

19th March 2020

Dear parents

As you will know from the Prime Minister's announcement last night, schools will be closing for the majority of children on Monday until further notice. Although we were all expecting this, I am sure that you join all in the UHS community with shock, uncertainty and many questions. As far as I am able to, I write this morning to update you on the emerging picture as we are made aware of more detail related to the national announcement.

I have written on a number of occasions outlining the huge bank of online resources that our staff have developed. From Monday I would urge you to ensure that your son/daughter accesses these materials each day. You may find it helpful to define regular slots for your child to learn online, read fiction or non-fiction resource books, access their own internet learning through television documentaries, YouTube, etc. Having a schedule can be really helpful. You might like to adapt the example at the end of the letter that will help to build routine for your children, particularly as we expect the situation to be longer term than was earlier anticipated.

Our special consideration at this time goes particularly to our Year 11 and 13 students, many of whom are upset and confused with the announcement that their summer examinations will be cancelled. I must reassure you that we will work relentlessly to see that these students are awarded the grades that they so thoroughly deserve this summer. We expect an update from the government on this shortly. I am totally confident that however we are asked to do this our staff will be able to accurately reflect the hard work that students have put into their courses over the last two or three years. To this end we urge all Year 11 and 13 students to keep working with online work set for them as this may form part of our future assessment.

You will have heard that the government would like schools, in conjunction with their local authorities, to offer supervision for the children of key workers. In line with this offer, I would like to assess what the demand from UHS parents may be. If you feel that you fall into one of the key worker categories, which are likely to include NHS/care home workers, fire and police officers, teachers, those involved in retail delivery and manufacture of medical goods, please click [here](#) to complete the online survey. I add a little more detail at the top of the survey. It would be helpful if you could complete the survey immediately or, by the latest, 9am tomorrow morning if you feel it applies to you and you would like support.

For those parents whose children receive free school meals, the government has indicated that this support will be continued. It is unclear at this time how this will be organised but I will update parents as soon as I have further details. Similarly, we are preparing to offer additional support to families and students with more challenging circumstances. We will be contacting them separately.

Thank you all again for the numerous messages of support that we have received over recent times. They are much appreciated by all at UHS.

Finally, can I advise parents of those students still attending school that we will close at the earlier time of 2.30pm on Friday. I will be using this time to work with and prepare our staff for the work ahead.

I will update further as soon as I am able. These remain unprecedented times but I am sure that the UHS family will rise to and meet these challenges.

Yours faithfully



N B Clemens
Principal

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Supporting Materials

Ensuring that your son/daughter continues with their learning is a joint responsibility during a period of closure. The general principle is that although the site is closed, the school is 'virtually' open and learning continues.

You may like to adopt a 'routine' for your son/daughter such as those shown below.

me	Activity
8.30	Wake up, shower, get dressed
9.00	Breakfast as a family
9.30	Log on to Show My Homework and look at all my tasks
9.45	First subject learning
10.45	break
11.00	Second subject learning
12.00	Lunch
1.00	Third subject learning
2.00	break
2.15	Active reading – fiction of non-fiction
2.45	Break
3.00	Exercise - try an online exercise video!
3.30	Relax - TV / reading / games / art activity / music / podcast / spend time with family
5.30	Dinner
6.00	Family time
6.30	Teenage time - TV / phone / games / art activity / music / podcast
8-10pm	Get to bed at a reasonable time!

We expect that students will:

1. Continue to engage with learning during the period of closure
2. Access Show My Homework every day where they will be given work and instructions for their learning
3. Access Show My Homework to find the resources they need for learning or follow instructions from their teachers about where to find resources; this could include the student portal.
4. Submit work via Show My Homework or wherever directed to their teachers
5. In the event a student forgets their password to log into Show My Homework or other services provided by the school they should email ictsupport@uhs.org.uk
6. Be aware that the school's Behaviour Policy exists beyond the jurisdiction of the school site and are reminded to ensure that they communicate with teachers in an appropriate manner.

We ask that parents:

1. Encourage and support students. The guidance will help to ensure learning can take place remotely whilst the school site is closed.
2. Encourage their children to have a fixed period of study during the day in which they check their email and Show My Homework for work and then complete it.
3. Make sure that their children have a quiet place to study, free of distractions.
4. Let the school know if they do not have the facilities at home to enable virtual learning.
5. Be mindful that communication between student and teacher will only ever happen between UHS email accounts and on Show My Homework.
6. Be aware that teachers and students will not be engaging in any technology assisted face to face tuition.
7. In the event your child becomes unwell and therefore unable to complete the daily work set on Show My Homework you should email attendance@uhs.org.uk who will inform their teachers.

Email and contact details for key members of staff, including curriculum leaders, can be found on our website: <https://www.uhs.org.uk/page/?title=Key+Staff&pid=62>