



## Learning to shape the future

Headteacher: Mr L Cummins B.Ed (Hons), M.Ed, NPQH

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to update you on some developments within the current provision at Upton-by-Chester High School. As we started our third week of current ways of working I thought it would be a good time to share how things are going and share some future developments.

### Remote Learning

I have been really impressed with the way the vast majority of learners have continued to access their learning during the last two weeks. This does mean that staff have been able to continue to deliver the curriculum as effectively as possible during this period of time. I would like to thank you for your support, as the parent of a teenager I appreciate how much support it can take from a parent to keep home learning on track!

We will continue to refine the way we set work and monitor learners progress as time goes on and really do appreciate your feedback. As I am sure you appreciate the complexities of delivering this type of learning across almost 1700 learners does create challenges. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or Mrs. Bradbury (Assistant Headteacher) via [bradburye@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:bradburye@uptonhigh.co.uk).

This week we introduced a registration period and also a PLaN time on a Friday. Registration is from 8.40am – 8.50am and PLaN is on a Friday between 12.10pm-12.40pm. These sessions have been introduced to try and ensure that learners are ready for their learning at the start of the day and that they get some time in the week, during PLaN to link with their tutor and friends on how things are going for them.

We want to make sure that all learners are able to access their online learning effectively. If you are having any difficulties because you don't have a suitable device or internet access please do not hesitate to make contact with us via Mr. Keegan (Assistant Headteacher) [KeeganJ@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:KeeganJ@uptonhigh.co.uk) or your child's Head of Year. We have so far loaned approx. 130 devices and many routers to support internet access. Please don't struggle, we want everyone to be able to access their learning as effectively as possible.

### Mass Testing

We continue to undertake mass COVID-19 testing on site. This is currently being implemented for all staff on site and the children of critical workers and priority learners who are on site. As we still expect the DfE to want this to be in place for all learners when schools reopen we will be contacting the parents of all learners over the coming weeks with more information about this programme and consent forms. By organising this over the next couple of weeks we can organise all the administrative process in advance of learners returning to school.

### Examinations

On Friday afternoon the DfE and Ofqual (The regulator for examinations in England) produced a consultation for staff, parents and learners on the possible arrangements for the summer





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examinations. I have written today to all learners in Year 11 and 13 and those in Year 12 who expected to sit exams at the end of the year. For other interested parents / learners the link to the consultation is below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

### Critical Worker Provision

Please continue to use the [dorans@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:dorans@uptonhigh.co.uk) address for enquiries about our current on-site provision for vulnerable learners and the children of key workers.

### Free School Meal Vouchers

We will continue to issue Free School Meals vouchers as we did last week. If there are any issues in terms of your receipt of vouchers please contact the school on [admin@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@uptonhigh.co.uk).

### Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening - Thursday January 21st, 4 to 7 pm

This is an important evening as it gives you the chance to speak to teachers about your child's progress and discuss what we can do, as a team, to maximise their potential. In the recent report, you will have received predicted grades based on current progress. This is the grade we think your child would most likely have achieved had examinations taken place in the normal way. This judgement has been made using a range of evidence. We do not know how Ofqual will respond to the consultation or inform schools on how to assess learners' abilities. Currently, teachers and parents are in the same position and we await information on how to proceed. What we can control, however, is how we continue to support your child with their learning.

Appointments can be made from **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm** and will close on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 11pm**. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office.

Please visit <https://uptonhigh.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointments. Login with the following information:

Student's First Name:  
Student's Surname:  
Registration Group:

Parents of Year 11 learners will have had already been sent log-in details about this virtual event. The link is also here:

<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

The video call will link directly to your appointment schedule.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will discuss alternative arrangements.





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I hope this letter provides you with some useful updates. We will continue to communicate via the bulletin during the week and I will be in touch again as required.

I hope you and your families are well and please remember that if you need any help or support contact the school on [admin@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@uptonhigh.co.uk) and we will do everything we can to assist.

Yours sincerely

L Cummins

