



Mill Chase Academy

Ambition, Courage, Excellence

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 6-Year 10

Oakmoor School Opening & Uniform Information

Oakmoor School Opening

Two weeks' ago I visited the new school site and was overwhelmed with how wonderful the new buildings are looking. Staff from our school and our trust have worked closely with Hampshire County Council architects who have designed an amazing learning space for our community. Kier Construction are bringing our plans to life with a high specification finish and thoughtful attention to the smallest of details.

Such a large scale building programme is seldom without its unforeseen challenges and delays for any construction company. Our £30million new school is no exception. In order to ensure that the buildings are as perfect as possible and to ensure a smooth move into our new buildings, we will be moving in November rather than September.

This means that we will close for half term on Friday 25 October, which is the same as all schools in our town, and begin the moving process during the half term holiday. Year 11 students only will return to school at Mill Chase Academy on Monday 4 November and follow their normal timetable with their normal teachers to ensure complete continuity of their education in their final crucial year. Staff will use the remainder of this week to complete the move and set up the new buildings, so Year 7-10 will have an additional week of holiday, during which work will be set by teachers on Show my Homework. On Monday 11 November, all students will begin their first day at Oakmoor School on our new site.

For the start of term, all students will return to Mill Chase on Thursday 5th September at 8:30.

Uniform Information

I wrote to you in March outlining the new uniform for Oakmoor School which was determined following our consultation process involving students, parents and staff.



Due to the delayed opening of the new school we will start September at Mill Chase Academy and therefore in Mill Chase uniform. Years 8-11 should wear their existing uniform and I have made special arrangements for Year 7 who will be provided with 3 unbranded blue polo shirts at no cost to wear at Mill Chase between September and October.

To minimise the uniform cost for all parents I have made the following special arrangements detailed below.



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Black school trousers or skirt with black shoes will remain the uniform for both schools. Students can wear the Mill Chase skirt when we move and until they need to replace this item with the new Oakmoor skirt, which will be the same style.

For all students (Years 7-11) a Mill Chase blazer or jumper may be worn between September and October, but this will not be compulsory. No other tops will be permissible, but coats in line with our uniform policy may be worn.

When we move, the new Oakmoor blazer will become compulsory for all year groups, which has been the case at Mill Chase.

When students start at Oakmoor they will all need the new school blazer. For Year 11, the school will buy the blazer back at full price if it remains in good condition (it does not have to be perfect) if it is handed to our school office by Thursday 25th June 2020. This means that the blazer will be zero cost if you would like to take up this offer. Please note that families eligible for and who receive a uniform grant will not be able to benefit from this as we will have already paid for the blazer, but you may return the blazer if you wish.

Students in all year groups will receive their Oakmoor school tie from the school free of charge before we leave Mill Chase. The normal price is £5.95, so if your child loses their tie they will need to buy a replacement. Students joining the school after November 2019 will need to buy their tie.

Skirts and jumpers will be available from the uniform supplier as has been the case to date. Jumpers will continue to be optional.

To keep the costs as low as possible for parents, I have negotiated a one-off price for Oakmoor School blazers to be purchased in September 2019 of £21.95 (£26.35 for larger sizes of 38"-48") which will return to the normal price of £26.95 (£38.40 for larger sizes of 38"-48") after Oakmoor School has opened. To make the process as easy as possible, the uniform supplier will visit the school in September to measure students (if required) and to take orders. The uniform supplier will deliver the new blazers during October to Mill Chase.

The only remaining items for parents/carers to purchase will be the white school shirts (long or short sleeved), which are available from the uniform supplier and from a wide range of retailers/supermarkets and are significantly cheaper than our current branded polo shirts.

Our new uniform will be a much lower overall price for parents and carers, whilst achieving the smart new look that our students requested.

I hope this update is useful and whilst there is much excitement surrounding our move with significant preparation being undertaken ahead of the move, our priority remains the welfare and education of your children.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Hemmings
Principal