

# Oakbank School



21<sup>ST</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you and your family members are all safe and well and that you are coping with lockdown and home learning as best you can. We have now fallen into a new routine and I have been extremely impressed by the resilience and determination shown by all Oakbank students as they engage with their school work. The commitment and effort being shown by all is fantastic and is a great credit to students, staff and parents alike, all of whom are going to great lengths to enable the best possible teaching and learning – thank you and well done to everybody for making it happen.

There are a few things that I would like to provide an update on.

## Online Learning

Thank you for your continued efforts in ensuring that your sons and daughters are accessing and engaging with our online provision.

Thanks also to all of you who have provided me with feedback, so far this has been overwhelmingly positive, but has highlighted one or two issues that we are now working on. Please continue sending me your thoughts and suggestions, I may not be able to respond to all the feedback but everything I receive is extremely valuable and is being used to improve and develop our practice.

## Whole School Assembly

The next assembly is tomorrow (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January) at 12:30pm. The link for the assembly is:

<https://youtu.be/kw0ad9EyQL4>

If you, or your children, have any shout outs or art work or other contributions for the assembly please send them to me at: [rbertrand@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:rbertrand@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk)

## Year 7 Parents' Evening

Year 7 Parents' Evening is this evening (Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January) If you have been unable to book appointments or have any parents' evening issues please contact Mr Maddox on [rmaddox@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:rmaddox@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk)

I have been assured by School Cloud, the company managing the online meeting service that we won't have any repetition of the problems experienced during the Year 10 parents evening! I have my fingers firmly crossed in the hope that there won't be any disruption to the evening and you will be able to meet with your children's teachers.

## Year 9 Options

The Year 9 Options process will be launched on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January with an online presentation from Mr Prendiville and Mr Smith. This will explain the time line of events and the different opportunities students have to gather information, communicate with teachers and find out all they need to make the best possible option choices.

An options booklet will also be published tomorrow. This will contain subject information and provide you with all the instructions and dates you need to complete the options process.

## Year 11 Mocks

Year 11 Mocks will begin on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January. This week Year 11 lessons have been preparing for these exams and some of their lessons have given them the opportunity to use Exams.net, which is the system we will be using to deliver their assessments. They will be having an online assembly on Friday morning taking them through the instructions for the exam, it is important they attend this so they know exactly how to manage the exams process. If you have any concerns regarding the exams please contact our exams officer Mrs Green on [agreen@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:agreen@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk)

## GCSE Exam Consultation

The Department for Education are now consulting on how this year's GCSE exams should be assessed. I would encourage all of you to respond and make sure any concerns you may have are registered. This clearly has greatest impact on Year 11 students but all future year groups will be effected as we cope with the legacy of two disrupted years of GCSE.

The consultation can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

## Student Well-Being and Mental Health

Many of you have been contacting us to ask how you can support your children as they grow increasingly anxious about their online learning. I would like to highlight this free, online webinar that focuses on just this and provides a range of strategies to help your child cope with any anxiety they may experience.

[https://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/product/how-to-support-anxious-online-learners-26th-january/?mc\\_cid=52f1993acf&mc\\_eid=e25cd4c03d](https://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/product/how-to-support-anxious-online-learners-26th-january/?mc_cid=52f1993acf&mc_eid=e25cd4c03d)

I would also encourage you to look at the following website that provides tips and advice on supporting your child's mental health:

<https://ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians/child-mental-health-10-tips-for-parents/-/pj==s>

## Finally...

Another great big thanks to you all for all you are doing to support your child's learning! Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any concerns, we will do all we can to ensure your child has the most positive and productive lock down possible.

Yours sincerely

Robin Bertrand – Head Teacher

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