

19 June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Principals Update – Term 6, Week 3

The weeks really do seem to be flying by, as the end of the year is fast approaching. This week we will say farewell to our Year 11 students and it won't be long until we welcome our new Year 6 cohort to Oak. Building contractors are working hard to ensure that our decamp into A Block can happen in a timely fashion this summer, and now we have confirmation of which contractor will complete our rebuild, plans for this are now full steam ahead. I hope to be able to share some initial plans with you in the not too distant future.

Year 9 STEM Event

This week our Year 9 boys had the opportunity to attend a STEM event. More details and pictures will follow in our upcoming newsletter but was keen to share a sneak preview today. More can be found on our Facebook page.

**End of Year Exams**

End of year exams begin this week for Years 7-10. Timetables were sent previously and can be found at the following link [End of Year 2022 7-10 070622.xlsx \(oak-academy.co.uk\)](https://www.oak-academy.co.uk/End%20of%20Year%2022%207-10%20070622.xlsx)

Mobile phones

As you will remember around a year ago we changed our policy on the use of mobile phones in school. Students were told that they were only able to use them in social spaces at break and lunch. Whilst this has reduced the use of phones we do still have concerns over the amount of time students are spending on them in school and their reliance on them. We also feel that they cause too much confrontation when students are using them in a place where they are not allowed and as per the policy are asked to hand them in.

There is increasing evidence out there that mobile phone usage is having a detrimental impact on both students' academic progress and their mental health. Research released only Friday suggests that 79% of students believe that Social Media has an impact on their mental health. At school we have also seen a worrying increase in the number of concerns around the use of social media.

With this in mind, over the last month I have been talking to staff and some parents about considering a complete ban of mobile phone usage at school with the aim of reducing the amount of time students spend on their phone each day. I even visited a school on Friday where this has already been implemented. I spoke to a number of staff and students who talked of the benefits of this. I am aware that a number of schools in the area already have this in place.

Before making my final decision I do however value your opinion on this and would ask you to complete a short survey for me at the following link. <https://forms.office.com/r/YyGYvyxKDF>. Please can this be completed by Friday 24th June.

Oak Academy

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**AMBITIONS**
Academies Trust

Part of Ambitions Academies Trust

Uniform

As mentioned in my end of term newsletter we now have a new uniform supplier in place. Orders can be placed through them from 30 June. Until then you are welcome to view the site. [Oak Academy - Schools \(pbuniform-online.co.uk\)](http://OakAcademy-Schools.pbuniform-online.co.uk). On Friday we took delivery of some sizing uniform which we will hold onsite. From Monday 27th June you will be able to make an appointment with Mrs Saunders on reception to try items on for size. This includes the branded and non-branded items.



As mentioned previously, with the new supplier in place we will expect students to use the Oak logoed bag and, although not a compulsory item, if students wish to wear a black jumper this will need to be a logoed jumper. For the **purposes of PE only I have introduced an optional Oak Academy hoody**. Where an alternative is worn this will need to be plain black with no logo's.

If you have any concerns with this, please do not hesitate to contact me at hayley.richley@oak-academy.co.uk

As always many thanks for your support

Yours Sincerely,



Hayley Richley
Interim Principal

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