

25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

At the heart of everything we do – both here at CNS and across Ormiston Academies Trust – is a shared commitment to providing every student with the very best education. As part of this commitment, we are excited to be developing our curriculum alongside all Trust schools that reflects the highest standards and supports 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 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 high-quality professional development for our middle leaders to drive excellence in teaching and learning that 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 adding two days, we believe we are striking a thoughtful balance.

The two additional INSET days that will take place during the autumn term of the 2025/2026 academic year are:

- October 17<sup>th</sup>
- December 5<sup>th</sup>

These are in addition to the planned INSET days of:

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- 5<sup>th</sup> January
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- 20<sup>th</sup> July

Y7, 10 and 12 students return to CNS for the Autumn term on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September with all students in school on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. The staggered start is to support transition into each key stage.

We are sharing these dates now to give you as much notice as possible and to support your planning. I will write to you again before the end of term with detailed information for the start of the new academic year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Ms J Philpott**  
Headteacher