

22 October 2020

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Head of School: Chris Eccles

Dear Parents and Carers of new Year 11

I am taking the opportunity to write to you at the end of a successful half term to thank you for your continued support during these difficult times. Year 11 can be a challenging year in normal circumstances, so it has been especially pleasing to see so many of our pupils work so hard over the last couple of months.

This year, as you may know, the pupils have been placed into tutor groups of Year 11 pupils only. This is a change from previous years where they have been placed into vertical tutor groups containing pupils across all year groups. This change allows us to deliver a specific and bespoke Year 11 programme throughout tutor-time to support your child(ren). This half-term, through tutor, they initially worked on creating an identity for the year group and Year 11 logos, before spending some time identifying their future goals. Further work was done on creating an effective study timetable, before completing the half-term with writing Personal Statements and CVs in preparation for the Further Education (college, apprenticeship) application process. As you can see this has been a packed tutor programme and I am pleased to state that the year group has fully engaged in this work. It is important to note that throughout the half term, the Year 11s have been supported by an excellent team of tutors. All tutors are middle leaders in the school and have a high skill-set in being on hand to help our pupils. I would like to remind you that tutors should be your first point of contact if you have any questions regarding your child(ren) or have any questions about Year 11.

Next half-term, we will be helping the Year 11s to complete their applications for college and begin the process of developing excellent revision habits and skills.

One of the consequences of a more comprehensive tutor time programme is that Year 11 pupils **do not** have the opportunity to complete homework at the start of the day. They will need to manage their time effectively to complete homework to the required standard and, in doing so, they will develop good study habits that they can build on as they prepare for their exams in the summer. Some pupils have struggled with this change. If your child is in this position, the tutor will be making contact to offer support over the coming weeks. All this information can be found on Go4Schools and I would ask that, if your child has a number of logs for homework, you take the time to speak to them. Please contact Miss Moorhouse if you require help with logging in to Go4Schools, n.moorhouse@oakwood.ac

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The work that we have done has happened with the backdrop of COVID looming over us. I know that some pupils are starting to feel the pressure. Even without the loss of time due to this year's lockdown, this is normal for this time of year. Each year we use a number of levels of support that we can deploy for pupils to ensure they achieve their potential in all of their subjects. These support strategies range from learning and academic mentors, ARC support and outside mentoring, in addition to each tutor group having two tutors to offer support and advice. If you feel that your child is struggling, then please don't hesitate to contact the school. A number of subjects have also begun to plan for support sessions after school and this will begin after half-term. Additionally, we will also be looking at helping those pupils who are behind in key coursework tasks to get back on track by the Christmas holiday.

I hope that, despite the current environment we are working in, we can continue to make progress with all our pupils. There will be an opportunity next half-term for you to speak to your child's tutor and subject teachers. I want to thank you, on behalf of all the staff who work with Year 11, for your continued support.

Regards

Mr Jonathan Sharpe

Year 11 Head of Learning, Progress, Behaviour and Engagement

