

22nd October 2020

Dear parents/carers

Thank you for your continued support throughout this half term. I am delighted to say that our September opening plan has worked extremely well and students have settled into our new normal COVID routines. We are looking ahead to the next half term.

Your support has been particularly welcome in remaining vigilant to the symptoms of COVID and where in doubt keeping your children at home. This has helped us to reduce the number of children we have had to send home for periods of self-isolation.

In continually adapting our practice, there will be some further changes to our systems when we return after half term.

Firstly, in line with the 'high risk' status that London has been placed in, we have been advised that all students need to wear face coverings in some circumstances. At UHS this will be:

- On arrival to school and in transit to bubble areas
- When moving around the school during the school day, e.g. to attend practical lessons
- When in some special school settings at the discretion of staff such as the library, main hall, etc.
- On leaving the school site and at bus stops in preparation for bus travel

We would like to encourage students to use reusable face coverings in conjunction with a re-sealable plastic bag. This will be used to safely store the covering between uses. If students are using disposable coverings, they will need to place them in a special bin after each use and carry a supply of replacements for use throughout the day.

Face coverings will not be worn during lessons, outside at break or lunchtimes or when students move around in their own bubble. We would ask that students wear plain or simply patterned face coverings. I am sure that you will agree that we will need to ask students to remove face coverings that are inappropriate for the school environment. A replacement will be issued.

Public Health England has produced a simple guide on how to make a face covering which you can view [here](#). I would ask that all parents and carers watch this [video](#) on how to safely wear a mask and reinforce the key points with their child. Should any children be exempt from wearing a face covering, I would be grateful if their parent/carer contacts their child's guidance leader.

Our staggered start and finish times have helped keep student bubbles apart. We will continue with these with the following amendments:

Year	Current start time	Revised start time	Current exit time	Revised exit time	Gate
7	8.15am	8.15am	2.50pm	2.50pm	3
8	8.15am	8.15am	3.05pm	3.00pm	1
9	8.40am	8.20am	3.05pm	3.10pm	7
10	8.40am	8.30am	3.20pm	3.15pm	1
11	8.25am	8.25am	3.20pm	3.20pm	3
12/13	8.25am	8.30am	Variable	Variable	7

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As we move into the next half term, we are considering how best to organise several school events including parents' evenings. Our initial plans are that these will be hosted remotely by form tutors. Appointments will be made in advance with parents to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the event and enabling us to speak with all parents. The first of these events will be on 26th November for year 7.

To allow us to reorganise staff availability and for form tutors to undertake up to 30 meetings each we will on this day release year 7 students at 1.15pm. This will allow them time to travel home and be ready to attend appointments with you. The appointments will run between 2pm and 6pm. We will provide further details directly with year 7 parents nearer to the time.

Based on this new working and your feedback we will then adapt future parents' evenings for other year groups to offer the best experience we can.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the [school status summary](#) page on our website. This will allow you to quickly review the current status of each year group bubble at any time. As we move forward, letters will be sent only to those who are directly impacted by any confirmed cases.

Yours faithfully



N B Clemens
Principal