

3rd April 2020

Dear parents/carers

Today is the day that we would normally have broken up for the Easter break. Under these unusual circumstances we are all continuing to face the challenges of day to day life. It is important that we all maintain a daily structure, particularly for your son/daughter.

To support you, we have asked staff to provide a greater variety of activities that might interest your son/daughter. These build on some of the suggestions given previously. At the end of this letter, you will find some more useful links to activities that all members of the family can get involved in. This week your son/daughter will also have received an email from one of our staff offering reassurance and support. Please check that they got this and encourage them to reply. Staff will contact you if they have not done so.

The vast majority of students are now accessing online work which is pleasing. We can see what students have done by looking at Show My Homework, Hegarty Maths, Microsoft Teams, etc. In following up on the feedback that we have had from families, staff are tidying up the online work to make this less confusing. We have asked our teachers to create a dated folder on the student portal for each week. This will keep the required resources in a central place. They will make clear the expected learning and provide straightforward instructions. They will include audio/video files to make the learning more interactive. Simple testing will also be introduced so we know what learning has taken place. We have also asked staff to increase the use of rewards and character credits through Show My Homework. Please ask your son/daughter to share these with you when rewarded.

In response to your concerns about sticking to a rigid daily timetable for your son/daughter, we are recommending a few different things after Easter. These include suggesting that students work towards weekly targets in particular subjects. This replaces a rigid timetable and allows more flexibility for you at home. We are also planning some video messages from staff and developing pre-recorded video lessons. Staff are currently working on lessons to fit this flexible structure. Here is the suggested structure:

Students in Years 7 – 9 should aim to achieve 15 – 20 hours of learning per week:

3 hours of English/maths/science;
2 hours of humanities, including religious education and modern foreign languages;
2 hours of PE or exercise;
2 hours of creative subjects;
1 hour of design and technology, citizenship and PSHE

Students in Year 10 should aim for 18 – 22 learning hours per week:

3 hours of English/maths/science;
3 hours of each option subject;
2 hours of PE and/or exercise
1 hour of religious education/citizenship/PSHE

Students in Year 12 should aim for 25 learning hours per week:

5 hours per A-level or Level 3 subject;
1 hour of citizenship/MOOC;
3 hours of private study per subject, including reading

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For students in Years 11 and 13

Today we received information on examination grading arrangements. You will hear about this on newscasts over the next few days. I include a link to a letter to students below that I would appreciate you sharing with your son/daughter. We promise our students that we will look at this very carefully. Our overriding aim will be to ensure that they all receive the grades that they deserve. Although the letter indicates that they should not complete any more work that will count towards examinations, they should continue to undertake the work that is being set by staff. This work is designed to help them finish courses in readiness for the next level of their education in the sixth form or at university. Here is the link to the letter to students:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

We recommend that you check your son/daughter's online activity regularly to help to keep them safe. Please take time to review the UHS online guidance here:

<http://www.uhs.org.uk/page/?title=E%2DSafety&pid=67>

Another excellent resource 'Think you know' is here <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>.

You may also have heard about the Houseparty app which has become popular over recent weeks. Please check this site for information about the app:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/2019/12/24/what-is-the-houseparty-app-what-parents-need-to-know/>.

Those families who receive extra support with free school meals will notice a change to the system after Easter. The value of the electronic vouchers will increase slightly. There will also be a choice in which supermarket they can be used in. Our finance team will be writing to you with more details.

Our families continue to reassure us that they have suitable arrangements to keep their children safe. I continue to say though that if any of the families that we initially contacted, or those of key workers, have changed circumstances and you are not able to safely care for your children, then please contact us. In conjunction with Hillingdon Local Authority we can advise on support alternatives.

If you need to contact us, although our telephone switchboard is not always staffed, voicemails are being continuously monitored remotely during normal opening hours. When calling please leave your name, the nature of your enquiry and a return contact number. Or please feel free to email the school on office@uhs.org.uk. This account is also monitored remotely. We will endeavour to respond where needed as quickly as we can. Please also do tell us if your email, phone number or any personal details change so that we can keep our records up to date.

Can I thank you all again for your calls and emails, many of which have and continue to shape what we are trying to do. This feedback is valuable and appreciated. I encourage all parents to continue to do this and to follow our Twitter accounts. Although these are quieter than usual, we are aiming to keep them up to date for your information: @uhsprincipal, @uhs_VAPA, @UHSPE and @uxbridgehighsch.

If you have any interesting photographs or examples of work or activities that your son/daughter is doing, please email these to office@uhs.org.uk. We will feed these back to staff and possibly include them on our Twitter feed.

I wish you a happy Easter and best wishes in keeping your family safe. I plan to update parents next on Friday 24th April, unless there are significant and important developments in the current situation during the Easter period.

Yours faithfully



N B Clemens
Principal

Some links and broadcasts to help you.

9.00am - PE with Joe Wicks https://youtu.be/6v-a_dpwhro

10.00am - Maths with Carol Vorderman www.themathsfactor.com

11.00am - English with David Walliams <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

12.00pm - Lunch (cooking with Jamie Oliver)
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=eJLA2RIZNq4&list=PLcpoB2VESJme7ISxXEcXyVtFPsMI78IcL>

1.00pm - Music with Myleene Klass
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrixYBn6jFXsXQ>

1.30pm - Dance with Darcey Bussell <https://twitter.com/diversedance>

2.00pm - History with Dan Snow (free for 30-days) <https://tv.historyhit.com/signup/package>

4.00pm - Home Economics with Theo Michaels (Mon/Wed/Fri)
<https://www.instagram.com/theocooks>

Non-daily events include:

Science with Professor Brian Cox, Robin Ince & Guests

<https://cosmicshambles.com/stayathome/upcoming-schedule>