



22 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you today to update you on the start of the new academic year at Upton-by-Chester High School. I hope that the learners in the school are enjoying a greater sense of normality as we start this new academic year. I have been very impressed with the way all of our learners have responded to the start of term. They have returned to school smartly dressed, on time and ready to learn. We thank you for your support in ensuring that this is the case.

I would particularly like to congratulate the Year Seven learners in the school who have settled in very well. We look forward to seeing them all grow and develop as learners at Upton-by-Chester High School.

We also have a record number of Sixth Formers who have joined the school from our both Year 11 and external candidates. Again, I look forward to seeing them continue to be hugely successful young people.

Current COVID Measures

I just wanted to reassure you that, whilst we have moved to more normal operations, we are maintaining a number of important measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. I would also like to assure you that I am constantly monitoring the number for cases in the school and, should it be necessary, we will take appropriate mitigating measures, as required, with Public Health. I will inform you of any such decisions as soon as possible.

To help us control the spread of COVID 19 please ensure that your child does not attend school if they are displaying any of the following symptoms.

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child has any of the above symptoms, please do not send them to school and inform the school of their absence. Learners will then need to undertake a PCR test prior to returning to school.

One of the most important measures is ensuring that everyone is undertaking two lateral flow tests (LFT) per week **until the end of September**. Should your child receive a positive result from the LFT test then they should undertake a PCR test. If your child has any of the three common symptoms of COVID, they must also have a PCR test before they return to school. This will ensure that we continue to keep our school, and extended community safe. Please keep the school informed of any positive tests via the head@uptonhigh.co.uk email address.

Covid Vaccinations

As you will be aware from the press the Government is rolling out the vaccination of 12-15 year olds. We have received the following information for circulation to parents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools>. As with all other vaccination programmes the school will provide a venue for the vaccinations and the School Aged Immunisation Service will oversee the vaccination programme. The issue of consent for vaccinations will be managed by the School Age Immunisation Service and parents. My present understanding is that the vaccinations are likely to take place after the October half-term holidays.

Engage @ Upton

We are currently relaunching our new enrichment activity programme in the school under the banner 'Engage @ Upton'. Further information on this can be found in the parent bulletin and also on the schools website

<https://www.uptonhigh.co.uk/page/?title=Engage+%40+Upton&pid=522> . We will be reviewing the programme as the term continues and look forward to seeing as many learners as possible being involved in these additional opportunities.

Open Evening

We will be hosting our first Open Evening on Thursday 23rd September 2021. The evening will run from 6pm – 8pm and is for parents of learners in Year 6. Further information is available on the school website.

The school also has a virtual open evening which parents can access on line as we appreciate not all parents will wish to attend an 'in person' event. This can be found at <https://uptonhigh.virtualopenevening.org.uk>. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Diary Dates

Please see below for some of the events that will be happening in school over the coming weeks. We will share further details with relevant parents / careers in advance of each of these evenings.

Date	Event
23 September	Open Evening
27 September 2021	MidYiS Testing for Y7
28 September	Y11 Revision and Exam Techniques
5 October	Photographs – Y7, Y9, Y11, Y12 and Y13 Virtual Careers Expo
11 October	MidYiS Testing Y8
12 October	MidYiS Testing Y9
All week	Y11 Work Experience
25 to 29 October	Half Term

Parents' Evenings

Following the success of the virtual parents' evenings last academic year and the very positive feedback we received from parents it is our intention to maintain this provision in the 2021/22 academic year.



Please see below for the planned dates of the Parents' Evening for each year group.

Year Group	Planned Date(s)
13	2 December 2021
8	9 December 2021
11	20 January 2022
9	3 February 2022
10	17 February 2022
7	X side: 10 March 2022 Y side: 17 March 2022
12	21 April 2022

Contact with School

If you do have any need to contact the school over the coming academic year please see the Head of Year and Pastoral manager names below.

Year Group	Head of Year	Pastoral Manager
Year 7	Mr S Wearden	Ms L Bardsley
Year 8	Mr J Quirk	Ms C Carter
Year 9	Mr M Jones	Ms D Bowen
Year 10	Ms L Tobias	Ms A Spooner
Year 11	Ms S Welch	Ms S Maxwell

Mr Paul Lewis is the Director of Sixth Form and Mrs Tracy Stickles is the Pastoral Manager for the Sixth Form.

Also available is the admin@uptonhigh.co.uk for general administrative enquires and head@uptonhigh.co.uk

I look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming academic year.

Yours faithfully

Mr Lee Cummins
Headteacher