

29th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the Easter break, I would like to thank you for your continued support. It has been a busy and sometimes disjointed half term, with the challenges of the weather and the inevitable impact of industrial action on in school learning. However, I was impressed by the responsibility the vast majority of our pupils showed, when they logged on to face-to-face online learning. I have also been really proud of Oakwood's pupil leaders, who through their own drive, initiative and teamwork organised the Community event on Friday 20th March. Thank you to everyone who supported on the day, helping us raise £609.21 for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake disaster appeal.

Breaktime consultation

It is the time of year when we review what we do in school and look to make improvement for the following academic year. Following the lifting of Covid restrictions we returned to having two single break times with all pupils, in all year groups, on at the same time. This has its advantages, in terms of being able to utilise a range of indoor spaces that are otherwise used for teaching. However, it also has brought some significant challenges, with insufficient space in the dining room to sit down, long queues and large numbers of pupils moving around in a limited amount of space.

As a consequence, we are proposing that from September 2023 the following model will be adopted. A consultation on this has been shared with staff, pupils and I would like to invite parents to give us your feedback. [Breaktime consultation](#)

Proposed Model

Year 7, 8, and 9		Year 10 and 11	
8.40	Tutor	8.40	Tutor
9.10	Movement	9.10	Movement
9.15	Period 1	9.15	Period 1
10.30	<u>Break 1</u>	10.30	Period 2
10.55	Period 2	11.45	<u>Break 1</u>
12.10	<u>Break 2</u>	12.10	Period 3
12.40	Period 3	13.25	<u>Break 2</u>
13.55	Period 4	13.55	Period 4
15.10	End	15.10	End

A member of the Inspire Trust

Advantages of split break proposed

- Secure, nurturing atmosphere for younger pupils.
- Pupils will feel safer in the toilets.
- Corridors will be less busy and flow more fluently.
- Fewer numbers of pupils going through the dining room during the designated break period compared to the current model.
- Shorter queues.
- Two split breaks of 30 and 25 minutes, breaking up the day and providing ample opportunity to visit the toilet.
- Fewer year groups mixing

Astroturf

Since December 2022 Hunts Construction have been busy laying down our new all-weather pitch. There have been the usual challenges of the weather, drainage and supply of materials, but all being well the facility will be handed over to Oakwood High School in the next week or so.

This is not only an exciting opportunity for the school and the enhancement it will bring to the teaching and learning of Physical Education, it is also a great opportunity for the wider community. From September 2023, Oakwood's sporting facilities will be available to hire and open to the public. The spaces will be bookable by local groups as well as individuals. If you are interested please contact the school via info@oakwood.ac for more information.

Uniform

The vast majority of our pupils wear their uniform with pride, however as we head into the summer term, it is timely to remind you that 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 as we head into the warmer months 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.

Free School Meals and Uniform Support

These are very challenging times economically and I know many families are struggling to make ends meet. If you think you may be eligible for your child to receive free school meals, please follow the link below to the local authority application form. Once this is completed, your child will receive a daily allowance of £2.40 on their catering account, which they can access using their thumb print on the cashless payment system. This amount covers the daily meal deal, which includes a main course and desert. [RMBC Free School Meal Application Form](#)

In addition, if you require support with uniform please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House who will be more than willing to provide you with advice. We are also collecting uniform from families that can be used in our pre-loved store. Please drop off any uniform items, that could be used by others, at the main reception.

Attendance Matters

Attending school is an important part in a child's development and allows them to make progress across a breadth of subjects. Our whole school attendance figure for the academic year so far, is currently better than the national average for schools across the country. I would like to thank you, not only for making sure that your child attends school, but also keeping the attendance team informed when your child cannot attend on a given day. At this time of year, lots of families look to book their summer holidays for 2023. Please remember that the school will not authorise holidays in term time and that absence of this kind will affect your child's learning and their final attendance total.

Summer exam timetable

When we return after the Easter break there will be only 4 weeks until the first full GCSE exam, on the 15th May, with speaking exams in Spanish and French commencing before that date at the start of May. To help pupils and parents plan ahead, please follow the link to the timetable below. It is vital that pupils attend all their exams, as the grade they receive will be awarded across all assessments they do. Our pupils have been working hard with our staff up to this point and we are sure with a final push, hard work and revision, they will do well in the summer. [Summer Exam Timetable](#)

Last Day of Term

On Friday 31st March (the final day of this term), to celebrate our rich cultural diversity, pupils will be invited to come to school in clothes that represent their identity, culture or background (suitable for a learning environment). We ask that pupils make a £1 donation on the day and the School Council have decided to donate the proceeds between supporting a former pupil who is raising money for [Ghana for Sports and Humanitarian Aid organised by Rotherham United Community Sports](#) Trust and 25% given to support the Year 11 Prom. This will be collected in tutor time.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families who are observing the holy month of Ramadan 'Ramadan Mubarak'. Once again thank you for your ongoing support, positive home school relationships are important to ensure pupils make good progress and succeed. As a school we strive to provide a safe environment where young people can develop, learn, thrive and make progress. If you require any further support or information, please do not hesitate to contact us via your child's PLT.

Yours faithfully

Chris Eccles - Headteacher

Upcoming Events

Friday 31st March	Last day of term - non-uniform day
Monday 2nd April	Start of Easter Holiday
Monday 17th April	School return 8.30am
Monday 1st May	Bank holiday
Tuesday 2nd May	Start of GCSE speaking exams
Monday 8th May	Additional bank holiday for the King's Coronation
Thursday 11th May	Oakwood Awards 6.00pm
Monday 15th May	All GCSE exams start
Wednesday 21st June	Y7-10 Graduation Event
Wednesday 5th July	Y11 Prom, Tankersley Manor 7pm
Thursday 6th July	Y11 Leavers Assembly
Friday 7th July	INSET DAY - school closed to pupils
Friday 21st July	School closes for summer break

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

Ak potrebujete pomoc s prekladom, kludne 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

