

Oakbank School



July 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Oakbank A Place to Thrive

Following our last Ofsted inspection, I wanted to launch a new approach to building a positive learning culture at Oakbank School. Unfortunately, the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic halted any plans I had and we were not able to progress as I had expected.

However, as we approach a new academic year, one which we hope has far fewer constraints, now is the time to launch the new culture and higher expectations we will have from September 2021. This new approach is based around our goal, which is to make sure Oakbank is a school in which every student can thrive. This is summed up in our mission statement:

We ensure that our students thrive, that they succeed at university, or in higher education, have great jobs and lead happy, fulfilling lives.

Our priority at Oakbank is providing the best education to all of our students, so that they are able to achieve their full potential when they leave us. As a result, we aim to have high expectations for all students in our care. We also aim to empower our students to do the right thing, make the right choices and put their learning at school as their main priority. We expect our students to aim high and fulfil these aspirations.

To help us achieve this we will be introducing **Six Learning Habits** to Oakbank students. Every student will be drilled in these habits so that they become second nature, they are:

- On Task
- No answering back
- Home Learning
- Punctuality
- Uniform
- Equipment

The attached booklet describes the learning habits in greater detail. For every student to succeed in achieving these habits we need your help and support. Working together we can make sure every Oakbank student thrives and leaves the school with the knowledge, skills and qualifications they require to thrive in adult life.

You can help us by:

- **Reading the new Oakbank Handbook and talking it through with your child/ren**
- **Making sure your child/ren have the correct uniform and equipment for September**
- **Supporting us on occasions when your child/ren may make a mistake and require correction (the handbook provides details of this)**
- **Signing the on line home school agreement**
- **Letting us know if and when things are not working from your perspective**

We will also be working very closely with the students in the first days of the term to train them in our new expectations. We will do everything we can to make sure every student is clear about what is expected of them so that they can focus on their learning and thrive at school.

As part of the Oakbank Handbook we require all parents and pupils to sign the agreement. Please can you follow the link below to complete this electronically.

<https://forms.office.com/r/uVmrJsCV29>

In the meantime we would encourage you to send us any questions that you may have about the Oakbank Handbook. Please send these to Mrs Walker, who, from September, will be our Assistant Headteacher in charge of Culture, her email address is: kwalker@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk

Start of the New Academic Year

This section of the letter will provide you all the information you need in relation to the dates beginning of the new year in September.

Start of Year Arrangements

The table below shows the start of term dates for each year group

Date	Year Group/s	Activity
Wed 01/09/21	ALL	INSET
Thu 02/09/21	ALL	INSET
Fri 03/09/21	Year 7	Fresher's Day
Mon 06/09/21	Year 7	On line learning at home
Tue 07/09/21	Year 7	Online learning at home
Wed 08/09/21	All Years – Full Return	Regular Lessons

Fresher's Days

Fresher's Days refer to the days at the start of the year in which every year group is clearly reminded of the 6 Learning Habits and of the high expectations we have of them.

We will be using the day to launch our new expectations with all students and to teach them how we wish them to behave throughout the school day, both in lessons and during breaks and lunchtimes.

Each year group will have one Fresher's Day, when they are not in school for their Fresher's Day they will be provided with online learning through Teams. The reason for this is so that students can understand how to work the systems used at Oakbank for home learning as well as allowing all year groups the opportunity to experience the cultural changes being made on their Fresher's day. During the home learning days, tutors will be available to support pupils with any technical issues.

On Friday 3rd September, pupils will be expected to arrive into school via the bottom playground gate (on Hyde End Lane) between 8am and 8:40am. A morning line up will take place at 8:40-8:50 before the plan for the day is shared with them. The canteen facilities will be open.

Home Learning

Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th will be Year 7's home learning days before all students returning in full on Wednesday 8th September. During the Fresher Day all Year 7 students will be given guidance in how to access in Teams, our online learning platform.

There will be a range of activities for them to complete during their two day online learning. Year 7 staff will be available during these days to ensure that everyone manages to access Teams and gets on line to complete their work.

We require these two days so that we can bring the other year groups of the school and provide them with all the information they require to transition to our new expectations successfully.

Covid Testing

It is likely that we will be required to test all students, using lateral flow tests, at the start of the academic year.

We have not yet been given specific guidance on this but it may be that we will ask your child to come into school before 03/09/21 to take a lateral flow test. As soon as we have detailed information of this we will let you know.

Thank you for taking your time to read the letter and to make you aware, you will also receive further information from Oakbank in before the summer. But if you do have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school via enquiries@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk and please keep an eye on the Transition page on our school website.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Bertrand

Head Teacher

Mr Lant

Head of Year 7.