

6 April 2020

Moorgate Road

Rotherham

S60 2TH

Oakwood High School: Weekly Briefing – Exams update

Dear Parent / Carer / Year 10 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

We are sorry to inform you all that, for Year 10 pupils, this simply means that there can be no English Literature entry this year. All Year 10 will sit English Literature, alongside all the other examinations, including English Language, in the summer of 2021. This is a governmental decision and something we have no control over.

We know that you have all worked so hard in preparing yourselves for this important examination and you will be bitterly disappointed by the decision taken by the government, Ofqual and the examination boards but you are Oakwood and you will be able to demonstrate great resilience in refocusing your attentions and work. This decision makes the ongoing work at home, being set by your teachers, especially important. There can be no wasted time, no wasted days, get yourselves ahead of the rest of the country! Rest assured we will also ensure the English curriculum in Year 11 provides an opportunity to revise and prepare properly for the English Literature, alongside the English Language exam.

Safeguarding and Welfare

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.

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

