

18th March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing this update on the morning of 18th March 2020. It is accurate at the time of writing. Further updates will be made in line with the fast moving situation.

At this time we remain open. However, we are now experiencing some staffing issues, a situation that we are continually monitoring. Along with other schools, we are facing the possibility of partial school closure. I will update parents immediately if our current position changes.

I would like to thank parents for messages of support, questions and comments sent in to the school over the last few days. I aim that these updates will respond to them and keep you updated on the school's position and the guidance that we are receiving from the Department for Education.

A number of our students and families have been advised to self-isolate. In all cases these measures are precautionary. We have not been advised that anyone in our school community has been confirmed as having contracted coronavirus. Please continue to keep the school updated through our normal absence reporting system if your son/daughter is unable to attend school.

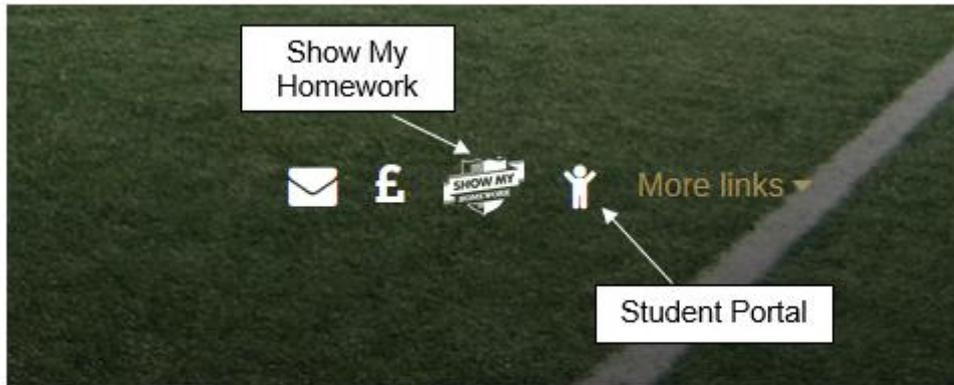
For those families that find themselves in this position, we appreciate that you and your son/daughter will be anxious about missing their school work. As I detailed in my previous update, staff have been working to ensure that school work can be accessed online. Please see the arrangements below for where online work has been posted and support your son/daughter in accessing it.

- Students should check Show My Homework in the first instance where teachers have set work: <https://uxbridgehigh.showmyhomework.co.uk/>.
- Additional resources, including revision material for Year 11, can be found on the student portal: <https://uhsorguk.sharepoint.com/sites/StudentPortal>.
- Sixth Form students can access resources and private study material through the Sixth Form portal: <https://uhsorguk.sharepoint.com/sites/UHSSixthForm>.
- If required, UHS students can download free Microsoft Office software using their school email. Instructions of how to download this software can be found here: <https://www.uhs.org.uk/page/?title=Microsoft+Office&pid=145>
- If you have difficulty accessing these services through a computer, SharePoint and ShowMyHomework can be downloaded as apps on phones or accessed through any browser on phones. Instructions for downloading/accessing Show My Homework can be found on our website at: <https://www.uhs.org.uk/page/?title=Show+My+Homework&pid=162>

For clarity, Show My Homework and the Student Portal can also be accessed directly from the school's website (www.uhs.org.uk). Please see the screenshot overleaf for the icons for both of these; they appear towards the bottom of the home screen.

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We would expect students in Years 11 and 13 to be supplementing their work with continuous and thorough revision. Additional revision guides, if required, can be bought inexpensively online from sellers such as Amazon. Please search "GCSE Revision Guides 2020" and "A Level Revision Guides 2020".

I detail below our current position on a number of wider areas.

Large gatherings and parental events

In recognition of the current situation we have decided to postpone or cancel a number of events that were scheduled to take place prior to the official Easter break.

- Year 11 intervention evening will be cancelled on Thursday 19th March. Instead we will work with students during normal school time next week.
- Year 9 parents' evening on Thursday 2nd April will be postponed until later in the academic year
- Our annual awards evening on Thursday 26th March will be postponed until the summer term

Sporting fixtures and off-site events/trips

All local trips, events and fixtures for the foreseeable future have been postponed or cancelled.

Overseas trips

We currently have one planned trip going overseas during July. We are investigating the detail of postponement or cancellation and will communicate with families as soon as we have clarity on this.

Public examinations

We have received no update from the government or JCQ at this time. We are supporting and reassuring all students preparing for public examinations that they should continue preparations. We will update as soon as we know more.

School closure

In the event that PHE (Public Health England) instruct the school to close, we will alert parents in the same way as if it was a snow day. We will email all parents and an official notice will be placed on the school website. The school website will be your 'absolute' in terms of knowing that this is an official message from the school. We will communicate about changing arrangements and re-opening in the same way.

Continuity of education for all students in light of school closure

In the event of enforced closure we will advise students as far as possible to spend time on each subject according to their normal lesson and homework timetable. Links to the work are given on page 1 of this update and are being developed by teachers on a daily basis.

Advice if your child needs to be tested/has contracted COVID-19

If, for any reason, you suspect that your child is unwell with this particular virus, you are advised to use the [111 online coronavirus service](https://www.nhs.uk/111/online-coronavirus-service) or call NHS 111, (or 999 in an emergency) to find out what to do next. People who become unwell are advised not to go to their GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. As advised by the NHS, at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-COVID-19/>, the symptoms of coronavirus are a cough; a high temperature; shortness of breath. But these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu. Further information from the DfE can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

I would also like to remind you of the details of the DfE helpline which is available to answer questions from staff, parents and students. The helpline details are as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

Advice can also be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Yours faithfully



N B Clemens
Principal