FLEGG HIGH
ORMISTON ACADEMY

KINDNESS • ASPIRATION • RESPECT

October, 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an exciting and positive start to the year at Flegg.

There is a real sense of momentum across our academy. Whilst many families will have noticed the improvements to our site and facilities, what has pleased me most has been the transformation taking place within our classrooms and around the academy every day. Students have returned with a positive attitude, embraced the high expectations we have set and shown a determination to make the very most of the opportunities available to them.

I have spoken previously about our ambition for Flegg and our desire to provide every student with an exceptional education in an environment where they feel valued, supported and inspired to succeed. This half term has seen many examples of that vision becoming a reality. Visitors to the academy regularly comment on the calm atmosphere around the site, the pride students take in their academy and the positive relationships that exist between students and staff. These may seem like small things, but they are the foundations upon which great schools are built.

One of the highlights of the term was undoubtedly our Open Evening. I would like to personally thank all of the students who represented the academy so brilliantly. Whether they were leading tours, leading on college clash competitions, performing around the academy, or simply sharing their experiences of life at Flegg, they showcased the very best of our community. The academy looked fantastic, but it was our students who made the evening so special. Their confidence, kindness and enthusiasm left a lasting impression on everyone who visited and reminded us all of what makes Flegg such a unique place.

It has also been wonderful to see students embracing the increasing range of opportunities available to them beyond the classroom. We have continued to expand our programme of trips, visits and enrichment experiences, ensuring that students can develop new interests, build confidence and create memories that will stay with them long after they leave us. Our

music provision continues to flourish and it has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm for the academy musical, which will take place in February. The excitement surrounding auditions has been infectious and I am already looking forward to seeing the production take shape over the coming months.

Of course, these are just a few examples of what has been happening across the academy. Our latest *Flegg Showcase* provides a snapshot of the incredible work taking place every day and celebrates the achievements, successes and experiences that our students enjoy. Whilst we are proud of how far we have come, we remain firmly focused on the future and on ensuring that every student has the opportunity to achieve their very best.

And finally, don't forget that we have our first **Academic Review Evening on Thursday 5th November from 3.30pm to 7pm**. This is an important opportunity for you and your child to reflect on the start of the year, celebrate achievements and plan a focus for next steps. Bookings are available on Arbor.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The progress we are seeing across the academy is only possible because of the strength of our community. Together, we are building an academy that our students, families and wider community can be truly proud of, and I am excited about what the rest of the year will bring.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Gilbert-Barnham

Senior Principal

Flegg High Ormiston Academy

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KEY REMINDERS

Free School Meal and Pupil Premium Eligibility Applications

- From September 2026, Free School Meals have been expanded to include all households in receipt of Universal Credit, regardless of income. Due to this change, and because individual family circumstances can change over time, it is always worth checking whether your child is eligible for Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium.
- If you think your child may now be eligible, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. In addition to providing free school meals where eligible, successful applications may also enable the academy to receive additional Pupil Premium funding, which helps us provide extra support and opportunities for students.
- You can check your eligibility through the Norfolk County Council website: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk

Mobile Phone Pouches

Thank you for your support which has seen a smooth transition to using phone pouches to safely store them in during the academy day.
Just a quick reminder that if a student brings a mobile phone into the academy it is their responsibility to ensure they have the phone pouch and secure the phone into it on entry. The academy has provided the first pouch for all children but any replacements for lost or broken pouches will need to be replaced. Replacements can be bought from the academy via Arbor.

Arbor: Everything You Need in One Place

Thank you for your support as we have transitioned to Arbor as our communication platform.

Arbor

We will continue developing Arbor and its use but it is currently available for parents and students to access via either the web portal or using the Arbor App for the following:

- ✓ Their **Timetable**
- ✓ What **Prep/Extended Learning** has been set
- ✓ Their **Attendance**
- ✓ How many **Heart Points** they have earned along with and a record of any **behaviour events**
- ✓ **Attainment/Grade** information about the progress they are making across all subject areas
- ✓ **Academy reports,** in line with our **Academic Review Days** in November and July, as well as the ability to book appointments for these and other parents' evenings
- ✓ **Academy payments** for trips and visits and to put top up Meas accounts
- ✓ **Communications** using the Arbor in app notifications. Although these are linked to emails we hope to continue using in app notifications as the key messaging method (more information below)

To help ensure communication between the academy and home is as clear and effective as possible, please check that you can access Arbor through either the Parent Portal and/or the Parent App. If you are using the app, please also ensure that notifications are switched on.

The majority of academy communications will be sent through in-app notifications, with text messages reserved for urgent communications. Emails will replace paper letters, and if you do not have the app installed, in-app notifications will automatically be sent to you by email.

Academy Term Dates for 2026-2027 and 2027-28

- These are available on our website for the upcoming academic year. Flegg High Ormiston Academy

Attendance Matters

We would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school **each day** and arrives ready to learn. Your partnership plays a vital role in helping students achieve their full potential.

Students who maintain attendance of **95% or above (Band 1)** benefit from significantly more learning time across the school year. Research consistently shows a strong link between high attendance and academic success, particularly at GCSE level. Every lesson matters, and even small amounts of missed learning can accumulate over time, making it harder for students to keep up with coursework, revision and key topics.

A student with 95% attendance misses approximately two weeks of learning across the academic year, while lower attendance can result in the loss of many weeks of valuable teaching. Importantly, students with **95–100% attendance (Band 1) are almost twice as likely to achieve strong GCSE outcomes (grades 9–5) compared with students whose attendance falls between 90–95%**. High attendance not only improves academic attainment but also supports students to develop positive routines, stronger relationships and greater confidence in their learning.

We are grateful for the commitment shown by our families in prioritising both attendance and wellbeing. By working together, we can help every child develop the habits, resilience and confidence needed to thrive at school and achieve their very best. Thank you for helping to ensure every student has the strongest possible start to the new academic year.

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Flegg's Christmas Market – A Festive Weekend Not to Be Missed!

Get ready to kick-start your Christmas shopping at **Flegg's HUGE annual Christmas Market!** Join us on **Saturday 21st November, 10am–4pm, and Sunday 22nd November, 10am–2pm**, for a magical festive weekend packed with shopping, entertainment and Christmas fun for all the family.

With **over 60 stalls** selling unique gifts, handmade crafts and festive goodies, it's the perfect opportunity to find something special for loved ones while supporting local businesses and our school community.

There's plenty to keep everyone entertained, including our **massive raffle, traditional fundraising games, free craft activities, racing reindeers and an inflatable snow globe!** Enjoy live entertainment throughout the weekend from talented local singers, dance groups, choirs and performers. You can also browse our preloved stall, packed with Christmas decorations and festive items looking for a new home.

Little shoppers will love our **Secret Santa Shop**, where Flegg's very own student elves will help children choose and wrap a special gift for someone they love – a lovely way to add a little Christmas magic!

Feeling peckish? Our refreshments will be available all weekend, including the much-loved **Flegg-famous sausage rolls and chocolate oaties!**

How You Can Help

We're looking for **student helpers** to join our fantastic team, helping to run stalls and games and make this year's market another huge success. It's a brilliant opportunity for students to develop confidence, learn new skills, work as part of a team and get involved in our school community. Interested students should sign up with **Mrs Spooner**.

We would also be very grateful for donations of **Christmas decorations and festive items** for our preloved stall. If you have any unwanted decorations that are still in good condition, please consider donating them to help us raise funds.

Bring your family and friends, soak up the festive atmosphere and support Flegg at one of our biggest events of the year. **We can't wait to welcome you for a weekend full of Christmas cheer!**

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ORMISTON ACADEMY

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Dates for your Diary	Event
Thur 5th Nov 3.30pm-7pm	Academic Review Evening for all year groups & Careers Fair
Sat 21st & Sun 22nd Nov	Christmas Market
Wed 9th Dec 2pm-3pm	SEND Parental Drop-in
Thur 10th Dec 3.30pm-7pm	Year 11 Parents Evening
Wed 16th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
Fri 18th Dec 6.30pm start	Christmas Showcase
Fri 18th Dec	Celebration Assemblies
Fri 18th Dec	Last day of term
Tue 5th Jan	First day of term
W/C 8th Feb	Flegg Musical
Thur 11th Feb 3.30pm-7pm	Year 9 Parents Evening
Mon 22nd Feb	Staff Training Day
Thur 25th Feb 3.30pm-7pm	Year 7 & 8 Parents Evening
Fri 5th Mar	World Book Day
Thur 11th Mar 2pm-3pm	SEND Parental Drop-in
Sat 14th Mar	Easter Fayre
Thur 18th Mar 3.30pm-7pm	Year 10 Parents Evening
Fri 19th Mar	Red Nose Day
Mon 24th Mar 3.30pm-7pm	Year 11 Preparing for Exams Evening
Thur 25th Mar	Last Day of Term
Mon 12th Apr	First Day of Term
Mon 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Fri 28th May	Last Day of Term
Mon 7th Jun	First Day of Term
W/C 21st Jun	Enrichment Week & Work Experience Week
Thur 24th Jun	Prom at Parkhill Hotel, Oulton
Mon 28th & Tue 29th Jun	Year 6 Transition Days
Tue 29th Jun 4.30pm-6.30pm	Transition Evening for families
Mon 28th & Tue 29th Jun	Step into Senior Year Days
Thur 1st Jul 3.30pm-7pm	Academic Review Evening for all year groups
Thur 8th Jul	Flegg Stars & Create Showcase
Fri 16th Jul	Last Day of Term
For the full year term dates please see our website	

Academy Uniform

For a full list of uniform please see our website https://fleggormistonacademy.co.uk

- 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 are 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.
- 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 next half term 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)
- Highlighters and a glue stick are not essential, but advantageous
- Pink Pens for self/peer assessment – students will be provided this by the academy

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/

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New Eat Well for Less free practical cooking sessions with families and young people.

Eat Well for Less is a relaxed, friendly way to build confidence in the kitchen. Participants cook alongside an Adult Learning tutor, try simple, tasty recipes and pick up useful tips to help make everyday cooking cost less, take less effort and feel less stressful. No cooking experience is needed. Just come along, have a go and learn something new.

Young people aged 14–18

Choose one session, several or all six. Cook tasty, affordable food, learn useful kitchen skills and take the food home. Participants will also receive a store-cupboard starter pack and kitchen equipment to help them keep cooking at home.

Parents and carers

Join two linked sessions. First, taste three simple dishes and choose one to make. Then come back to cook it with tutor support. Participants will also receive a store-cupboard starter pack and kitchen equipment to help them cook at home.

Please book early. Bookings close one week before each session so we have time to get everything ready.

For further support, please contact **eatwellforless@norfolk.gov.uk**.