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Friday 15th July 2022

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. Although we are not at the end of the first full year in school since the summer of 2019, I can say that overall, we've had another successful year, with so much achieved. In addition, the first week of 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 5th 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 seen pupils in school without interruption for the first time in two years. 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. 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: a successful Ofsted inspection in November, the return of the school production and showcases, success in the Rotherham Schools Battle of the Bands, the Oakwood Awards and Sports Awards, the graduation rewards day, a successful GCSE exam series, the Year 11 Prom and Leavers assembly. In addition, there have been many after school clubs covering a whole range of different interests. Overall, it really feels like we are at last returning to a sense of normality.

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 [j.oxley@oakwood.ac](mailto:j.oxley@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

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

This year our pupils sat public GCSE exams for the first time in two years. We were very proud of how they approached these with maturity and commitment.

Results day is Thursday 25th August. Ex-Year 11 pupils will collect their results from the dining room between 10am and 12pm. Our new Year 11s (those who were entered for their English Literature exam this summer), can collect their results from the dining room from 11am to 1pm. If your child is not able to collect their results on the day, they can arrange a time from 2nd September to come in and collect them, if they have not already nominated someone to do this on the day. If this is the case, the examination team should have been informed and the name of the person collecting the results provided in advance. On the day they will need to provide proof of identity. 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 academic 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, 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. Pupils will be directed to remove PE hoodies.

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.

At present there does seem to be a trend for knee socks; these must stop at the knee (not mid-thigh), be plain black and of thick black 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. All pupil devices (Chromebooks) must remain in the case provided by school and be brought to school, fully charged, each and every day.

**Year 7s** will receive their **Chromebooks** on **Tuesday 20th September**. Details about the Chromebook evening on this date will follow.

To prepare for the Chromebook distribution, follow this link to carefully read and electronically sign the Acceptable User Policier (AUP). Here, you are agreeing to ensure your child follows our policies, safeguarding and procedures. **Parents/ carers**, type in **your** name.

**AUP Link:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmE4Fs6mrEAT9bBgbRpmD-PP6y3w1GtRzIILKXR4KGtylRjw/viewform>

**If you have any difficulty, please contact, [l.oliver@oakwood.ac](mailto:l.oliver@oakwood.ac)**

In September, pay the £25 contribution via your account on ParentPay, or in cash before the summer break at the main office. If you have any difficulty, please contact [accounts@inspiretrust.uk](mailto:accounts@inspiretrust.uk)

**E-safety Reminders**

Oakwood High School has a number of security and monitoring features and settings to keep pupils safe when using the device within school and at home. To be clear, we continue to monitor how our pupils use the Chromebooks even when they are not in school. To reassure parents and carers, at school and out

of 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>

<https://parentzone.org.uk/digital-parenting-online-safety-magazine-archive>

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 8.35 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/ carers will be informed by a 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



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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.

**Homework:** We have continued to develop our homework strategies. Thank you to the parents and carers who have offered thoughts and ideas. 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 **reading-based and/ or focused on revision and recall**, with specific deadlines and consequences for not completing homework. Your support is critical to your child's success.

**Breakfast/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.

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.

**Communication and using Go 4 Schools** 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 Mrs Finnie at [j.finnie@oakwood.ac](mailto:j.finnie@oakwood.ac) or Mrs L Lonsdale [e.lonsdale@oakwood.ac](mailto:e.lonsdale@oakwood.ac)

**School governance** if you are a new or existing parent or carer to Oakwood, you might be interested in becoming involved with school governance. The role of a governor is voluntary and provides a challenging, interesting and rewarding opportunity to contribute to the wellbeing and improved prospects for our pupils. We currently have a number of parent governor places and are particularly looking for people who will bring a different perspective and provide the necessary support and challenge to the school leadership team. If you are interested and want more information, please follow the link below:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zTH8YcWxkmNVvmetqwVooc\\_oSjAAZnNC/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zTH8YcWxkmNVvmetqwVooc_oSjAAZnNC/edit)

**Uniform donations** It is that time of year when you will be buying new uniform and maybe at a point where you have no further use for your child's old uniform. If you have any items of uniform such as blazers or trousers that you would like to donate please hand them into reception. These will be welcome additions to our uniform store and used to support pupils who need an occasional item from time to time.

**End of Term and non-uniform day** As is customary, we will finish for the summer a little earlier on the last day of this term, **Thursday 21st July**. Pupils will be dismissed from 12.30pm. There will be an opportunity for all pupils to buy food before they leave the school site in Break 1. This day will also be a non-uniform day, pupils will be welcome to come in their own choice of clothes and donate £1 to the Bluebell Wood charity. This will be collected during tutor time.

**Return to Oakwood High School** The new term for pupils starts at 8.30 am on Monday 5th 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 2022-23:**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Monday 5th September    | School reopens to pupils                     |
| • Monday 26th September   | Y5/6 Open Evening 4.30-6.30pm                |
| • Tuesday 20th September  | Y7 Chromebook evening                        |
| • Tuesday 18th October    | Y7-11 Face to Face Tutor Review Day 11am-7pm |
| • Monday 1st November     | Post 16 Evening                              |
| • Tuesday 15th November   | Ex-Y11 Presentation Evening 6-7pm            |
| • Wednesday 16th November | Y11 Parents Evening 4-7pm                    |
| • Thursday 24th November  | Y7, 8, 9 & 10 Parents Evening 4.-7pm         |
| • Thursday 23rd March     | Y8 & 11 Parents Evening 4-7pm                |
| • Thursday 25th May       | Oakstanding Awards                           |



## **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 continue to allow success to blossom.

Enjoy your summer!

Yours faithfully



**Chris Eccles**  
**Headteacher**

### **Assessment Calendar 2022-23**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment Information</b>
14th October	Y11 Assessment 1 reports available
11th November	Y7 - Y10 Assessment 1 reports available
5th December	Y11 ILEs begin
9th January	Y10 ILEs begin
20th January	Y11 Assessment 2 reports available
10th February	Y10 and Y7 Assessment 2 reports available
27th February	Y8 ILEs begin
24th February	Y9 Assessment 2 reports available
17th March	Y8 Assessment 2 and Y11 assessment 3 reports available
24th April	Y7 ILEs begin
19th May	Y7 Assessment 3 reports available
5th June	Y9 ILEs begin

9th June	Y8 and10 Assessment 3 report available
7th July	Y9 Assessment 3 reports available

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

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

Uniform Policy (including PE uniform) Can be viewed at:

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