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Head of School: Chris Eccles

Friday 21st May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now nearly to the end of the spring half-term, in many ways we have started to see a return to normality, with after-school activities restarting and pupils no longer required to wear masks in classrooms. On the other hand, the impact of COVID still remains ever present, with both the control measures in school and the home-testing forming an integral part of our drive to eliminate infection cases in school. I take this opportunity to thank our pupils for following our safety measures and you, the parents, for your support of the school.

Year 11 iPads and Final Day

All Year 11 pupils need to bring their iPads fully charged to school on Monday 23rd May. During lessons 1 & 2, their iPads will be removed from the school monitoring system, Smoothwall; pupils can then freely use the iPads at home. From that point, the iPad and how it is used becomes solely the responsibility of the parents. Any Y11s who do not want to keep their iPads can donate it to school along with any unwanted revision books/ guides. Please also bring in your locker keys and ensure your lockers are emptied, clean and in good condition- your deposit will then be returned. Any items left in lockers will be removed and destroyed.

Our Year 11 pupils have nearly completed a very full term of assessments and we will be saying a fond farewell to them on Friday. They have worked incredibly hard this term and we have been delighted with the positive approach they have taken. On Friday they will go to the hall at 12.00pm for a short farewell and to provide an opportunity for them to sign shirts. As this will be a non-uniform day, Year 11 pupils are asked to **bring a shirt** in with them for signing; this will also ensure social distancing is maintained. We anticipate that they will leave the school site at approximately 12.20pm. This is however not the end! We will see them again for the Prom on Wednesday 7th July and the traditional Year 11 Leavers Assembly on Friday 9th July. Further details of these events and how results day on Thursday 12th August will be conducted will follow next half-term.

Friday 28th May - Charity Non-uniform Day

Next Friday we will also hold a non-uniform day. Members of the School Council requested this to help raise money for a local homeless charity and an international charity who are supporting victims of conflict around the world. Pupils will be asked to make a £1 donation and this will be collected in tutor-time.

Lunchtime Arrangements for the Summer Term.

When pupils return after the half-term break, we will only have four year groups in school for the first four weeks leading up to the Year 6 Transition on 5th July. As a result we will make some slight

A member of the Inspire Trust



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adjustments to the timings of when pupils access the dining-room and outdoor spaces. Food will be available in both. The timings of the school day will remain the same.

	Dining Room	Outside and Canopy Area
11.40	Year 9	Year 7
12.00	Year 7	Year 9
12.20	Year 8	Year 10
12.40	Year 10	Year 8

Standards and Expectations

Our pupils are proud to be part of our school and the vast majority take pride in how they wear their uniform and how they present themselves. Please find below a reminder of our expectations.

Uniform: Please find enclosed a copy of the school's uniform policy as a reminder of the standards we uphold at Oakwood. Every pupil is expected to wear our uniform every day. Some key pointers would be:

- Full length black trousers and black skirts worn **no shorter than knee length without thick black tights** as this a professional working environment. All items must be plain black with no noticeable buckles, rivets, zips, studs, logos or badges. Tracksuit type trousers, jeans cannot be worn. Plain black leggings may be worn only with an appropriate and modest skirt.
- Plain black blazer with Oakwood High School crest (badge) to be worn inside the building.
- Plain collared white shirt which must be tucked in at all times.
- Oakwood High School clip on tie.
- Plain black hijab may be worn, school shirt and tie must be visible.
- Sensible, serviceable all black shoes or trainers (no coloured laces, logos, stripes, soles or flashes). No platform or high heels. Boots are not acceptable. Footwear which extends above the ankle bone will be classified as a boot!

Optional: Grey V-Neck jumper with Oakwood High School logo (extra, not instead of a blazer).

Pupils are expected to wear their blazers around school at all times, but can elect to remove them in class if they wish. In the summer term, when the temperature is set to rise, I will announce when pupils are not required to wear them in the building.

Electronic Equipment (including mobile phones): Our use of a device illustrates that we recognise the value of today's electronic equipment in terms of communication, security and education. However, the improper use of such equipment will not be tolerated by the school. There is to be no personal electronic equipment used during the school day on any part of the school site. Pupils must turn off and store in bags all mobile phones before entering the school site. The school accepts no responsibility for loss of, or damage to, any personal electronic equipment brought from home. Any pupil found to have ignored this request will have the equipment, including headphones, confiscated and locked away in the school office and returned only to parents or carers by a senior member of staff.

Jewellery: No jewellery except for watches and plain studs. If pupils have piercings, only one set of earrings and facial piercing are allowed.

Make up: Make-up should be appropriate for a professional school environment as opposed to a social occasion, for example, disproportionately large fake eyelashes are not allowed.

Energy Drinks

The learning environment is no place for the consumption of energy drinks. Research suggests that energy drinks can affect a child's ability to regulate their behaviour and can also have a detrimental effect on children's health. Recently, we have seen and confiscated a small number of energy drinks, particularly Lucozade. If your child enjoys this brand, please support the school in reminding them that energy drinks should not be brought to school and there are government guidelines on the consumption of energy drinks by children under 16 due to the negative impact they can create.

Parental Survey

We always appreciate your feedback and I ask that you take part in our annual parental survey. The school strives to follow our mantra of "Better Never Stops" and your views can help with this. Next week you will be sent a link to the survey using Google Forms. Your opinion is greatly appreciated as we plan for the new academic year.

There is a lot to look forward to in the final half-term of the year. We have a number of rewards as well as graduation events organised to recognise the hard work our pupils have put in this year and we are looking forward to Inclusivity and Diversity week, beginning on 21st June. There is also a trip to the theatre planned, to see the Addams Family as we prepare for our own school production next year.

On the 5th July we will welcome our new Year 7 pupils, as they begin their transition in the final two weeks of the summer term. At this point, all our pupils will move over to their new timetables in preparation for a flying start in September, with Year 8s starting their options and beginning their GCSE qualifications. For Year 9 moving into Year 10, pupils may need help with their revision, but rest assured we will be here to support them. Finally, can I reassure you that our staff are doing everything to support all pupils, but especially Year 10 as they move into Year 11 with recovery and preparation for the exams and assessments they will take next year.

This year has had many challenges, but I believe that the staff and pupils of Oakwood High School have lived by the ethos and values we share. The positive relationships we aim to foster have supported us, when learning together has not been possible and helped us work together when we have. As a school community we have been resilient and resourceful when faced with an ever changing landscape. Our young people have respected the control measures and new routines we have put in place, in order to all but eradicate the spread of infection and keep each other safe. They are a credit to us and to their families and I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support in what has been the most trying of times.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a good half-term and hope, if you have the opportunity to take a week's holiday for the first time in a while or if you are just staying at home, you will have an enjoyable time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Eccles - Head of School

Letter translation is available.

Ak potrebujete pomoc s prekladom, kl'udne mi napište email a ja vám zavolám pri prvej vhodnej príležitosti. Moja emailová adresa je h.vereczy@oakwood.ac

s.khan@oakwood.ac اگر آپ کو اس خط کا اردو ترجمہ چاہیے تو براہ کرم اوپر دیئے گئے نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔ شکریہ