

Friday 20th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now well into the summer term and for the first time in three years our pupils in Years 10 and 11 are sitting public GCSE exams. They have been working hard up to this point and we know, with your support over the coming weeks, they have every chance of doing well.

It has also been a busy half term beyond the classroom. There is a full extra-curricular programme of activities running as well as a range of other events. Pupils have successfully taken part in the Battle of the Band competition, with Oakwood winning both the group and solo performance categories. In addition, many of you joined us on Thursday 12th May for the Oakwood Awards. It was fabulous to see pupils, staff and parents come together and celebrate the successes of our young people. The last few years have deprived us of the opportunity to come together as a learning community and harness the sense of belonging that makes Oakwood a special place to work and learn.

### School Day

When I wrote to you in March, I outlined that from Monday 6th June we would be returning to our original school day model. All pupils will take their breaks at the same time and will finish at 3.10pm. The outline of the day is below.

All Years	
8.35	Movement bell - all pupils go to tutor
8.40	Tutor
9.10	Period 1
10.25	Period 2
11.40	Break 1
12.15	Period 3
13.30	Break 2
13.55	Period 4
15.10	End

It will inevitably take a short while for us all to get used to the new (old) routine. To help this, in the first week only, Year 7 pupils will go to the first break five minutes early at 11.35am. There will be five areas serving different food choices. Everything but the specials will also be available in the second break at 1.30pm.

A member of the Inspire Trust

## **Dining Room**

- **Main servery:** Hot meals, meal of the day, pasta, deserts and warm drinks
- **Small servery:** Daily special and pizza
- **Snack bar:** Sandwiches and cake bakes
- **Main Hall:** Daily special, sandwiches and cake bakes
- **Canopy:** Daily special, pasta, pizza and cake bakes

(Cold drinks will be served from all locations)

Pupils who bring a packed lunch can eat these in either the dining room, main hall, outside under one of the two canopies or on the open green space.

There will be an area outside set aside for pupils to play football and cricket. In addition, in break 2, activities will take place on Fit to Learn, run by the PE team.

We also anticipate that a number of clubs and activities will be provided by staff. More information will be made available to pupils as these become established.

Unless pupils are attending an organised activity, they will only have access to the dining room, main hall, Perform corridor and the toilets in these areas. A plan is in place in the event of wet weather to ensure pupils have plenty of space to shelter, both indoor and under the newly erected canopies.

Pupils will have five minutes at the start of the breaks to collect belongings from their lockers or use the Floor 1 toilets. A bell will sound after five minutes as a signal to move out of the school building and into the supervised social spaces.

## **Punctuality**

With the introduction of the new school day, there is a great opportunity to focus on punctuality, both to school and lessons. It is really important pupils prioritise getting to school and lessons on time as this, not only optimises learning time, but also prepares them for real life and work in the future

Pupils arriving at school who are not in tutor by the 8.40am bell will be recorded late and issued a 20 minute after school detention by the attendance team for the same day.

To help pupils move promptly to tutor time, we are moving the 8.30am warning bell to 8.35am. This will now be a signal to both pupils and staff to move to and be in tutor for 8.40am.

There will also be 5minute movement bells at each break time. Pupils are expected to be in class by the time the lesson bell rings at 12.15pm (break 1) and 1.55pm (break 2). Pupils arriving after the lesson bell will receive a late mark and accumulation of three late to lesson marks in a week, will result in a 20 minute after school late detention the following Thursday. This will start from Monday 6th June.

## **Vertical Tutoring**

One of the strengths of Oakwood High School, over the years, has been how the pastoral system has helped create a sense of belonging and community. With the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, we had to dissolve our vertical tutor system that had proved so successful for many years. At the time, I shared that it was our intention to return to vertical tutorship at the earliest opportunity. Vertical tutorship provides the opportunity for pupils to mix with other pupils from different year groups; providing support, role models, a friendly face the opportunity for leadership. Vertical tutor groups create families, within the house family, that are in turn all part of the bigger Oakwood family.

Pupils have had assemblies and the opportunity to discuss this change in tutor time. It will feel like a big step for many of our pupils who have not experienced being in a vertical tutor group. They have been reassured that they will have the opportunity to be in a tutor with at least one person they already know and, of course, will continue to be with their peers in lessons and meet up with them at both break times.

The move back to vertical tutoring will take place on Monday 11th July, when our new Year 7s join us for transition. More information will be shared with you and pupils nearer the time.

### **Blazers**

As the weather gets warmer I am often asked if pupils can remove their blazers in the building. If we have an exceptionally warm spell I will inform pupils and parents that this is the case. In the meantime, we expect pupils to have their blazers with them and wear them at all times when they are moving between lessons. They can elect to take it off in the classroom if they are too warm. The vast majority of our pupils are really good at following this expectation and I thank parents for making sure your child is properly equipped for the day.

### **Graduation Reward Day 29th June**

I am really pleased to announce that our Graduation process which started in July 2021 is now approaching the final straight. Each year group was set the challenge to achieve a minimum 100 points to Graduate. The graduation total is calculated by adding a pupil's Attendance figure to their positive behaviour points minus their negative behaviour total. Currently the Graduation figure shows that 97% of the school are on track to Graduate. Heads of House are working with those pupils who are below 100 points to give strategies on how to improve their total points. To highlight the excellent work by the pupil body, 90% of pupil's have gained a Graduation total of 150 or above. The Graduation events will take place on Wednesday 29th June and are outlined below:

- Y11 Prom
- Y10 Alton Towers
- Y9 Trip to the beach (Cleethorpes)
- Y7&8 In-School event and enrichment activities culminating in Oakfest

More details to follow as we try our utmost to reduce the cost per pupil for each event.

### **School Breakfast**

We have been serving breakfast since Easter, in the dining room, between 8am and 8.30am. Pupils are able to purchase waffles, toast, bacon and sausage sandwiches. In addition, we have signed up to the National Breakfast programme funded by the Department for Education. As a result, any pupil who wants to have a free buttered bagel or a bowl of cereal (gluten free option will be available) can do so. It will be served alongside our usual breakfast offer, all pupils have to do is pick up what they want in the usual way and when they go to the till they will not be charged. They can of course add extra items, such as a drink, which they will then pay for at the same time. Research shows that having breakfast really helps young people with concentration and behaviour, therefore we hope by reinstating and expanding our breakfast provision, all pupils will get off to a good start every day.

### **Free School Meal Eligibility**

The last few years have been tough on many people and certainly, in the short term, things don't seem to be improving. Rising energy costs, inflation and the impact this has on family budgets can take their toll. Some families who are finding times hard may not yet have applied for a free school meal allowance. This provides your child with £2.30 a day to spend on food at school and will buy the meal of the day, which includes a cooked dinner and dessert. If you think you may be eligible, I would urge you to apply by following the link here: [www.rotherham.gov.uk/benefits/apply-free-school-meals/1](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/benefits/apply-free-school-meals/1)

### **Year 11 Arrangements**

Our pupils have been working really hard and we want to make sure they are supported with their revision right up to the end, therefore pupils will be expected to attend school in full up to and including Monday 13th June. During this time, they will attend their normal lessons, unless they have an exam. From Monday 13th June, pupils will then only be required to attend the lessons where they still have an exam, however, provision will

be made for those who want to remain in school, otherwise pupils can study at home. During this period, in addition to lessons, there will also be a series of after school booster sessions prior to the exams that still remain.

After all this the Year 11s will have the Prom, on Thursday 30th June, followed by the Leavers' assembly on Friday 1st July, to look forward to.

Once again, I would like to say thank you for your ongoing support. The return to events in school and public examinations gives us hope that we are returning to a pre-pandemic normality. However, we also know that the pandemic has left lasting effects on children, their families and the wider community. Can I ask that we continue to work together for the interest of our pupils in a culture of mutual respect and positive relationships that makes the Oakwood family what it is?

Yours sincerely



Mr C Eccles - Headteacher

### Key dates

<b>Friday 27th May</b>	<b>School closes to pupils at 2.45pm for the Spring bank holiday.</b>
<b>Monday 6th June</b>	<b>School opens 8.30am - New School Day, school finishes at 3.10pm</b>
<b>Thursday 23rd June</b>	<b>Final GCSE exam and Y11 shirt signing</b>
<b>Friday 24th June</b>	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 PE rewards, inflatables</b>
<b>Wednesday 29th June</b>	<b>Whole school rewards day</b>
<b>Thursday 30th June</b>	<b>Y11 Prom, Tankersley Manor</b>
<b>Friday 1st July</b>	<b>Year 11 Leavers assembly</b>
<b>Monday 4th July</b>	<b>Y9 Geography field visit, Burbage Brook, Derbyshire</b>
<b>Wednesday 6th July</b>	<b>Y9 Geography field visit, Burbage Brook, Derbyshire</b>
<b>Friday 7th July</b>	<b>INSET day - school closed to pupils</b>
<b>Monday 11th July</b>	<b>Transition - start of the new academic year</b>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Oakwood Performing arts showcase</b>
<b>Thursday 21st July</b>	<b>School Closes for the summer break 1.10pm</b>

**Monday 5th September** School opens 8.30am for the new academic year

If you need some help with a translation of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ak potrebujete pomoc s prekladom, kl'udne mi napíšte email a ja vám zavolám pri prvej vhodnej príležitosti. Moja emailová adresa je [j.oxley@oakwood.ac](mailto:j.oxley@oakwood.ac)

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