

6 April 2020

Moorgate Road

Rotherham

S60 2TH

Oakwood High School: Weekly Briefing – Exams update

Dear Parent / Carer / Year 11 Pupil

We did say that we would make contact in the event of there being an announcement as to how we might proceed towards the summer and the awarding of grades.

As you all know, the GCSE exams this summer have been cancelled. On Friday the national body with responsibility for the oversight of national examinations, Ofqual, announced to schools, parents and pupils how grades will be awarded. See below for the link to their documentation.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

Important information for parents / carers and pupils to note.

1. No member of staff at the school is permitted to discuss the grading of a pupil or pupils with any parent / carer or pupil. Please do not ask your teachers to discuss any element of their deliberations.
2. Schools and teachers will use their professional experience to make fair and objective judgements of the grade they believe a pupil would have achieved had they sat their exam this year.
3. Schools and teachers must use a range of evidence including non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or trial exams; and any other records of pupil performance over the course of study. No new work will be required to be done by pupils.
4. Detailed guidance has been provided to schools by Ofqual to help staff in different schools take a common approach.
5. Results will be released no later than the expected date in August – the exact date is to be confirmed later.
6. The grades pupils receive will have equal status to grades awarded in other years and reported on the results slip in the same way. These results will allow pupils to progress to the next stage of their education.
7. Arrangement will be put in place for pupils to appeal where appropriate.
8. Pupils who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021.

In addition to the messages from Ofqual and the DfE we, at Oakwood are committed, to continuing to work with our pupils to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to progress positively to the next stage of their educational provision (or into an apprenticeship). As Thomas Rotherham College and Oakwood High School are in the same Trust we can ensure that all of Oakwood's pupils will get a place at the college in September – although we will need to take time to discuss which course is right for the individual pupil through TRC's enrolment processes.

Please be reassured that all pupils will get the opportunity to make a positive next step. And in that vein can we suggest that all of our Year 11 pupils use their time profitably. Think about what courses you

might want to study next year and start by reading around those subjects. There is loads of stuff online to stimulate and prepare you for your future study. Alternatively, class teachers will be able to provide some help and guidance if it is required.

Safeguarding and Welfare

We continue to want to support all of your pupils and Y11 can continue to email their teachers and PLTs for work and support.

At this difficult time, 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](#)

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.

Prom, Leavers Day and Presentation Evening

We are committed to ensuring that our Year 11 have the opportunity to experience the 'rights of passage' events. For now, the Prom and Leavers Day remain in the diary. We are working to the dates previously set: Thursday 25th June – Prom; Friday 26th June – Leavers Day. Should we not be allowed to hold these events then, we will look at suitable alternatives, even if that means doing something in the Autumn. And in November we will hold our annual Y11 Presentation Evening, where will celebrate your exam / grade success as we would usually do. There's a lot to look forward to!

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

