

5 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Can I start by saying how much all the staff at Oakwood High School appreciate your ongoing support? This has been a very busy half term, but it has been great to welcome so many of you into the building at events such as the Post 16 Careers event and our first face to face subject parents evening since November 2019. We also welcomed back the class of 2022 to celebrate their success in the summer GCSE exams and were joined by ex-pupil and actor Adelle Leonce and the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire to share in their success. We have also seen the return to international school visits with our pupils visiting Iceland in early November, alongside closer to home geography field trips to Sheffield.

The Oakwood family also came together in our annual Remembrance event, taking time to reflect on the sacrifice others have made for the freedoms we experience today and help the next generation avoid the mistakes of the past. In addition, Oakwood pupils and staff have been working together to help support a number of charities, raising over £500 this half term for the Sheffield Special Baby Care Unit, Pakistan Flood relief fund and the Teenage Cancer Trust. It makes us very proud when our pupils take on responsibility to help others in and beyond our community.

Parental survey

A big thank you to the overwhelming number of parents who have completed the parental survey. If you have not had an opportunity to complete the survey, could I ask that you do so please? Feedback from parents is vital to strengthen our home-school partnership. The link can be found here:

[Parent/ Carer Survey Link](#)

Selling items in school

I would just like to make parents aware that it is prohibited to bring items such as sweets and drinks into school to sell. Although this is not a common occurrence, we have had a number of incidents since the start of term. Our position on this is clearly stated in the school's [behaviour policy](#). Pupils found selling will have their items confiscated and a sanction put in place. Items will only be returned if parents come into school to collect them.

Standards and Expectations

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.

Respect for Staff.

This half-term there has been approximately 15,000 positive points for the 5Rs and this is something that we have widely celebrated with our pupils. We pride ourselves on our strong ethos based on positive

relationships and mutual respect. However, recently there has been a slight increase in a lack of respect when staff challenge poor behaviour choices, something that is very uncharacteristic of Oakwood pupils.

All pupils are expected to follow adult instructions, first time, every time. Individual pupils have been spoken to about this and our pastoral work across the school has involved all our pupils being part of Respect assemblies, where the theme was considering if you would act in a certain manner away from your friends. Peer group affirmation can be something that a child unconsciously pursues. The adults are here to get the best out of each individual pupil, and will continue to show that they care, however, ultimately disrespect will not be tolerated. If you have noticed that there have been a number of logs on Go4Schools for lack of respect shown by your child, please speak to them so that changes can be made and if you need further assistance contact their Head of House.

With all that in mind, I take this opportunity to outline some key ongoing priorities for the new calendar 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 or 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, metallic badges (e.g. Nike AF1) 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/jumper/ hoodies once inside the building. They will need to carry those coats in a school bag.

To ensure that we meet Health and Safety regulations, it is also important that pupils bring the correct PE uniform. Meeting safety regulations includes the removal of jewellery, piercings that could catch or snag, tying up long hair and ensuring headscarves are not loose, but are tight and tucked in (safe sporting head coverings can be bought very cheaply on Amazon). The legislation on jewellery falls under Section 7 of the Health and Safety Act.

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

Last Week of Term

The final week of the winter term is always packed full of exciting activities. We have reward events for pupils, the traditional festive House challenge and carol singing at a local residential home. It has been a long, but successful term and both pupils and staff are ready for a rest over the Christmas holidays.

Christmas lunch Tuesday 13th December

On Tuesday 13th December, pupils and staff will have the opportunity to take the festive lunch. For only £2.40 our catering team will be serving a selection of roast turkey, halal chicken or a quorn fillet, served with traditional trimmings and followed by either Christmas or chocolate pudding. On this day there will be a change to break and lunch time arrangements and timings, with a maximum of two year groups on break. Allowing plenty of time for pupils to be served, sit down and enjoy their meal. These timings will be shared

with pupils and staff this week. Of course, the regular offer of pizza, pasta, sandwiches and cakes will be available for those who do not want a Christmas dinner.

Christmas Showcase Thursday 15th December

In addition, we have a Christmas showcase from 6pm to 8pm on Thursday 15th December. This will be an evening of song, music and light entertainment. Tickets are available from the main reception for £5 (£3 concessions). It would be great to see as many of you there as possible to support our amazing hardworking and talented pupils.

Last Day of Term

Finally, the last day of term is **Friday 16th December**. This will be a non-uniform day; the theme is festive celebrations. For a £1 donation to charity, pupils can come in their own choice of clothing or even choose to dress up in traditional celebratory or festive themed clothing. There will be an earlier finish, with Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils leaving from 12.30pm Year 11 from 11.30am, following a post ILE reward and celebration event. All pupils will have the opportunity to get their lunch at first break.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support, through what has been a successful term. I would like to wish all our families a good holiday and happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



Chris Eccles
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 13th December

Friday 16th December

Monday 2nd January 2023

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Tuesday 7th March 4-7pm

Thursday 23rd March 4-7pm

Monday 9th January

Friday 20th January

Monday 23rd January

Friday 10th February

Monday 27th February

Christmas lunch

Cultural Day - Pupils wear non-uniform

School finishes for Christmas, pupils dismissed from 12.30pm

School closed - Bank Holiday (New Year)

School Term begins - 8.30am start as usual

Y7, 9, 10 Parents Evening

Y8 & 11 Parents Evening

Y10 ILE's (2 weeks)

Y11 ILE Results Assembly

Y10 Work Experience begins (1 week)

Trust Inset Day, school closed to pupils

Y8 ILEs (1week)

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 info@oakwood.ac

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

Attachments

[Uniform Policy](#)