

Oakbank School



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank you all for the hard work and support you have been giving to your children, helping them to access their remote learning through Teams today. I know it is an extremely challenging time for us all at the moment and the support you give your children is absolutely invaluable.

Live Learning

I have had a number of parents ask me about live lessons and our plans to introduce these as part of our remote learning offer at Oakbank. I am very keen to make sure that we can provide our students with the very best learning opportunities and we are currently working to roll out live lessons in the coming days and weeks.

It will take us a little time to get this up and running but in the meantime your children's teachers are available for question and comment during the timetabled period of the lesson. If there are any problems with the work please contact them through Teams, or via email, and they will be able to help.

Lateral Flow Testing for Covid-19

We began testing staff and those students in school today. This was a very smooth process and ensured that everybody on the school site has had a negative test.

This testing practice is crucial for our future because it will ensure that we can all return to school safely and as soon as possible. I am extremely pleased with the way it has begun and this bodes well for a successful roll out to all students on our return from lock down.

GCSE Exams

Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, has confirmed today that GCSE exams will not be taking place for Year 11 students this year. He has also said that this year, rather than using an algorithm to determine student results, that alongside a strong checking and accuracy process trust will be placed in teachers to provide student grades.

We are not quite sure what this will look like yet but it does mean, that more than ever, the work Year 11 are doing now is crucial to their future GCSE success.

This means that the **Mock GCSE Exams** that Year 11 students have been preparing for will still go ahead remotely. We are still putting plans together for this and have not yet ironed out all of the details but it is really important that all Year 11 students continue to work hard for these mock examinations.

iMedia Exam – Monday 11th January

We are still planning to go ahead with the iMedia Exam on Monday but have further enhanced our planning to ensure the health and safety of all involved. We have added a second Covid test, to be taken on Monday morning, just before the exam and we have ensured that every exam desk is at least 2m away from anybody else in the exam room, including invigilators.

We would encourage all students to take the exam but it is an individual decision, if, despite the safety measures we have put in place you are uncomfortable with taking the exam it will not affect your final outcome.

Y10 Parents Evening

Year 10 parents evening is scheduled for Thursday Jan 14th and, as it is remote activity anyway, will still be going ahead. This will provide an excellent opportunity for all Year 10 parents and students to discuss ongoing progress and current issues regarding remote learning.

If you have not yet made your online parents evening appointments I would encourage you to do so by going to: <https://oakbankschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

YouTube Headteacher Assembly

The first YouTube Assembly will take place at 2pm on Friday 8th January. The link for the assembly is:

<https://oakbankschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Support for Students

This is a very challenging time for all of us and in particular our young people. With this in mind we have set up a listening ear email address so that every Oakbank student knows they have somewhere to turn at the hardest times. Mrs Grobler, our assistant head in charge of student wellbeing, is in charge of the listening ear email and has written the following for all students:

If you are worried about anything or if you want a bit of emotional support, please feel free to use the listen@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk

It is also really important to share if you are worried about a friend that is struggling. We need to look out for each other. I am the only person who will read your email and the information will be confidential.

Please take care of yourself and reach out if you need help.

Finally...

We all find lockdown and remote learning tough. I am extremely keen on making sure it is as easy as possible for all Oakbank students to succeed and will do everything in my power to make sure this period of remote learning is as successful as it can be.

I am listening to the demands for live learning and we are acting on this. If you have any other thoughts or ideas that may make your son or daughters remote learning experience more effective please let me know, I will do everything to ensure that no student is left behind and that every student makes the best possible progress during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Robin Bertrand

Head Teacher