



14th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we enter the last week of the Autumn Term I just wanted to update you on a couple of matters before we break up for the Christmas Holidays.

Final Day of Term

The final day of term is Friday 18th December. Learners will be dismissed from school at 1.15pm following the morning session and an extended PLaN time. School transport has been arranged to accommodate the earlier finish.

Attendance in school is otherwise expected to be as normal throughout this final week of term. Obviously your child should not attend school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed that you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell and taste different to normal.

As a school community we have been able to do a great job of protecting each other and this level of vigilance will be maintained to the very last day of school.

Christmas Test and Trace arrangements

As the school is closing on Friday 18th December the head@uptonhigh.co.uk email address will continue to be monitored up until midday on Thursday 24th December 2020. You do not however need to contact school if;

- Your child has not been in school in the 48 hours prior to the symptoms on-set (or test if they have been tested but do not have symptoms)
- Your child develops symptoms or is tested without symptoms after 3pm on Sunday 20th December 2020.

In these instances, the national test and trace service will contact you to complete contact tracing.

Change to Public Health Advice

You may be aware that the Chief Medical officer has changed the guidance on self-isolation. This change comes into force today, Monday 14th December, and affects the



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self-isolation period for people already in self-isolation and any future period of isolation. From today the period of self-isolation for contacts (someone who has been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed positive case of COVID-19) will be reduced to 10 days.

Changes to the national self-isolation period for contacts of confirmed cases and people returning from countries which are not on the travel corridor list from Monday 14th December 2020

The Chief Medical Officer has announced today that following a review of the evidence the self-isolation period for contacts of confirmed cases and people returning from countries which are not on the travel corridor list will be reduced from 14 days to 10 days from 00:01am on Monday 14th December 2020. Please see link below for full announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-chief-medical-officers-statement-on-the-self-isolation-period-11-december-2020>

*When calculating isolation periods you should now use a **day 0 again** so the date of contact for education setting contacts would be day 0 and the date of the cases symptom on-set (or date of test if asymptomatic) would be day 0 for household contacts. What this means for staff and students who are currently self-isolating:*

- Any staff and pupils who will be at day 11 or more on Monday 14th December 2020 can end their isolation and return to school
- Any staff and pupils who are on day 1 to day 10 of their self-isolation on Monday 14th December 2020 will have their self-isolation period reduced to 10 days and can return to school on day 11
- Any staff and pupils identified as contacts from Monday 14th December 2020 onwards should be given a self-isolation date of 10 days from the last date of contact with the case for contacts in an education setting or 10 days from the cases symptom on-set (or date of test if asymptomatic) for household contacts.

Please note that anyone who has been asked to self-isolate via the NHS Test and Trace app will not receive an adjustment to their self-isolation period on Monday, the app will be updated on Thursday 17th December 2020. Anyone affected by this is still able to end their self-isolation period from day 11.

Returning to school in January

The school does not need to be notified if your child is requested to self-isolate during the Christmas holiday. If your child is required to isolate after the 3rd January 2021 and will not be in school on Monday 4th January please phone the absence line or email admin@uptonhigh.co.uk by the 3rd January 2021 outlining the reason why they are isolating and the date they will return.



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From the 4th January 2021 onwards the normal test and trace arrangements will apply. Parents should contact the school to notify us if their child develops symptoms of COVID-19.

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.

Next Term

Term starts at the normal time on Monday 4th January 2021. We look forward to welcoming all learners back to school at this time.

GCSE / Advanced Level Update

As you will be aware Ofqual have announced some proposed changes to GCSE for the Summer Series of examinations in 2021. This includes;

- Sharing some of the topics that will be tested in examinations in advance of the examination.
- Allowing support materials to be shared as part of the examination.



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A consultation on these proposals is now live and can be accessed by following the link below. This consultation is for school based staff and parents / carers and learners themselves. The closing date for the consultation is 20th December 2021.

As soon as the outcomes from the consultation are made public we will share the with you.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/support-materials-and-advance-information-in-2021-gcse-as-and-a-level-exams>

Important dates for next term

Monday 4 January – school reopens at usual time
Thursday 7 January - Y8 Virtual Parents' Evening
Thursday 14 January – Y8 Virtual Options Evening
Thursday 21 January – Y11 Virtual Parents' Evening
Monday 25 January – Y10 Vaccinations
Thursday 28 January – Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening
Thursday 4 February – Y9 Virtual Parents' Evening
Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February – Half Term

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support through what has been a challenging time for everyone. Your support has been fantastic and has helped keep us going through the more difficult times this term. I would also like to acknowledge publically the amazing staff team at Upton-by-Chester High School who have worked incredibly hard throughout this challenging term. I couldn't be more proud of the way the whole school community has pulled together to ensure the school mission of 'Learning to shape the future' has been maintained throughout this period of time.

Finally, I wish you and your family a safe and Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely

L. Cummins