

17 April 2020

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Oakwood High School: Weekly Briefing 3

Dear Parent / Carer

It might seem a strange thing to say but Happy Easter. We will have all recognised the Easter break in very different and unusual ways – less chocolate for me for a start! Much of this letter / briefing will now be familiar but there are some tweaks which are highlighted in blue. This comes to you in preparation for our 'return to school' after the Easter break and there will be a need to pick up school work again.

Access to school

The school is now formally closed. We continue to offer a limited opening for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers over the nominal Easter break. This is exceptional provision and staff have offered to facilitate this to ensure that we continue to make our contribution, at this difficult time. That said; it is important for us to remind everyone that we all have a responsibility to follow the government's directions and, as we asked last week, we should have as few pupils and staff in the building as possible. Can we ask that you only send your child to the school if there are no other options for their care? We want to ensure that all pupils and all staff stay safe, healthy and protected; we can only do that if as many of us as possible self-isolate.

There are many useful links for you to follow. Please use this key link.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Should there have been some changes to personal, domestic or work circumstances and your child qualifies to access schooling; that is, they are defined as vulnerable or either parents are a key / essential worker (please see the link below as a reminder of the Government's guidelines); please follow this link to register your child. The school is open 8.00 am-4.00 pm Monday – Friday for those children who are eligible.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you feel you qualify and would like to access this provision please complete the following survey...

tinyurl.com/OakwoodEssentialWorkers

Home Learning

We would like to thank parents and carers for the support you are giving with home learning. As of Monday 20th April, home learning will re-start and teachers will be engaging more proactively with their pupils and classes from period 1. For parents / carers, as well as for the children, support is available via email; through class teachers and tutors. It's worth remembering that teachers spend many years training and developing their craft, so please don't be too hard on yourself if you cannot help your child directly.

A member of the Inspire Trust



Registered in England: 08775996

We have been listening to the feedback from pupils and parents. Thank you for all the positive and supportive comments many of you have sent in – it really does make a difference when parents and carers take the time to contact us and let us know, as individual teachers or tutors and collectively, as a school, that we are getting this right. However, we are always looking to improve and as a consequence of some comments we have amended the home learning slightly to be a little more straightforward. From Monday 20th April, all of the pupils' instructions for home-learning will be set on Go4Schools. This means you will find exactly what each pupil needs to do, where the work can be found, who to contact if unsure and the deadline for completion. We hope that this will make it easier for parents to support home learning and for pupils to organise their completion of the tasks. We do not want to put any child under undue stress at this time, so we advise that pupils are guided through their learning and that teachers are contacted if there are any issues.

(Please see updated Closure protocols for pupils /parents below).

The use of the internet, during these unusual times, has in many ways been a great help and comfort. It has helped us all stay connected with work, school and most importantly friends and family. However, there are also risks associated with internet use and it is important you know where you can go to get support to help keep your child safe online?

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help you:

- [Rotherham Power](#) (advice from Rotherham Safeguarding Board on how to keep children safe online)
- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

The pupil iPads or Chromebooks: we ask that parents and carers check that device regularly and ensure that your son / daughter knows how to connect to Google Drive, Google Classroom, can access school emails and that they are using the device safely. If there is a problem with any device you should contact our IT helpdesk. It is important to remember that all the work sent can be accessed from any device; be that home computer, laptop or smartphone; and pupils should find an alternative method for accessing work if their school device fails. Pupils can access their work via the school's website (oakwood.ac). Should a pupil break or have malfunction on their device the procedure is:

1. Pupils can continue to access all Oakwood learning systems without their device by logging on to classroom.google.com with their @oakwood.ac email address and usual password.
2. If the pupil breaks their device and wants it fixed they will need to hold on to their device until we are allowed to reopen.
3. If a pupil wants support in using Google Classroom or department specific systems they should email their PLT who can support them in the use of this.
4. If a pupil locks their account or forgets their password you should ring the school reception (8.00 am-4.00 pm). We will log a helpdesk call and our IT team will look into this and we will respond when we know the best way forward.

Summer Exams

We have informed all Year 11 about the summer exams. There are a couple of useful links below, from Ofqual, explaining how grades will be determined. To be clear, teachers cannot discuss any grading with a pupil or a parent.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878854/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q&feature=youtu.be>

Year 8 options

We are pleased and excited to announce that the confirmed choices for Year 8 will be published in the coming week, there are just one or two pupils and parents to contact before we can finally confirm choices – look out for your personal email.

Free School Meals

From Wednesday 25th March we have been sending out vouchers to our children and families eligible for free school meals. These vouchers are emailed out every Monday. We expect the Government's Free School Meal scheme to start as of Monday 20th April. As a consequence, you may notice that the vouchers are slightly different. Don't worry the value and the use will be the same. If you have any queries or you would now like to register for the scheme please email us on accounts@inspiretrust.uk; all we need from you is for you to confirm the names of your child(ren) eligible and share with us a contact email address. Once you've done that we will send out the vouchers every Monday; until we return to school. We do not need and will not ask for bank details; be wary of scams.

For further details on the Government's Free School Meal Scheme
<https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/>

And a reminder that we are offering emergency sanitary products to the families of girls that receive free school meals. Those pupils can just turn up at the school reception during the day and the office staff will discreetly provide accordingly.

Safeguarding and Welfare

Your child regularly receives an email with tips to support their physical and mental wellbeing and help them look after themselves. In addition, on Monday 20th April we will be sending out a virtual assembly to further support pupils with these concerns.

Here are some links to websites that will support you in supporting them with staying mentally healthy.

[Government Guidance - mental health](#)

[Anna Freud - useful links for parents and children](#)

[Place2Be - helpful guidance around questions children may ask](#)

[Rotherham specific help and guidance](#)

More broadly there is information, advice and support available from national sources.

- [Childline](#) -Tel: 0800 1111 – 9 am to midnight
- [The Children's Society](#)
- [Young Minds](#) (Advice and Mental Health Support) - Parents Helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 4.00 pm, free for mobiles and landlines)
- [Rotherham SEND](#) - Local and National advice and support services available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), their parents, families and others who support them.

Children might have questions about the virus (Covid-19). Childline has reported a surge in cases of children and young people who are phoning for support as they are worried about the virus. These are some of the new resources that can help you support children / young people at this time.

Young Minds - [Talking to your child about coronavirus](#) - Advice from Young Minds Parents Helpline experts on what you can do if a child is worried or anxious about coronavirus.

Mental Health Foundation - [Talking to your children about scary world news](#) - How to minimise the negative impact of world news on children and people.

Newsround - Newsround has several relevant articles for children and young people:

- [Coronavirus: What is being done to tackle the virus?](#)
- [Coronavirus: how to wash your hands](#)
- [Advice if you are worried about Coronavirus](#)

Child Mind Institute - [Child Mind Institutes guide for carers about talking to children about Coronavirus](#)

Can we remind you that we have also put in place procedures for pupils and parents to contact us if they have any concerns about their own or someone else's well-being or welfare? An email was sent to every pupil with the names and contact details of the Child Protection team. However, contact via email can also be made through your child's Personal Learning Tutor or a trusted adult in school. However, if your child experiences a mental health crisis and they need urgent care, you can seek professional support in the following ways:

- If a health professional has already given you a crisis number to call in this situation, call this number.
- If your child is already under the care of CAMHS or another mental health team and they have a crisis plan that states who to contact when they need urgent care, follow this plan.
- If your child needs urgent care but it is not life threatening, you can call 111 for advice.
- If there is a medical emergency, for example if your child is injured or you are worried that they or someone else is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.

Ramadan

We recognise that Ramadan is almost upon us. Many pupils and parents will be fasting during the Islamic holy month. We wish you well throughout this period and hope to be able to celebrate Eid al-fitr with you all towards the end of May.

And finally...

We will continue to update you as and when the situation changes, be that nationally or locally. For now please heed the government's directions; stay safe, stay healthy and stay connected.

As always, should you have any questions about the situation and Oakwood's response to any change in circumstances, please make direct contact with Mr Eccles c.eccles@oakwood.ac or Mr Naisbitt d.naisbitt@oakwood.ac

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these uncertain times

Yours faithfully



Chris Eccles
Deputy Headteacher



David Naisbitt
Headteacher

Oakwood High School Closure – protocols Pupils / Parents Updated 17th April 2020



During a period of closure Oakwood High School will continue to set work for all pupils. We would expect that work to be completed, in line with teacher instructions.

We set out some important notes for pupils and parents to consider:

Protocols for working

Teachers will be setting work

To ensure greater consistency and clarity between teachers, pupils and parents, all home learning tasks will be set on Go4Schools from Monday 20th April. On Go4Schools, parents and pupils should easily be able to see:

- year group
- subject
- week number of home-learning (Week 3 from 20th April)
- tasks and where specifically to find them
- a reasonable deadline for completion
- how the task will be monitored
- an email address for pupils or parents to contact for support if it is needed

If you do not have a Go4Schools log-in, please contact Ms Moorhouse, n.moorhouse@oakwood.ac

These are unprecedented times and we've never had to manage a situation like this before. We are learning all the time. As a consequence of having listened to pupil and parent feedback you will find that that many of the tasks have been simplified and streamlined. Those tasks can be found on Google Classroom. In addition, we are making use of the on-line educational platforms, such as, Mathswatch and Seneca. The location of the tasks will be clearly stated in the instructions on Go4Schools.

Our expectations

It is important that you know that all staff understand that closure of the building does not prevent learning continuing. All pupils and parents must understand that we will do all that we can to minimise the impact closure may have on pupils and, equally pupils will have an obligation to complete the work set by their teachers.

The main method of communicating tasks will be Go4Schools. Further communication, such as, teacher support or feedback will be through Google Classroom and email. Go4Schools, emails and Google Classroom should be checked at the start of each 'normal' school day.

Teachers will endeavour to answer pupil / parental emails in a timely manner. Teachers will expect work to be returned by the deadline set and that work will be checked. Pupils will receive feedback and pupils are expected to complete any set 'Closing the Gap' activities.

Any missing work will be followed up by the teacher and a new deadline will be set. If this second deadline isn't met, the pupils' PLTs will make contact with home to check that the pupil is OK and to check if any further support is required. The PLT will then set a third deadline. Any further communications about incomplete home learning will be carried out by the pupils' Heads of House.

Answering pupil to staff emails will be our priority.

Expectations of Y11

Oakwood teachers will continue to send tasks to their Y11 pupils and to reassure them that we are still here to offer support. Y11 pupils are not obligated to complete the tasks unless the teachers specify that the work is essential and necessary.

We are working very closely with Thomas Rotherham College, in preparation for the new academic year, please look out for 'bridging' tasks that will help prepare our Y11 pupils for the next stage of their educational journey. To ensure they can start the courses of their choice, the 'bridging' tasks will be essential and necessary.

Emails

Emails to staff should have a clear header and be polite and professional. For pupil and teacher well-being, pupils should send the work at a reasonable time. We understand that our pupils work better at different times of the day, so any work that needs to be sent after 8pm, should be sent via 'schedule send' for the following day. It is important that parents continue to monitor their children's internet and screen-time and that pupils can differentiate between using their devices for leisure and learning; just because pupils are on their devices, it does not mean that they are doing school work.

And finally

Any information about the school, closure, teaching and learning will be communicated through Oakwood email and the school's website. Do not trust or rely on other sources (for example, Facebook or Snapchat rumours) for information.

Oakwood High School

Copy of Pupil Safeguarding Email



Safeguarding Information to Pupils

Hello,

Even though you are not in school I wanted to remind you of the support available to you should you find yourself feeling unsafe and at risk.

You are welcome to email the safeguarding team on childprotection@oakwood.ac where a member of the team will respond to you via email, offering support and advice as appropriate between 8am - 4pm.

Key staff are as follows:

Mr Eccles	Miss Mallinson
Mrs Ronan	Ms Grice
Mr Jones	Mr Willey
Mr Naisbitt	Ms Mitchell

If you require a more urgent response due to the risk / threat posed to you please contact either 999 for the police or 01709 336080 for social care. Both of these services are available 24 / 7.

Childline also has a website and number you can call <https://www.childline.org.uk/> - 08001111

If you have concerns around your emotional wellbeing, thoughts of self-harm or suicide, please talk to an adult at home. Below are some services who may also be able to support -

<http://www.mymindmatters.org.uk/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://camhs.rdash.nhs.uk/young-people/> - 01709 304808

Please seek support should you require it,
Thank you

Guidance for Key Workers and parents of identified vulnerable pupil groups

Oakwood High School will be open Monday to Friday 8.00am and 4.00pm during the current Coronavirus crisis to support identified Key Workers and children who are in an identified vulnerable group (EHCP pupils and those families working with Social Care). This will include the recognised Easter holiday with the exception of Good Friday and Easter Monday.

The school will be open between 8.00am and 4.00pm, there will be no meal facilities, so parents must provide a packed lunch.

During the day, children will be supervised to complete work that will be remotely set by their class teachers. They will not be required to wear school uniform.

Key (or Critical) Worker Groups can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you feel you qualify and would like to access this provision please complete the following survey...

tinyurl.com/OakwoodEssentialWorkers

Remote Learning for Oakwood High School

Links to OHS IT Systems:

Email

mail.google.com

Google Drive

drive.google.com

Learning Resources

classroom.google.com

Hangouts Meet

meet.google.com

Hangouts Meet is for video calling, this can be used by teachers and pupils.

For more information: support.google.com/a/users/answer/9300131

Jamboard

jamboard.google.com

School Communication

School Website

www.oakwood.ac

Twitter

twitter.com/OakwoodHSchool