

15 May 2020

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Oakwood High School: Weekly Briefing 7

Dear Parent / Carer

Following the Prime Minister's announcements of Sunday there has been a lot of speculation in the media about what will happen in schools. We at Oakwood High School are looking very closely at the guidance and the advice published over this week from the government and we are considering carefully what we can do to get some of our pupils back into school, in some way, sooner rather than later. We will be driven by the need to ensure the site and school is as safe as we can make it, in the context of the ongoing crisis. We are mindful of the need to make sure the school is a place which minimises the potential for the virus to spread, whilst being realistic in that we cannot make a school a place where there are no interactions. At this stage we are looking at a plan to allow for a controlled return; year group by year group. Inevitably this will mean shorter days for pupils, much less social interaction and a continuation of home learning for much of the time.

We have an aspirational direction of travel and we will embrace the government's advice and guidance in the spirit in which it has been shared. We will not be taking any action until after 1 June. As our plans take shape we will communicate our strategies. For now, can we ask that you are patient and that you continue to support your child with their home learning and in their emotional well-being, whilst offering the school and the staff your support for our collective endeavours. Together we will get through this.

As in the past few weeks, much of this letter is now familiar. Again, we have highlighted anything new in blue.

Please note Monday 25 May is a national Bank Holiday and we will not be open to pupils or staff on that day.

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.

The government has written some guidance for parents and carers following the announcements of the weekend. You can find that guidance by following this link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

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 is 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 8am-4pm 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](https://www.tinyurl.com/OakwoodEssentialWorkers)

A member of the Inspire Trust



Home Learning

We would like to thank parents and carers for the support you are giving with home learning. It is clear that this will continue for some time to come. Please encourage your child to fully engage in the work being set by their teachers. As you know we have adjusted our approach as the weeks have passed. Any comments on how things are going are always welcome. Please direct them to your child's tutor who will pass them on. Can we take this opportunity to remind you that all of the pupils' instructions for home learning will be set on Go4Schools? 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.

There are now lots of resources being put online and pushed by the government. Take care using these. We don't want to over burden our children and we, as a school, are setting the appropriate and correct work for all of our children.

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? – please guidance below.

Again this week, we ask that parents and carers check pupil devices 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. 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:

- Pupils can continue to **access all Oakwood learning systems on any device** by logging on to **classroom.google.com** with their **@oakwood.ac** email address and usual password.
- If the device really isn't working or is damaged the pupil should contact their tutor, in the first instance, and we will arrange for the pupil to drop into school, for their device to be left in reception, repaired and returned.
- 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.
- If a pupil locks their account or forgets their password, you should ring the school reception (8am-4pm). 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.

Year 11

Unfortunately, we received confirmation this week, from the hotel booked, that the Year 11 Prom will not be able to take place on 25th June. We are unclear as to when we will be able to hold it, but it does seem later, rather than sooner. We will continue to consider what is possible and when and we are committed to, when the time is right, doing something with and for our pupils – even if they have left us at that point.

Summer exams

We have nothing further to add this week about the summer exams. We republish the useful links, 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>

Free School Meals

The Government's Free School Meal scheme now seems to be running smoothly. If you have any issues or 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'll register you with the government's scheme and they will send out the vouchers every week; 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 to the girls of free school meals families emergency sanitary products. Those pupils can just turn up at the school reception during the day and the office staff will discreetly provide.

Safeguarding and Welfare

Next week is national Mental Health Awareness week. We will be recognising that as a school. We did have a week of events back in February, led by Ms Grice, in support of pupil mental health issues and our pupils are well versed in understanding what they might be able to do to ensure they are supported. For now, whilst we all suffer dislocation from school, can we ask that all parents and carers keep a close eye on their child and please do not hesitate to seek support if it is needed. We re-set out some Safeguarding guidance below. The NSPCC have updated their support for parents, this can be found by following the link below.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/april/supporting-children-young-people-mental-health>

Your child regularly receives an email with tips to support their physical and mental wellbeing and help them look after themselves. To keep this letter more manageable we have brought all the safeguarding and welfare information together in one place – please guidance below.

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	
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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 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 from 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.

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



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
Safeguarding and Welfare
Updated 1 May



Copy of Pupil Safeguarding Email

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

Oakwood High School Safeguarding and Welfare Updated 1 May



Further information about Safeguarding and Welfare

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.

The Education Psychology Service (Rotherham) -families might find helpful:
<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/emergencies-1/coronavirus/7>

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.

Oakwood High School Safeguarding and Welfare Updated 1 May



Online grooming/ radicalisation - Parent/guardian information and support

We recognise that this is a difficult time for parents and guardians and that the Coronavirus is having a significant impact on young people and families across the world.

The closure of schools means that opportunities for children to talk to and play with friends will be limited to online interaction. This will almost certainly lead to children spending more time online. Parents working from home may not be able to monitor their children's use of devices as they usually would.

Unfortunately, whilst rare, there are negative influencers and online groomers who use the internet, social media and online gaming to spread their extreme ideas, which children can be exposed to. Some of these ideas may be considered radical or extreme and when a person starts to support or be involved in them, this is called radicalisation. More information can be found by following the link below:

[Online radicalisation - Parent/guardian information and support](#)

Online safety and safeguarding

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)

Oakwood High School

Domestic Abuse: support and guidance

Updated 1 May



Support for families experiencing domestic abuse

It has been widely reported in the press that incidents of domestic abuse have risen during the lockdown period. It is important that everyone feels safe in their homes and knows where to seek support if they are concerned about their own or someone else's safety.

- Domestic abuse against anyone is unacceptable and we all have the right to live your life free from fear, violence and abuse. It can happen to anyone regardless of age, race, class, culture, disability, sexuality or lifestyle.
- The household isolation, as a result of coronavirus, does not apply if you need to leave your home to escape domestic abuse. Police and other support services are still available to help anyone experiencing domestic abuse; including coercion.
- Domestic abuse is not a one-off incident, but an ongoing pattern of behaviour in the relationship. It includes a range of behaviours which, once begun, can repeat and often gets worse over time. Anyone can be a victim regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation.
- Witnessing and experiencing domestic abuse can have a serious impact on a child's long-term health. It is a priority that vulnerable children and young people remain safe during this uncertain period. If you are concerned that a child is at risk of harm, you should refer this information to children's social care or to the police - if you believe the child is in immediate danger.
- Children may experience: Low self-esteem, increased levels of anxiety, depression, anger and fear, aggressive and violent behaviours, lack of empathy for others, poor peer relationships, poor school performance, anti-social-behaviour, self-blame, hopelessness, shame and apathy, post-traumatic stress disorder, be over-protective of the victim.
- If you believe a child is suffering you should report concerns. The right support needs to be offered to the child and their parents or carers.
- To report a child safeguarding concern, contact 01709 336080 24-hour.
- Call the Police on 999 if a child is suffering abuse and requires urgent attention.
- Victims of domestic abuse in South Yorkshire will now be able to report incidents to South Yorkshire Police via a dedicated online web portal.
- [Click here](#) to visit the online reporting tool. The portal is available to victims of domestic abuse who may be finding it difficult to report incidents over the phone.

Apna Haq: 07824 767170 / apnaaq1@gmail.com

- Apna Haq provides confidential, one to one support, for Asian women and their children, who are experiencing violence in the home.
- They are involved in inter-agency case working allowing them to help Asian women via social services, the police and other agencies, as well as being sought out by these agencies to help Asian women in distress.

Rotherham Women's Refuge: 0870 850 2247 / enquiries@rothwr.co.uk

- Rotherham Women's Refuge (RWR) has been established since 1976, as a local charity that provides a range of support services for women and children who have been affected by domestic violence and abuse.

Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service (Rothacs): 01709 835482 / info@rothacs.org.uk

- Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service has been providing specialist therapeutic counselling support since 2005. Their skilled and trained counsellors adhere to the ethical standards of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

Oakwood High School

Domestic Abuse: support and guidance

Updated 1 May



South Yorkshire Police

- If an incident of domestic abuse is happening now or someone has been injured or is in danger, call 999. In a non-emergency, call South Yorkshire Police on 101, alternatively, you can report online.

Victim Support: 0300 303 1976

- Lines are open 9 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays.
- If you need support outside of opening hours, call their support line free on 0808 1689111 or request support on the Victim Support website [victimsupport.org.uk](https://www.victimsupport.org.uk)
- You can also chat online or make a referral via their local website humbersouthyorks.victimsupport.org.uk
- Victim Support gives free and confidential help to victims of crime, witnesses, their family, friends and anyone else affected. The service is available to everyone, regardless of when the crime happened, and whether it has been formally reported.

Rotherham Rise: 0330 2020571 / enquiries@rotherhamrise.org.uk

- Rotherham Rise provides help and support for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual exploitation.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (IDVAS): 01709 823196 or 01709 823981

- IDVAS help and support people in domestic abuse situations.

Women's Aid: 080 2000 247 - 24-hour helpline

- A national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children. They can offer help and support to people suffering domestic abuse.
- Women's Aid also provides webchat, Monday to Friday 10am – 12pm at <https://chat.womensaid.org.uk/>

Samaritans: 01709 361717 or 0845 909090

- Samaritans provides confidential non-judgmental emotional support, 24 hours a day for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair; including those which could lead to suicide.
- Whatever you're going through, whether it's big or small, don't bottle it up. They are there for you: if you're worried about something, feel upset or confused, or just want to talk to someone.

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 May half term. The school will be closed Bank Holiday Monday 25 May.](#)

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