

5 June 2020

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S60 2UH
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Oakwood High School: Weekly Briefing 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, we hope that you are all well and taking care of each other, as best you can during the lockdown period. At least the weather has been kind. We hope that you have been able to at least enjoy some fresh air and the start of summer.

The last time we wrote to you we explained that we were in the process of planning for our pupils for the summer term. We have a responsibility to follow the government's guidance regarding pupils returning to school. As our work is driven by that guidance we have taken sometime to inform you all as there have been regular updates and developments. Although there still are some outstanding questions we feel we are now ready to share our planning for the remainder of the summer term.

It has been very important to us that any decisions that we make about pupils attending school incorporate feedback from all members of our community. During the lockdown period we have communicated regularly with parents and carers, and many of you have provided us with feedback. We have taken soundings from the staff and governors in order to inform our decision making. We have conducted risk assessments and liaised with other schools in the local authority. In addition, we would also like to obtain the views of parents and carers of pupils in Year 10, who we plan to provide face to face provision for, from the 15 June. A link to the survey is here. [Year 10 Wider School Opening Survey](#)

We now have a plan in place for June and July in order to support our pupils and ensure that they receive the best possible support during this time.

Key worker pupils and those who are vulnerable

We will remain open to our pupils who have key worker parents or those who have an EHCP or who are open to Social Care, as we have done since the beginning of the lockdown period. Children can access the provision in school from 8.00am to 4.00pm (3.30pm Fridays) Monday to Friday. From 15 June we will insist that all children accessing this provision are in school for 9.00am and they will not be permitted to leave until 2.00pm, at the earliest – our core hours. We also ask that from this date they attend wearing their school white shirt, black trousers / skirt and black footwear in line with our school uniform policy. They will not be required to wear their blazer or tie as these items are more difficult to wash regularly. Please contact your child's Head of House if this presents a problem and they will work with you to find a solution.

Year 11

We will continue to support Year 11 in their Post 16 applications and their transition onto their next steps in life.

Years 7, 8 and 9

Regretfully, but in line with the guidance from the government, pupils in these year groups will not physically return to school this academic year. Instead, they will continue to receive their home learning through Go4Schools, as they have done throughout the lockdown period. We have a heightened awareness that our pupils need bespoke pastoral support during this time and, as always at Oakwood

A member of the Inspire Trust



High School, we see their mental health and wellbeing as being as important as their academic progress. With that in mind, the pupils' PLT will also be contacting them every week in order to keep connected with them, offer support and guidance as well as identifying any barriers that they may need to overcome.

Our Heads of House will continue to support them as well by offering 1-1 online sessions to those pupils who need it.

Year 10

From Monday 15 June, Year 10 pupils will be invited into school at least once a week for a 2 hour face to face session with a subject specialist. This will be done on a rota basis with a maximum of around ¼ of the year group in at any one time in school. The pupils will be split and remain in small groups (bubbles) of no more than 12 pupils. This will allow for social distancing measures to be effectively followed in classrooms and around the school building.

Over the term and during the 2 hour session, pupils will meet with specialist teachers from all their subjects. This will allow the teachers to identify where pupils are with their home learning and support the next steps. We believe this is an important opportunity for pupils in Year 10 to reconnect with school, get support with their learning and their emotional and social wellbeing.

To ensure the risk of infection is kept to an absolute minimum a range of measures will be in place:

- Pupils will use two separate entrances
- Safety briefing at the start of the first session to explain the procedures to help prevent the spread of infection.
- Pupils who are unwell are asked not to attend school.
- Small classes of no more than 12 pupils with 2m between individual working areas.
- Hand sanitising gel at all entrances to school, toilets and classrooms.
- Antibacterial spray in all classroom to wipe down equipment and furniture, before and after use.
- A one way system around the school building.
- Limit movement around the school building. Pupils will be directed to a classroom on arrival and for core subject they will remain in the classroom for the duration of the 2 hour session. In the option subject sessions there will be 2 1 hour teaching sessions. Pupils will be permitted to only use the toilet on request during the 2 hour session.
- Pupils to bring their own equipment (pens, pencils and fully charged iPad).
- All classrooms cleaned at the start and end of the day.

We also ask that they attend wearing their school white shirt, black trousers / skirt and black footwear in line with our school uniform policy. They will not be required to wear their blazer or tie as these items are more difficult to wash regularly. Please contact your child's Head of House if this presents a problem and they will work with you to find a solution.

We would like as many of our Year 10 pupils to return in line with the rota as possible. The [Year 10 Wider School Opening Survey](#) allows you to inform us of your intentions, it also allows you to raise any questions or concerns you may have and we can address. In doing so, we hope you have the confidence that your child will be safe whilst they are in school.

Proposed timetable.

The timetable for pupils will run over 5 weeks. Over this time pupils will attend a session in all of their subjects. The sessions will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm and will be on a rota basis. This will mean that all pupils will be in for at least 1 session a week on a set day.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Monday Group A	Maths	English	Science	Option A and B	Option C and D
Tuesday Group B	Option C and D	Maths	English	Science	Option A and B
Wednesday Group C	Option A and B	Option C and D	Maths	English	Science
Thursday Group D	Science	Option A and B	Option C and D	Maths	English

A separate letter for Year 10 parents will follow to explain arrangements in more detail; including group allocations for each pupil.

And finally ...

We now have just over 6 weeks remaining of what has been a very unusual school year. It is fair to say the staff have missed the pupils they teach and are looking forward to when we can see and teach them all face to face again. In the meantime, we will continue to endeavour to provide high quality home learning. Thank you to those of you who completed the home learning questionnaire last half term and to those of you who have provided feedback to help us continue to shape the provision and provide meaningful learning.

The success of Oakwood High School has been built on the positive relationships and mutual respect between staff, pupils, parents and the wider community. The current situation has meant that we have not had the luxury of spending time working together more closely. We are looking forward to the day our pupils are back in school and supporting them to achieve their potential.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Personal Learning Tutor via email. We thank you for your continued support for your child and for the school. We have an incredibly strong school community in which children, parents/carers and staff work as one to create the very best conditions. It is in those conditions that success will blossom.

Yours faithfully



Chris Eccles
Head of School



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 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 / 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 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