



29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you at the end of the fourth week of remote learning. I hope that you and your families are well. The purpose of this letter is just to update you on the current situation and plans as we move forward.

### **Reopening of Schools**

As you will no doubt be aware the Prime Minister has made a statement to say that schools will not open before Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. We expect to be told on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February what the arrangements will be for this wider reopening. As always, as soon as we know the detail of this and the implications for learners in Upton-by-Chester High School we will communicate this with you.

### **Free School Meals**

Those of you who are entitled to Free School Meals will be aware that there have been some issues with the National Voucher Scheme. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused and have hopefully found a solution to this matter, which will have been communicated directly with you.

We have been informed by the Department for Education that the voucher scheme will not continue during the half term break. Additional support is however available via the link below

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-get-help/winter-grant-scheme.aspx>

If you require any further support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Manager.

### **Remote Learning**

We continue to deliver remote learning to all learners who are working from home. The level of engagement has been extraordinary and I am very grateful for the support you are giving to your son / daughter to make this happen. We are also incredibly proud of the resilience and effort of the learners themselves, please pass this message onto your child.

I have been keen to establish the remote learning and maintain some consistency over this period of lockdown. I do however recognise that we may need to look at making some minor changes as the period of time we are delivering this becomes more



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prolonged. This will include consideration of how we reduce screen time, I realise this is a concern for many of us.

We will communicate any changes in the coming days to address any of the concerns you have raised.

If you do have any questions regarding remote learning please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or Mrs Bradbury (Assistant Headteacher)

[bradburye@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:bradburye@uptonhigh.co.uk)

### On site provision for Critical Workers and Priority Learners.

We continue to offer onsite provision for the children of critical workers and priority learners.

Thank you all for supporting us in keeping these numbers small. We have approximately 120 learners per day on site and they are split into their year group bubbles. Learners in school are supported by staff to access their online learning. If you feel you need to access this provision please contact the school via

[dorans@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:dorans@uptonhigh.co.uk).

### Parents' Evenings

As some of you will be aware we have continued with parents' evenings during this period of time. Whilst there have been some glitches in terms of the technology we can see that overall they have been successful in allowing us to engage with yourselves and talk about the progress of your child.

Following each parents evening we have asked you to provide some feedback on the school and the experience of parents' evening. We are reviewing this feedback and will get back to you all with what we are going to do in response to this.

### General Update

I also wanted to update you on few other things that are happening in school at the moment.

- We have updated the school website. We hope this makes it easier to navigate and find the pertinent information that you need. We will be making further changes over the coming weeks to finalise this work.
- We are taking the opportunity to invest further in the school building focussing on the refurbishment of more classrooms and communal areas in the school. We know how important the learning environment is to the learners when they return to school.
- Myself and Miss Beuzit met with the school council this week. They were looking at the outcomes of a survey they had organised in school to look at the most important





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issues both locally and nationally for our learners. Homelessness was a major concern and the School Council are looking at ways we can help in this difficult time.

- Some learners took part this week in a discussion with Oxfam to answer questions from a panel regarding Global Education through their campaign champion work with Send my Friend to School. It was inspirational to listen to them.
- We are currently accepting applications for the Sixth Form and whilst we have already received a high number of applications we look forward to receiving more. The deadline for applications is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February and application forms and the online Open Evening can be accessed via the school's website

I hope this gives you a flavour of the work that is continuing to happen in the school to ensure that the learners in Upton-by-Chester High school get the support and high quality education that they deserve.

I hope that everyone has some downtime over the coming weekend and we will no doubt be back in touch next week.

Yours sincerely

L. Cummins  
Headteacher

