



Friday 15 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parental Updates

I hope this letter finds you all well. I wanted to share some good news and share information on our punctuality processes.

We have had a very positive start to the half term. After significant investment, our new 5G AstroTurf has opened. We have more than 200 students using the facility every lunchtime, and our PE department are making good use of their new resource during lesson time.

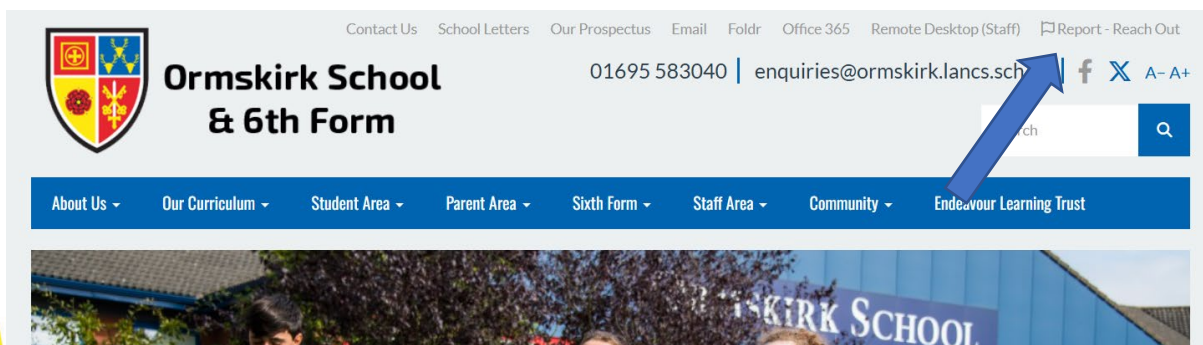
Our production of The Addams Family took place in front of repeated sold-out crowds and had multiple standing ovations every night. The production featured an 83-person strong cast, made up of all year groups across the school. We welcomed special guests from The National School Theatre awards (NSTA) and due to the quality of the production, they nominated The Addams Family for six separate categories:

Best Musical, Best Ensemble, Best Actress in a Musical: Daisy C, Best Actress in a Musical: Hazel J, Best Actor in a Musical: Luca P and Outstanding Contribution: Emily M

We also welcomed guests from The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) and we are eagerly anticipating NODA nominations at the end of the calendar year. A huge thanks and congratulations go to our staff and students for making this such a successful performance.

Anti-bullying week

Mr Burnham and our Heads of Key Stages, Mr Asgharyzadegan and Mr Doyle, have been delivering assemblies this week on the theme of respecting ourselves and respecting others, along with the importance of embracing and celebrating difference. I would like to remind parents that as a school, we do not tolerate any form of bullying or intolerance. Children are encouraged to report incidents or signs of bullying to any member of staff in school and they can also use 'Reach Out' button on our website (as shown below).





Punctuality

As part of our commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for your child, we are writing to inform you about an important update regarding punctuality to lessons at Ormskirk School. Recognising the significant impact that punctuality has on academic success and overall student well-being, we are implementing a renewed emphasis on timeliness to lessons. Research consistently shows that students who arrive promptly to lessons are more likely to engage fully in their learning and experience greater academic achievement.

As we are a large school, we appreciate that students need travelling time to move to their next lesson. At the end of each lesson changeover, we provide a 5-minute grace period to allow students to use the toilet and get to their next lesson. After this period of grace, the student is late to lesson. Travelling time information is shown below:

Tutorial – Period 1:	9:10 – 9:15
Period 2 – Period 2:	10:10 – 10:15
Break – Period 3:	11:25 – 11:30
Period 3 – Period 4:	12:30 – 12:35
Lunch – Period 5:	2:10 – 2:15

The overwhelming majority of our students arrive within this grace period and begin lessons with a 'Do Now' activity, which sets the tone for the enjoyment of learning that will continue throughout the lesson. Within the Do Now, there is the opportunity to build connections with prior learning that help to embed the rest of the lesson content. Students who arrive late miss this crucial learning and disrupt the flow of learning for others.

When we have looked at students' books in recent weeks, it has been evident that those who arrive late often fail to produce their best work for the remainder of the lesson. As a result, they will struggle in the long-term to use their notes for revision for assessments, which we know will have a detrimental impact on their academic success.

Despite adequate time to move to their following lesson, we unfortunately have a small number of students who continue to arrive late to lessons. The impact of frequent lateness on a child's education, as highlighted, is significant. Feedback from our students and staff has also highlighted that the students who arrive late are impacting on the learning of other students within the class. I am sure you will agree that this is not acceptable, therefore as a school we are duty bound to resolve this issue.

From Monday, if a student is **unacceptably late** to lesson without a verified reason; for example, if they have attended an intervention session, or arrived late to school following a medical appointment, and if we believe that entering the lesson will have a detrimental effect on the teaching and subsequent learning of other students, they will remain out of the lesson until the next available opportunity where learning will not be disturbed.



Ormskirk School & Sixth Form

Headteacher Mr J Burnham

This measure is intended to instil a sense of responsibility and accountability in all of our students, promoting a culture of punctuality that extends beyond the classroom. Students who are consistently late are disrupting not only their own education but also that of the other students. Every school day counts, but every minute is equally important as a significant amount of learning time is lost with poor punctuality.

We believe that by reinforcing the value of punctuality, we can enhance the overall educational experience for all students and prepare them for success in their future endeavours. All of our students will have a virtual assembly on Monday morning to explain that this process is to support the vast majority of students who are already in these good habits and learning in lessons. We kindly request your support in emphasising the importance of timeliness with your child.

Thank you for your continued support of Ormskirk School.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Burnham'.

Mr Burnham
Headteacher