

Wednesday 14th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start by thanking all of our parents (those of you who have been with us for some time and those newer parents) for the support which you continue to offer the school, our staff and the pupils: your children. Despite the significant challenges we have faced this year, overall, we've had another successful year, with so much achieved. In addition, the transition period has been a fantastic start to the new academic year. We can now look forward to the summer break and hopefully an uninterrupted start to the new term on **Monday 6th September**.

This letter is timely and will allow you to plan for the upcoming summer and the September return. Please take time to read this letter carefully, and if there is anything more you might need to know or clarify, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant person at the school.

The year has certainly had its ups and downs, but overall there have been many positives within the school year. Our young people have adapted well and so much has been achieved in so many ways by our pupils and staff. We take some time, towards the end of the year to reflect upon those successes; be those successes in school, with blended learning or, when restrictions have allowed, beyond school. We have many talented and positive children who work so hard day in and day out to be the very best they can be. We welcome and see those attitudes in school and we always appreciate hearing about those successes more widely and beyond the school gates – as the opportunities, out of school, continue to return, please keep us abreast of all that your child/children achieves beyond school hours.

Notable successes this year for the school include: our fundraising efforts for local homeless charities and the humanitarian cause in the Middle East; celebrating and promoting inclusivity and diversity; our visit from Sarah Champion MP to share in our successes; our choir and orchestra performed carols at local outside residential homes in December, as well as supporting the Festival of School and College Arts and the virtual Christmas showcase. More recently, our cricket teams have managed to play in the Yorkshire Schools cricket competition and we have held our annual graduation events. Much, much more can be found on our website about the successes the pupils and school have had. Please look often as we update regularly.

During the transition period we have seen, as always, lessons full of activity, excitement and learning. Our pupils will be looking forward to September, already knowing their classes, classrooms and teachers. We know that the performance of many of our children in public and internal linear exams (ILEs) has been very strong and all children are clear about, and are living up to, our exceptionally high expectations. We will look to build upon those successes as we continue to strive for excellence – we want our children to be 'Inspired to Achieve'.

Although much in this letter will be familiar to longstanding parents and carers, there are some important messages to be shared with your child. The nature of things is that this becomes quite a lengthy letter, but I know you appreciate being fully informed and it is critical that we all understand our collective aspirations for all associated with the school. If you need some help with a translation of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ak potrebujete pomoc s prekladom, kľudne mi napíšte email a ja vám zavolám pri prvej vhodnej príležitosti. Moja emailová adresa je [h.vereczy@oakwood.ac](mailto:h.vereczy@oakwood.ac)

## **Ending of COVID restrictions**

The Government issued new guidance to schools from September. There will no longer be the need for Year bubbles, face masks or isolation for pupils who are a close contact. This comes as welcome news, but we also need to proceed with caution and be prepared should there be a need to implement some of our previous control measures. As a result, we will continue to have year groups enter school at different points and have different meeting areas in the morning. The break times will continue to be split, the one way system will remain in place at busy times and there will be a staggered end to the school day. The last 18 months have been a real challenge, but we have also learnt a lot and some of the measures we now have in place make the school more ordered and calm.

## **Testing**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, testing will remain in place through September.

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holiday, all secondary schools are being asked to test pupils 3 to 5 days apart on their return to school in the autumn term.

To minimise the impact of this to learning, we will run a full programme of testing on Friday 3rd September (staff INSET day). All pupils will be required to attend school in line with their allocated time slot to receive this first test. It will only require them to be in school for a very short period of time, which means they will have limited contact with other pupils. The second test will take place on either Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th or Wednesday 8th September. Pupils will be brought down from their lessons during the school day to take a test. Any pupils testing positive will need to be collected and taken for a PCR test. However, pupils who are 'close contacts' will be able to remain in school, in line with the new guidance from September.

The full programme for testing on Friday 3rd September can be found below. Parents of pupils in Year 7 will need to complete the testing consent form before we test your child in September. The link is here:

[Year 7/ New to School Testing Consent](#)

Pupils need to enter school via the Lawton Lane entrance and through the Perform gates at the back of school and into the Sports Hall. There will be plenty of staff and volunteers to help and reassure all our pupils.

### **Mass testing schedule Friday 3rd September (INSET day)**

<b>Year 7</b>	
B-ATI	8.30AM
B-JCA	8.45AM
H-ASE	9:00 AM
H-MMU	9.15AM
K-DDO	9.30AM
K-VTI	9.45AM
W-HIQ	10:00 AM
W-KWI	10.15AM

<b>Year 8</b>	
B-LBR	10.30AM
B-LOW	10.45AM
H-EGR	11:00 AM
H-NHE	11.15AM
K-CCL	11.30AM
K-JWI	11.45AM
W-AIL	12:00 PM
W-JBR	12.15PM

Year 9	
B-JCO	12.30PM
B-KLA	12.45PM
H-GFI	1.00PM
H-OFO	1.15PM
K-LCA	1.30PM
K-SFI	1.45PM
W-AQA	2.00PM
W-RKU	2.15PM

Year 10	
B-CWI	2.30PM
B-PCA	2.45PM
H-APA	3.00PM
H-SKH	3.15PM
K-LPO	3.30PM
K-MKE	3.45PM
W-NKI	4.00PM
W-TPI	4.15PM

Year 11	
B-EHL	4.25PM
B-SFL	4.40PM
H-HPA	4.55PM
H-TDA	5.10PM
K-LME	5.25PM
K-MBA	5.40PM
W-NFR	5.55PM
W-SCL	6.10PM

### Examination Results and Standards Y11 (Y10 English Literature)

It has been a very different year for pupils entered for GCSE examinations. This year, instead of public exams, pupils' grades have been calculated using a range of assessments as evidence. This has presented a huge challenge and I will say how incredibly impressed I have been over the past few months with the staff and their pupils who have worked extremely hard to ensure each and every child meets their potential. We can say that the attitudes, approach and maturity evidenced towards those assessments have been first class.

Results day is Thursday 12th August. Ex-Year 11 pupils will receive their results via their school email account and details of this have been shared in a previous letter. Our new Year 11s (those who were entered for their English Literature exam this summer), will also receive their results via their school email. If pupils have any queries about their results or progression to Post-16 education, they should email [exams@oakwood.ac](mailto:exams@oakwood.ac)

On examinations: some of our pupils will engage in qualifications beyond school. It is important that we know about every qualification undertaken by children; this includes music grades, other academic qualifications. Importantly, they count as UCAS points and can go on results slips for Post-16.

### Looking Forward

As we continue to strive to be the very best, and we ask that all of our children are the very best they can be, it is important that I state that our **core values** have not changed. We use our 5Rs to underpin our work with children and we ask all of our children to show: Respect, Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflection and Responsibility. We place a strong emphasis on respect for all; concentrating on forging effective and supportive relationships with both pupils and adults. It is this focus on working together which underpins all that we do. We believe that Oakwood High School will provide every opportunity for all pupils to maximise their potential to achieve success; by pupils fully participating in exciting, innovative and enjoyable lessons, in a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century school building, with modern 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies. In doing so we are confident that our pupils can achieve the highest standards of academic performance. Every year we are committed to raising aspirations and the promotion of a caring pupil-centred learning community. Please encourage your child to participate in the many extra-curricular activities we offer; the website is a great place to start when considering which activities your child might enjoy.

With all that in mind, I take this opportunity to outline some key priorities for the coming year, all of which will be a reaffirmation of Oakwood's core values.

**Uniform** Please find enclosed a copy of the school's uniform policy. Our uniform policy has not changed and I need to reiterate that the blazer and tie are mandatory items. 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 unless with thick black tights/black leggings** as this is 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 skirt. For shoes, we ask that pupils wear sensible, serviceable 100% black footwear (no coloured laces, logos, stripes, soles or flashes), no platform or high heels, boots are not acceptable; no hoods and no hats! Please note that a bag is an essential part of the school uniform.

Please be reassured that this policy will be rigorously enforced: **Oakwood is a full and correct uniform school**. Any child not wearing the **full** school uniform will be offered a uniform to change into (**even if they arrive with a note**), and will be expected to wear that uniform; we do not want to have to send children home to change. All staff will check the pupils' uniform at tutor-time, first thing in the morning, and appropriate action will be taken, where necessary. Please contact the school as soon as is practical if there are any issues regarding your child's uniform – we will do all we can to support families in ensuring that children have the correct uniform and will endeavour to resolve any issues with uniform. Uniform items are always available online and in the shops; including Pinders and Johnny D's. All pupils will be expected to take off their outside coats once inside the building. They will need to carry those coats in a school bag.

We have been able to offer pupil lockers now to all pupils who have graduated into Years 9, 10 and 11. New Year 9 will be given their lockers by October half term. A deposit of £5 should be paid for this service, which will be returned at the end of Y11. Pupils who do not graduate will not be allowed a locker until they meet the targets set by their Head of House.

We know that a strong uniform policy has a positive impact upon pupil performance. The uniform has sent a clear message to the wider community that our children want to look more professional. Consequently, we will continue to work hard to develop the unity of this learning community, ensure pupil security and promote equality. For all these reasons, uniform is very important.

PE hoodies are only to be worn in PE and not around school.

At present there does seem to be a trend for knee socks; these must be plain black and of thick cotton not a thin denier and no patterns or cut outs.

**Equipment:** No change here either! As always we will expect all pupils to be properly equipped for school. They are required to have their fully charged electronic device, as provided by the school. Y7 parents have received information about the steps that must be completed before pupils will be given a Chromebook.  
Y7 Parents

### **Step 1**

Follow this link to watch the e-Safety videos and complete the Questionnaire.

Questionnaire Link: [E-safety Questionnaire Link](#)

### **Step 2**

Follow this link to carefully read and electronically sign the Acceptable User Policy (AUP). Here, you are agreeing to ensure your child follows our IT policies and procedures. **Parents**, type in **your** name.

AUP Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmE4Fs6mrEAT9bBgbRpmD-PP6y3w1GtRzIIKXR4KGtyIRjw/viewform>

### **Step 3**

Pay the £25 contribution via your account on ParentPay. If you have any difficulty, please contact [accounts@inspiretrust.uk](mailto:accounts@inspiretrust.uk)

All pupil devices must remain in the case provided by school and be brought to school, fully charged, each and every day.

### **E-safety Reminders**

Oakwood High School has a number of security features and settings to keep pupils safe when using the device within school and at home. To reassure parents and carers, at school we continue to block access to inappropriate websites and apps; such as social networking, gaming websites and adult content. We take every care in school, and would encourage all families to try to provide the same level of protection and safety at home. If you are concerned about how your child is using the device at home, we recommend you to get in touch with whomever you pay for your internet connection (Internet Service Provider or ISP) and ask them to help you to set up 'parental controls'. Depending on your ISP, some providers can block websites, such as social media, or provide you with instructions on how to set up your internet router to switch on parental controls. There is some useful information to be found at the following websites:

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parental-controls>

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to check pupil devices often and, if necessary, have rules for usage - when, where and for how long. They are a fantastic tool for school work, but should not interfere with family life. As always, if you are concerned about your child's/children's safety online, please visit our website for guidance and support or contact us directly at school.

In addition, pupils need pens, pencils, a ruler, scientific calculator and PE equipment; in an appropriate school bag. We see the equipment and bag as important elements of the school uniform policy and an indication of an individual's readiness to learn.

**Other 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/ airpods/ earbuds, confiscated and locked away in the school office and returned only to parents or carers by a senior member of staff.

**Attendance and Punctuality** Can I re-take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of attendance? We have worked hard to ensure all of our children are in as much as possible and our attendance figures are very strong indeed; when compared to local and national averages, however we know that there are a small number of children who must improve their attendance and punctuality - we will work with those children and their families in the new school year. If there are any issues or questions about your child's attendance or punctuality please do not hesitate to contact our attendance team on 01709 539811 or alternatively [attendance@oakwood.ac](mailto:attendance@oakwood.ac). You have our assurance that, should we identify patterns of absence causing concern, we will make immediate contact with you.

Key to our success is the start of every day: pupils will continue to arrive for tutor time at 8.30 am for an 8.40 am start. Any pupil arriving after 8.40 am will be deemed to be late and will be logged. **Any pupil who is late to school will be sanctioned** on the day of the late arrival, with an after school detention of 20 minutes. Please contact the Attendance team if there is a justifiable reason why your child may be late. Parents will be informed by an InTouch message during the morning. Please note that pupils repeatedly late or missing detentions will be issued with a 40 minute Friday after school detention.

As I know many of you are aware, the local authority and the Department for Education do not now distinguish between authorised and unauthorised absences. As in the past, the school will not authorise any holiday during term time, this means that if you choose to take your child on holiday, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. If you decide to take your child on holiday during term time you run the risk of a fine. Please remember that your child will be in the persistent absence category if their attendance is below 90%. This may result in parents being required to attend an attendance meeting and could result in the Fixed Penalty Notice being issued, if you either do not attend or there is no improvement in your child's attendance figure.

The pupil reception and entrance is at the front of the building and pupils will need to come to the bottom of Lawton Lane or up from Moorgate Road to enter the building. Parents and carers cannot access the school via the pupil entrance. For pupil security, the gates will be locked on the site at 8.40am and pupils will only be able to access the building via the old swimming pool steps, off Moorgate Road, after that time.

**Lawton Lane** Our first priority is always pupil safety. As was the procedure this last year, there is to be **no parental access** onto Lawton Lane and the school parking area outside the main reception. As the pupil entrance is on Moorgate Road, parents and carers will drop their children off in the parking bays along Moorgate Road. Can I ask that parents park safely and legally on Moorgate Road? Please drop your child/children away from the school crossing as this could cause an accident. All pupils should use the crossing, where appropriate. For safety reasons, all vehicles, other than staff vehicles, will be prevented from driving up Lawton Lane. No parental passes will be issued at any time.

We need the start and end of the day to be as smooth and safe as possible. Could I request that parents do not escort their children to the door? This can cause difficulties for the child and the school. Please find a way of developing independence by allowing your child to access school independently or with friends.

Currently each year groups will have a different entrance and meeting point at the start of the day and a staggered end of the day. This will continue in September as it allows for a very orderly entry and exit to the school campus.

### Start of the school day

Year	Entrance	Meeting Point
New 7s	Lawton Lane Pupil Entrance	Dining Room
8 (current 7s)	Moorgate Rd Pupil Entrance	Sports Hall
9 (current 8s)	Perform Entrance	Sports Hall
10 (current 9s)	Moorgate Rd Pupil Entrance	Canopy Area
11 (current 10s)	Perform Entrance	Main Hall

### End of the School Day

Year	Departure time
New 7s	14.35
8 (current 7s)	14.40
9 (current 8s)	14.40
10 (current 9s)	14.45
11 (current 10s)	14.45

**Homework:** We have continued to develop our homework strategies. Thank you to the parents and carers who have offered thoughts and ideas. We are currently updating our homework policy with specific information about year groups and subjects; we have further developed our communication systems in support of homework. Using our Go 4 Schools systems, parents and carers will be able to check your child's homework. Homework tasks take many forms and are designed to promote deeper learning. It will continue to be important for parents and carers to take an interest in their child's school work. More and more homework will be **Independent Study (Recall and Revision)**, with specific deadlines and consequences for not completing homework. Your support is critical to your child's success.

**Break/Lunch Times and Healthy Eating** We continue to work hard refining our break time service and offer. We will be able to continue to provide the very best school meals. Our breaktime will continue to be split in line with the current school day.

Year	Break 1	Break 2
Year 7	11.40 - Green Space and Canopy	12.00 - Dining Room
Year 8	12.20 - Dining Room	12.40 - Green Space and Canopy
Year 9	11.40 - Main Hall and Green Space	13.10 - Dining room and Canopy
Year 10	11.40 - Dining Room	12.00 - Green Space and Canopy
Year 11	12.20 - Green Space and Canopy	12.40 - Dining Room

The service provided and the range of foods available will continue to be very important to us all. We are confident that we will be able to offer healthy and exciting snacks and meals throughout the day. We know that pupils learn even better when they stay on site at break times, and when they eat using the school facilities and so, as ever, **all pupils are expected to stay on site at break times**. Pupils will use a biometric cashless system (money can be put onto the system via ParentPay, please contact the finance office for more details at [accounts@inspiretrust.uk](mailto:accounts@inspiretrust.uk)) or pay in-cash on a daily basis. Children eligible for free school meals will still be able to access our snacks and meals as previously. **I urge you, if you are eligible, to apply for free school meals through the Local Authority.**

**Communication** We will continue to communicate using technology. As a matter of course now we communicate using email, text message, GO 4 Schools and the website [www.oakwood.ac](http://www.oakwood.ac). The website should be the first location to look when attempting to communicate with the school. Unless you specifically ask for a letter to be posted home, all communication will be electronic. We hope to continue to reduce our carbon footprint.

A good way to stay in touch with what is going on is to join the online Parent View meetings. These meetings take place on the last week of every half term, usually Fridays 10:00-11:00 am. A link to a Google Meet is sent out to parents with an agenda during the week of the meeting. Please contact the main school office for more information.

We have worked hard this year to ensure that as many parents/carers as possible understand and regularly use our GO 4 Schools system to stay abreast of their child's progress. The secure log-in allows you to access your child's records; including behaviour and achievement records, attendance records, school reports and homework. By using GO 4 Schools you will have secure access to **today's** assessment, attendance and behaviour information as well as your child's timetable and progress reports. You have everything you need in one place and, crucially, what you see is live data which is in time with the latest information within school. GO 4 Schools also allows parents to support their child's independent learning with a clear view of homework set, due dates and homework content.

In 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) replaced the Data Protection Act 1998. The GDPR 2018 introduced new individual rights relating to personal data and consents. It is important that we keep complete and up-to-date records of all our pupils and their contact information. Please assist us with checking and updating your details and consents via GO 4 Schools, the school website shows more information and guidance on this.

If any of your contact details do change or you need any support please contact Ms N Moorhouse at [n.moorhouse@oakwood.ac](mailto:n.moorhouse@oakwood.ac) or Mrs L Lonsdale [l.lonsdale@oakwood.ac](mailto:l.lonsdale@oakwood.ac)

**End of Term** As is customary, we will finish for the summer a little earlier on the last day of this term, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Pupils will be dismissed by a year group at a time from 12pm to 12.20pm. There will be an opportunity for all pupils to buy food before they leave the school site.

**Return to Oakwood High School** The new term for pupils starts at 8.30 am on Monday 6th September. On that first day all pupils will go to their tutor time, after that we will operate our usual timetable; we really do need to 'hit the ground running'.

Please read the Expectations of Pupils document, outlined in the school [prospectus](#). As the term gets underway your child/ children will notice that we will continue to apply our policies with consistency and rigour. This simply means that all adults within our learning community will have the highest expectations of all our learners. We will not hesitate to contact you should attitudes to learning and behaviour not meet the highest standards.

### **Academic events 2021-22:**

- Monday 20th September Y5/6 Open Evening 4.30-6.30pm
- Wednesday 20th October Y7-11 Face to Face Tutor Review Day 11am-7pm
- Monday 15th November Ex-Y11 Presentation Evening 6-7pm
- Tuesday 23rd November Y8 & 11 Virtual Parents Evening 4-7pm
- Wednesday 1st December Y7, 9 & 10 Virtual Parents Evening 4.-7.pm
- Wednesday 30th March Y8 & 11 Virtual Parents Evening 4-7pm
- Tuesday 26th April Y7, 9 & 10 Virtual Parents Evening 4.-7.pm

## **And finally ...**

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school and talk to your child's Personal Learning Tutor. I 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 have helped us through the last 18 months and that continue to allow success to blossom.

Enjoy your summer!

Yours faithfully

**Chris Eccles**  
**Headteacher**

## **Assessment Calendar 2021-22**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment Information</b>
8th October	Y11 Assessment 1 reports available
1st November	Y11 Art ILEs begin
12th November	Y7 - Y10 Assessment 1 reports available
6th December	Y11 ILEs begin
10th January	Y10 ILEs begin
21st January	Y11 Assessment 2 reports available
7th February	Y9 ILEs begin
11th February	Y10 and Y7 Assessment 2 reports available
28th February	Y8 ILEs begin
11th March	Y9 Assessment 2 reports available
25th March	Y8 assessment 2 and Y11 assessment 3 reports available
25th April	Y7 ILEs begin
27th May	Y7 Assessment 3 reports available
11th June	Y8 - 10 Assessment 3 report available

All dates will shortly be available for viewing on the whole school diary.

<https://www.oakwood.ac/school-diary/>

Uniform Policy Can be viewed at:

<https://www.oakwood.ac/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/06/School-Uniform-Policy-update-June-21-Google-Docs.pdf>