



## Learning to shape the future

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

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your family are keeping safe. I just wanted to write to you in what will probably be the first of a weekly communication designed to keep you up to date with any developments and make sure, that as a school community, we are able to support each other through these challenging times.

I firstly want to thank you all for your support to date. It really has been appreciated. Please keep in touch with us using the [admin@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@uptonhigh.co.uk) email address. This is monitored each day. We are also answering telephone calls via the main office as normal. Please also make use of the school website which has lots of useful information on it that will support you and your child during this period of time. The school's website address is [www.uptonhigh.co.uk](http://www.uptonhigh.co.uk)

### Critical Worker Provision

The school has started this week to deliver the provision of educational support for priority learners and those with parents who are classified as 'critical workers'. We have had a number of learners in school today, supervised by staff. This provision will be open throughout the period of 'lockdown'. If you feel your child is eligible for this provision please email [dorans@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:dorans@uptonhigh.co.uk). I must continue to emphasise that this provision should only be used if there is no safe alternative.

All parents who are registered for the provision will receive an email by 5pm on a Thursday asking you to indicate the days you require support for your child in the following week. If this could please be completed by 3pm on the Friday it will allow us to ensure we have appropriate staffing numbers in place.

Our understanding, at this point in time, is that school transport will continue to operate. As we get further clarification on this we will share this with you.

We are able to offer a hot meal provision on site this week and will inform you of the arrangements for future weeks as soon as we are aware from our providers.

### Remote Learning

As you will be aware we are using Google Classrooms to deliver our online learning. This is the same platform as during the summer and also the same tool that is used to set homework in the school.

If your child does not have access to a device please contact the school on [admin@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@uptonhigh.co.uk) and we will look to provide you with a device for the period of the current lockdown.





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We are looking to provide the highest quality learning for your child throughout this period of time and teachers are dedicated to undertaking this as well as they can. If you have any concerns at any point please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bradbury (Assistant Headteacher) via [BradburyE@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:BradburyE@uptonhigh.co.uk). Obviously with the late announcement of the lockdown and the closure of school, some teaching staff will also have childcare issues to resolve in the initial days of the delivery. Please bear with us as we get the system up to speed. Learners should check their school email and Google Classroom regularly throughout the day.

### Free School Meals

The parents / carers who are eligible for free school meals will continue to receive vouchers. If you feel that you are eligible and have not received the voucher, please contact the school via email or by telephoning the main office.

### Year 11 and Year 13

The announcement yesterday obviously indicated that examinations, in their current form, will not be taking place. We will obviously inform you of any update that we receive in the coming days.

Whilst I appreciate that this is very concerning for learners in Year 11 and Year 13 I can assure you that we will do everything we can to support learners during this period of time. My view is that the government will now explore other ways of assessing each learner's attainment and for this reason it is essential that learners remain engaged with their learning throughout this period of lock down and when we return to school.

I will be writing to Year 11 and year 13 learners separately today and I can assure you that as soon as we have more information we will contact you.

### Year Eight Parents Evening.

The Year Eight Parents' evening will continue as planned. Please find below a reminder of the information sent out to parents prior to the Christmas break.

*We would like to invite you to attend our Parents' Evening on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January. This is an important evening as it gives you the chance to speak to your child's teachers not only about their progress but also about GCSE option choices.*

*The school use an online appointment booking system. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.*

*Below is a link so you can see how the system works and what you need to do to attend the online meetings:*





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

Appointments can be made from **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm** and will close on **Tuesday 5<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:

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf.

We are trialling this system for the first time and now have an added complication that some staff will be undertaking this from home whilst others are in school. We hope the system will deliver in the way we expect it to. We will communicate with all parents via email if we experience any difficulties.

### Mass Testing

We are continuing to set up and prepare to undertake mass testing. This will be available as soon as possible for staff and learners who are accessing the school site. As soon as I have further details on this I will write to you again. As stated in my previous letter no learners or staff will be tested without the consent of parents.

Yours faithfully

L Cummins  
Headteacher

