



Monday 2nd September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year!

I hope that you and your families have been able to have some time to relax during the summer break. As we approach the start of the new term, I just wanted to remind you of the arrangements we have in place for learners returning to school on Wednesday 4th September 2024.

This year we are once again welcoming a record number of new learners to the school. We have over 300 learners joining us in Year 7 and over 170 new year 12's joining our Sixth Form. This means that the school has the highest number of learners in its history, for the second year! It is wonderful that so many people want to be part of our school community.

Over the summer learners achieved a fantastic set of results at both A Level and GCSE. We saw learners achieving significant individual success and demonstrating amazing progress. I will share more details of this when term starts.

During the summer, we have continued to update our learning facilities. The History area of the school has had a complete makeover. The Supportive Education department of the school has been remodelled and decorated which will provide a great environment for our learners. We are also looking forward to welcoming some learners from Dorin Park Special School who will be located on our school site full time from September. This is part of our satellite provision with Dorin Park School. I will provide further information about this in the new term.

We have also been working with our school catering provider Aspens to improve our catering offer and we will be working with our learners to get their feedback at the start of term. A link to the new menus is shown below.

<https://www.uptonhigh.co.uk/page/?title=World+Cafe&pid=485>

As I shared in my letter before the half term we also have a new website to launch. I was hoping this would be ready for the start of term however, this is not the case. I am hoping that this will be launched in the next week or two. Alongside this we will be updating the format of my weekly newsletter to parents.

At the end of the last academic year Mrs McCarthy (Deputy Headteacher) shared with you an update to our school Mission Statement and vision. Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation. We are pleased to be able to share that the proposed values have now been formally adopted by the governing board and will replace 'believe, achieve, succeed.'

New Values from Sep 24

Community: Ambition: Resilience: Diligence: Inclusion

I would like to thank members of the school council for their detailed work on this and we look forward to embarking on further work around our values in shaping our ethos.

Finally, we have continued to work with the Department for Education on the plans for the rebuilding of Upton-by-Chester High School. As many of you will be aware the DfE announced the school as one of the schools to be part of the rebuilding programme in July 2022. We have

been working hard on the plans and I am confident that we will be able to share more details with you during the Autumn term.

Start of Term Arrangements

Term starts for all learners on Wednesday 4th September 2024. Learners are expected to be on site for 8.35am and tutor time will begin at 8.40am.

Year Seven

Learners will gather in the area outside the Learning Hub (Library). Staff will be on site to direct them. Learners will then spend the first two lessons with their form tutor. This will help them to get prepared for the academic year.

Years 8,9,10,11,13

Learners can go straight to their tutor rooms and will spend the first two lessons with their tutor. This will give them time to familiarise themselves with their timetables and settle into the new academic year.

If any learners are not sure of the room they are in they will be able to find their Head of Year in the zone they use for break and lunch times and there will be signs with tutor rooms on display.

Year 12

Learners will go straight to the main school hall before joining their tutors.

Contacting School

Home/School communication is important to us at Upton-by-Chester High School. For the majority of queries, you would contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

In each year group we have a year team made up of a Head of Year and a Pastoral Support Manager. They can be contacted via email or by calling the main school number which is 01244 259 800. Their details are show below:

Year Group	Head of Year	Pastoral Support Manager	Email Contact
7	Miss H Fullwood	Mrs D Bowen	Year7@uptonhigh.co.uk
8	Mrs J Dey	Mrs A Wynne	Year8@uptonhigh.co.uk
9	Mr S Togher	Mrs S Maxwell	Year9@uptonhigh.co.uk
10	Mr S Wearden	Mrs C McLeod	Year10@uptonhigh.co.uk
11	Mr J Quirk	Miss C Carter	Year11@uptonhigh.co.uk
12	Miss R Simpson	Mrs T Stickels	Year12@uptonhigh.co.uk
13	Mr P Lewis	Mrs T Stickels	Year13@uptonhigh.co.uk

Key Dates for Autumn Term 1

Below are the key dates for the coming half term. The school calendar is currently being updated on the website to reflect these dates and the dates for the rest of the academic year.

Date	Event
Wednesday 4 th September	School re-opens to learners
Thursday 5 th September	School Photographs Individual Portraits for Year 7 and Year 12
Wednesday 11 th September	Year 12 Information Evening - Welcome to Sixth Form 5.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 11 th September	GCSE PE Video Evidence Evening



Learning to shape the future

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

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	5-6pm
Thursday 12 th September	Year 7 Information Evening Literacy, Learning and Teaching and Pastoral 5.30-6.45pm
Monday 16 th September	Year 10 Information Evening Welcome to Key Stage 4 5.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 18 th September	Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening Year 10 5-5.45pm, Year 12 6-6.45pm
Tuesday 24 th September	Year 11 Information Evening Supporting your child with revision 5.30-6.30pm
Thursday 26 th September	School Open Evening 5.30-7.30pm
Monday 30 th September	Awards Evening Storyhouse Theatre, Chester 6.30-8pm
Tuesday 1 st October	School Photographs (Year 9, Year 11 and Year 13 including group photographs for Year 11 and Year 13)
Thursday 3 rd October	Year 8 Information Evening Maximising Success 5.30-6.30pm
Tuesday 8 th October	Literacy Intervention Information Evening 4.30-5.15pm
Friday 25 th October	School closes to learners at the normal time of 3.10pm

We are looking forward to welcoming all our learners back to school.

I will write to you again later this week and update you on the first week of term.

Yours faithfully,

L Cummins
Headteacher

KLA/LCU/KMC