th October to 31 st October	Autumn Half Term
For the full year term dates please see our website	