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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well and that your child is looking forward to a well-deserved break over the upcoming half term.

At the heart of everything we do — both here at school and across Ormiston Academies Trust — is a shared commitment to providing every pupil with the very best education. As part of this commitment, we are excited to be 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, we will be increasing the number of INSET (staff training) days to a maximum of **seven** for the **2025/2026 academic year**. This one-year change will provide staff with the dedicated time they need to plan, collaborate and prepare outstanding learning experiences for all students.

We understand the importance of balancing staff development with family routines, and this decision has been made with careful consideration. The additional INSET days will directly support improvements in teaching and learning — changes we believe will make a lasting and positive difference to your child's education.

As you may know, INSET days are a required part of the school year and must take place during term time, in line with guidance from the Department for Education. As an academy trust, we have flexibility in setting our school calendar, and many trusts across the country allocate up to 10 INSET days annually. By introducing seven, we believe we are striking a thoughtful balance.



As part of this, I'd like to inform you of **two additional INSET days** that will take place during the **autumn term of the 2025/2026 academic year**:

- **Friday 17th October**
- **Friday 5th December**

These days will be used to deliver high-quality professional development for our middle leaders — including subject leads — who play a key role in shaping the teaching and learning that happens every day in your child's classroom.

We are sharing these dates now to give you as much notice as possible and to support your planning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and understanding.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KSteward', on a light blue background.

Kate Steward
Principal