



Parent E-Bulletin

Autumn Half Term Newsletter

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you as we approach what has been both a successful and challenging half term. I have been delighted with the mature and sensible way our learners have responded to the return to school. They have been a pleasure to be with and have demonstrated a real commitment to their own learning and wellbeing. The purpose of this letter is to update you on some information as we arrive at the end of the first half term.

Summer 2021 Examinations

I am sure that Year 11 and 13 learners and their parents will have noted last week's government announcement regarding next summer's examinations. The main points of the announcement are as follows:-

- In order to provide more teaching time, the examinations will be delayed by 3 weeks, will start on Monday 7th June and finish on Friday 2nd July. The only exception to this will be one GCSE English Language and one GCSE Mathematics paper which will take place before the May half-term, we expect this to be in the week beginning Monday 24th May.
- There are no further planned changes to the content of the examinations following the earlier changes announced in August.
- The 2021 Results Days have been put back to the final week of the summer holidays, with the Year 13 Results Day on Tuesday 24th August and the Year 11 Results Day on Friday 27th August.
- The government will now work closely with Ofqual to develop contingency measures to address any potential disruption that may be caused over the remainder of this academic year.

Our approach at Upton-by-Chester High School is to continue to prepare all learners for any external examinations and internal assessments as well as possible. The forthcoming Mock Examinations in Year 11 and Year 13 will really help us to identify the strengths and next steps for each of our learners. It is important that all learners prepare well for these assessments so we can support them effectively as we continue to move forward through the academic year.

Uniform

The standard of uniform since we have returned to school has been very good. However, I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone of the high standards we expect.

I would ask that you to pay particular attention to ensuring that on a non PE day your child wears their full uniform, including shoes that meet our uniform policy, i.e they need to be a polishable shoe, please check the website or your child's planner for examples. Also skirts need to be of knee length, can you please support us by not allowing the uniform to be accessorized with items such as fashion belts.

PE Kit

On a PE day learners should continue to come to school in school PE kit. Due to the current situation there has been agreement that all learners may wear sports leggings for their lessons for the foreseeable future.

It has always been the case that once learners are in Year 9, they have the option of purchasing Upton High School leggings from our uniform supplier, Uniformity. This is now an option for all learners from Year 7 and above. Any leggings worn must be sports leggings and not fashion leggings which can be transparent and unhygienic for fitness purposes.

Learners who do not want to wear leggings are able to wear plain tracksuit bottoms which are dark in colour.

Where learners have the Upton High School blue fleece, maroon rugby shirt or light blue polo shirt they are expected to wear this. In KS 4 a plain sweatshirt would be appropriate.

Learners are not expected to change clothes before or after PE.

Mobile Phone Policy

At Upton-by-Chester High School we have a strict no mobile phone policy in school.

As you will be aware, we have a strict mobile phone policy. Mobile phones are not allowed to be seen or used in school and must be turned off and in the learners' bags. Occasionally, a teacher may allow learners to use their phones within a lesson, as part of the planned learning. The absence of mobile phones in our school is undoubtedly having a positive impact on learning and progress. Learners are more engaged in their work, more focused on what is going on around them in the classroom, and generally happier with their school experience. Thank you for your continued support in upholding our policy.

Contacting the School

We will continue to operate the Head@uptonhigh.co.uk email address for parents to notify us of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 outside of the normal school hours. This email address will be monitored throughout the school holidays and outside of normal school hours. This has been effective in alerting us to cases and allowed us to contact parents outside of the normal school hours.

Your support in this has been much appreciated.

Face Coverings

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support in our move to ask learners to wear face coverings in all communal areas. This was in response to the raising of the COVID Alert Level in Cheshire West and Chester. I expect this measure to remain in place as we return to school after the half term. I would appreciate all learners having an approved face covering and an appropriate place to store this.

Parents' Evenings

As you will appreciate, our normal parents' evenings are not possible at this current time. However, we also recognise that supporting your child is a partnership between the school and home. Below are some of the arrangements we have in place.

For consultation evenings, we intend to operate these using either telephone appointments or online face to face meetings. We will let you know when this has been finalized and provide precise arrangements but the dates below will give an approximate time of when to expect contact with your child's teachers:

Year 7 X side: 11 March 2021

Year 7 Y side: 18 March 2021

Year8: 7 January 2021

Year 9: 4 February 2021

Year10: 1 April 2021

Year 11: 21 January 2021

For information evenings like Y8 GCSE Options and Sixth Form Open Evening, information will be provided virtually in the form of videos and Powerpoint presentations.

Reports to parents and carers

For your information, these will be sent on or around the following dates:

Year 7	15 October,	11 February,	25 May
Year8	3 December,	30 March,	20 May
Year 9	19 November,	28 January,	29 April
Year10	10 December,	25 March,	30 June
Year 11	20 October,	15 January,	18 March
Year 12	12 November,	3 March,	8 July
Year 13	26 November,	11 February,	29 April

Open Evening

Our Virtual Open Evening is available to view via the school website or directly via the address below:

<https://uptonhigh.virtualopenevening.org.uk/>

We are also currently busy developing the 6th Form Virtual Open evening which will be ready next half-term and we will be writing to you once this has been completed together with the new 6th form prospectus.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your support in the school over the last few months. Together, I think we have achieved a great deal and I look forward to continuing to work with you all to continue to navigate this period of time. I am certain that we can continue to grow as a school and a community.

I hope that you and your family have a relaxing half term and I look forward to welcoming all the learners back to school on Monday 2nd November 2020.

Yours faithfully

L Cummins
Headteacher