

8 May 2020

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S60 2UH
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Oakwood High School: Weekly Briefing 6

Dear Parent / Carer

As today is officially the VE day Bank Holiday we are going to share a much shortened briefing / letter this week. We'll reinsert much of the really important stuff you need for next week's briefing and, if there are any further updates, we'll let you all know. As always, anything new is in blue, anything previously shared is in black.

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.

There are many useful links for you to follow. The government have updated lots of advice and so I share a useful link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

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

Home Learning...

Continues and we should all have a rhythm and routine now. We will reinsert all the important information next week. Just a reminder that all pupils can access their work via the school's website (oakwood.ac) and follow the links to their emails or Go 4 Schools. Now we are 6 weeks into providing home learning we would like to get pupils and parents views on how it is working for them. This will allow us to evaluate what we are doing, what is working well and how we can be improved should pupils need to access it for a longer period of time. Please follow the link below, your child has also been sent the link via email.

[Pupil/Parent Online Home Learning Survey](#)

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.

A member of the Inspire Trust



- 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.

Free School Meals

We understand that most of the issues relating to the Government's Free School Meal scheme have now been ironed out. 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-recipients/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

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.

Can we ask that parents and carers inform the school immediately if there is a change in contact details; that is, home address, home and mobile phone numbers and email addresses for parents and carers. We working hard to stay connected with our children and their families and this parents about keeping us up to date with their correct contact details. Please make contact Mrs Moorhouse who will make sure your details are updated. n.moorhouse@oakwood.ac

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 know where to seek support if they are concerned about their own or someone else's safety. Set out below is some key information which might be of interest and offers direct support and advice.

Support and advice for families during the crisis about medical support and access to the NHS

We work closely with our partners in the NHS and Rotherham Borough Council. We have been asked to share a flyer with you all – flyer attached with this briefing. It is designed to encourage us all to continue to access the NHS services during this period.

Support and advice for Council workers

As said, as a consequence of our positive links with other bodies we are sharing guidance which has been issued regarding testing for Council workers. The full guidance can be found at; https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-available-for-council-workers?utm_source=36f02066-6133-4137-af81-3b701897c477&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Year 10 and English Literature

We are pleased to say that, after some strong lobbying by schools, the governments have allowed any Year 10 entries to subjects stand, for this year. That means most of our Year 10 pupils will be entered

for their English Literature examination this summer. For those affected please see the separate Year 10 English Literature letter sent today and on the website.

As always...

We will continue to update you as and when the situation changes, be that nationally or locally. We are expecting some government guidance and direction as to the next phase of the lockdown period and how this might affect the schools and colleges. We will look at that advice carefully and share our planning with you as soon as we can. 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
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 / apnaHaq1@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 the two up-coming Bank Holidays: Friday 8th May and Monday 25th 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