

15 July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

This is my final letter to you all before beginning the next chapter in my life as a retiree; I can't quite believe that we are nearly at the end of this academic year and that I will no longer be your Headteacher; it feels very strange indeed!

I consider myself very fortunate and privileged to have worked with some amazing students and talented staff and governors throughout my 35 year career, and especially here at Upton. As many of you will be aware, the last 7 years have been truly life changing for me and you have been with me through thick and thin. I wish to say a special 'thank you' to you all for your wonderful support which has meant such a lot to me, both personally and professionally.

I know that you will be in excellent hands as your new Headteacher, Mr Lee Cummins, prepares to take up the reins from September. We have been working closely together for several months and he will be in touch in the near future.

We are also saying farewell to other colleagues this term, and I would like to thank them for their commitment to Upton and wish them all the very best as they retire or move on to pastures new:

- Miss Wendy Gordon
- Mrs Julia Lewis
- Mrs Ann Mcfadden
- Mr William Lee
- Miss Hazel Fitzharris

Arrangements for the End of Term 17/07/20

On Friday we will, as usual, be closing early for the summer holidays, **at 1pm.**

Arrangements for September

Following the video message that was sent out by the school last week, please see details of our plans (below). Whilst these plans adhere to the current government guidance and provide an overview of how the school will operate in September, **we will write to you again in the week before the start of the autumn term to confirm the arrangements.**



Bubbles

Students are going to be working predominantly in their year groups, with minimal contact in school with students from other year groups. This means that each Year Group will be located in their own block of classrooms in the school. Teachers will move between year groups, moving from classroom to classroom, allowing students to access their subject specialist teaching, minimising the movement of students around the school.

Some students, particularly those in years 10, 11 and post 16 will have access to specialist teaching rooms such as Science labs for some of their lessons. We will only be permitting one-year group into each of these areas at a time.

The blocks of classrooms for each year group are shown below.

Year Group	Block of classrooms
Year 7	C
Year 8	E
Year 9	B Maths
Year 10	A Block (week 1) Science Labs (week 2)
Year 11	Science Labs (week1) A Block (week 2)

In order to maintain the post 16 curriculum, year 12 and 13 students will have a bespoke timetable to allow them to access specialist areas and teaching at all times.

Students Accessing the Support Department

A timetable is being prepared for those students who access the Support Department and this will be communicated with the individual students upon their return.

Staggered Starts/Ends

There will be a staggered start and end of the days. This will reduce the number of students accessing the sites at particular times.

Year Group	Entrance / Exit	Start Time	Finish Time
Year Seven	Rear Gate, Sports Club Car Park	8.50am	3pm
Year Eight	North Gate, front of school nearest Glastonbury Ave	8.50am	3pm
Year Nine	South Gate, front of school nearest the canteen car park	8.50am	3pm



Learning to shape the future

Headteacher: Mrs P Dixon BA(Hons), NPQH

Year Ten	South Gate, front of school nearest the canteen car park	8.40am	3.10pm
Year Eleven	North Gate, front of school nearest Glastonbury Ave	8.40am	3.10pm
<p>Sixth Form students will be able to access and exit the site from any of the gates; they will be expected to be on the site for 8.50am and will leave at 3.10pm.</p>			

Catering

This is proving a complex issue at present and, whilst we are clear that we can keep year groups separate at these times and have appropriate indoor and outdoor access, there are still logistics in terms of providing food which we need to work through. As soon as we are able to get more clarity on this area of our provision, we will communicate this with you.

Preparedness for Learning.

During this period we will be expecting the same high standards from our students as always. 'The Upton Way' will provide a clear code of conduct which will make sure all of our students have a safe and happy return to school. It is also essential that all students bring their own equipment to school and are prepared for learning.

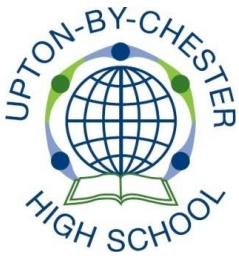
As part of our resumption of normality, we will be expecting all students to return in full uniform. We feel this is important in terms of everyone feeling part of our school community again and it is following government guidance.

Due to the current restrictions, we cannot make the water fountains in school available. It will therefore be important that students bring water with them.

Arrangements for the First Week September 3rd and 4th 2020

We are very aware that students are returning after a long period of absence. To this end, we have altered the start of term to ensure that we can spend time with each group of students ensuring that they understand the new ways of working in the school. We appreciate that this is not an ideal start to the term but do feel it is essential to support students effectively.

Year Group	Thursday 3 rd September	Friday 4 th September
Year Seven	All Attend School	All attend school
Year Eight	X side attend School	Y side attend school
Year Nine	X side attend School	Y side attend school
Year Ten	X side attend School	Y side attend school
Year Eleven	X side attend School	Y side attend school



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Post 16	All attend school	All attend school
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On both days, all year groups will be in their Tutor Groups for the first three lessons of the day and then will attend lessons in the afternoon.

Transport to and from School.

We encourage as many of you as possible to walk or cycle to school. This will reduce the need for public transport.

For those students who must catch a bus, the contract services will run as normal (eg Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford). The bus services from the City Centre to Upton are running as normal, eg the number 51. The school and local councillors are working with Stagecoach to enhance the service from Saughall to the City Centre. We anticipate all services therefore will be running as normal from September.

Please remember that face-coverings are required on all public transport.

School Office Hours

During the holidays, the school office will remain open from 8am-3.30pm Monday-Thursday, 8am-3pm Friday.

Wishing you all the very best for your continued success here at Upton High School.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Paula Dixon
Headteacher