

Moorgate Road
Rotherham
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Head of School: Chris Eccles

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, can I wish you a happy new year and- despite the strange circumstances- I hope 2021 proves to be a prosperous year for you.

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister at 8pm last night, we once again have to adjust our plans for pupils and how we provide for their ongoing learning during this new period of lockdown.

Year 11 has already started with remote learning starting today. From Thursday 7th January all other years will start remote blended learning at home. Following the timings outlined below, lessons will be delivered inline with their normal lesson timetable. Pupils will be expected to log in at the start of each session lesson, where they will either receive instructions for the work they will be doing, or a live lesson. It is important that pupils engage with their learning and try to keep to a regular routine.

Lesson	Start time
Tutor time	9.00
Period 1	9.10
Period 2	10.20
All pupils will have a break between 11.40 and 12.20	
Period 3	12.20
Period 4	1.30

A member of the Inspire Trust



Registered in England: 08775996

Blended Learning Guidelines

- The majority of the lessons will be live lessons and your child/ children will receive a Google Meet link so that they can join their lessons at the usual times.
- As a minimum, teachers will introduce the lesson live, teach the necessary knowledge and skills and then pupils will continue with the learning. The teacher will be available to answer any questions or queries via the Google Meet.
- Where teachers believe that a recorded lesson will suit the learning requirements better, the teacher will set this on Go4Schools so that parents are aware that the work has been set, but that there is no requirement for the pupils to join live.
- In all cases, the teachers will set fair and reasonable deadlines for the completion of the set work and be available via Google Meet or email to answer any questions or offer support.
- Feedback will be provided, in the majority of cases, via Google Classroom. Where online platforms, such as Seneca, are used the pupils receive feedback on their progress through that platform.
- Pupils who do not join the live lessons and/ or complete the learning will be logged with a -1 point log: "has not engaged with subject blended learning". Tutors will stay in touch with their forms and review their behaviour and rewards. Where there are two or more "has not engaged with blended learning" logs, parents will be contacted.
- The ARC and EAL teams will continue to make contact with those pupils who usually access this provision.
- Blended learning is rewards driven and pupils will receive positive logs for their commitment and effort to blended learning.
- We are open and we are here to offer support to all our pupils and to the community. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's/children's tutor, in the first instance, if you have questions.

If you are a key worker and would like your child to attend school, please contact attendance@oakwood.ac to enquire about a place. School will remain open from 8.30am-2.30pm and if you have not already done so and believe your child would qualify. The categories of key workers can be found here:

[Key Worker Categories](#)

GCSE Exams

There was some reference to GCSE exams in the announcement. At this stage it is unclear as to what will happen and we await further information this week. In the meantime, we ask those pupils in Year 11 and 10 working towards their exams in the summer, to continue to fully engage with their blended learning at home. Whatever the government decides, it is important to emphasise with pupils that staff will be assessing their work, as they would have done so, and these assessments may contribute to their final grades issued.

Safeguarding and Well-being

These are truly uncertain and turbulent times, we know from our experience of the first lockdown in March that the closure of schools can have an impact on the well-being of young people. Many of our support services, including counselling, will continue remotely, alongside the daily

check in with tutors. We feel that it is vitally important to stay in touch with you throughout the lockdown period. You will receive a phone call from your child's Personal Learning Tutor to check in with you as a family. We will also keep you up-to-date with new developments by regularly updating our website and, from time to time, we will make contact through in-touch messages. If you do have any questions or concerns, your child's Tutor should be the first point of contact.

In addition, you can get support from the child protection team by emailing childprotection@oakwood.ac. There are also a number of websites to help support you and your child.

<http://www.mymindmatters.org.uk/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://camhs.rdash.nhs.uk/young-people/> - 01709 304808

[Government Guidance - mental health](#)

[Rotherham specific help and guidance](#)

Free School Meals

Pupils who receive a free school meal who are not attending school will receive weekly supermarket vouchers. Those pupils who are attending school will be able to get their lunch from the school canteen. If your child only attends for part of the week you will receive a voucher for the sum of the time they are at home. If you have any questions about this please contact the school reception.

It is obviously with great sadness that we have to close the school building to the vast majority of our pupils, but we are confident that we are very well placed to provide high quality blended learning. Unlike most other schools, all of our pupils have a personal learning device (either an iPad or Chromebook). We now know that these devices are incredibly valuable and allow all of our pupils to engage fully in blended learning. Should your child's device not be working, please make contact with the school through your child's tutor. We will do everything we can to ensure pupils remain safe and engaged in their learning and we look forward to seeing them back with us very soon.

Can I once again thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. As a community we are all in this together, no pupil or family should feel isolated; we are proud to serve our community and please feel free to contact school if you are struggling and need our support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Eccles - Head of School