

27th April 2020

Dear parents/carers

It has been a while since my last update to parents. I hope over Easter that you were able as best as possible to enjoy a break. I do hope that you and your family remain well.

We were all hoping over this period to hear some news about returning to school. However, it remains unclear when this will be and it seems that it is unlikely that it will be soon. For this reason we are now planning to support your son/daughter for the half term ahead. As soon as the Department for Education tells us that it is safe to open school we are ready to do so.

Our students continue to access online work with interest and enthusiasm. I would like to congratulate them for their hard work. I know a number have kept this up over the Easter period.

Now in the second week of the summer term all students should be fully into a routine of completing set work. I will reiterate the point made in my last update that your son/daughter should not feel overwhelmed by the work. We know that there is far more work than can be completed. As long as they are working for three or four hours a day, they will continue to progress with their studies. Below is the more detailed breakdown from my letter of 3rd April. All classes are now working through Microsoft Teams. I urge parents to look at this platform with their son/daughter to see how it is working.

There are many examples of impressive engagements from students. For example, to celebrate World Earth Day, students through geography took part in the National Youth Climate Summit. Fifteen students from Years 8 and 9 participated online. They asked questions about single-use plastic, what governments can do and how local action can have a big impact on global issues. The geography club will be working with these ideas to develop our UHS eco-actions in 2020-2021. We are extremely excited to have been part of this event!

Teachers are also now preparing pre-recorded and live lessons which are proving popular. It is important that clear rules of behaviour are followed during these lessons; teachers will explain them when online. House teams are also preparing online assemblies. I know that these will help provide greater and welcome contact with staff.

You will also be aware that there are new resources available via BBC Bitesize and the Oak National Academy. Teachers will be advising when these programmes and exercises match our curriculum plans and will be useful.

BBC - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

PiXL - <https://pixl.huddle.net/workspace/20737335/files/#/folder/49351983/list>

The National Academy - <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

Class teachers and tutors have also increased their direct contact with students. They are regularly emailing and, where appropriate, speaking on the phone. **It is essential that you check that you son/daughter is responding each time to these contacts. This will reduce the need for follow-up calls to you from our house teams.**

I would like to particularly reassure again our Year 11 families. Teachers are working hard now to prepare centre assessed grade information to tight deadlines. This data will ensure that exam grades in the summer will be a fair representation of what your son/daughter would have achieved had he/she sat normal examinations. We are also now preparing transition work for the majority of Year 11 students who will be remaining at UHS in our sixth form next year. More information on this will follow.

Principal: Nigel Clemens BSc, MA

The Greenway, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2PR t: 01895 234060 f: 01895 256738 e: office@uhs.org.uk w: www.uhs.org.uk

Our careers and independent advice specialist is planning to trial offering telephone support to students. This will start this week with Year 12 students. Initially we will be calling parents to seek your consent.

The Jack Petchey's Community Programme aims to give young people helping those less fortunate a well-deserved 'thank you'. You can nominate someone for:

- Befriending a lonely or isolated person on the phone, including the elderly
- Supporting a parent who is a key worker
- Providing support to somebody in the community

Winners will receive £50 from the Jack Petchey Foundation. It would be great to celebrate the support I know our students are giving across Hillingdon. To nominate please go to: <https://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk/opportunities/jack-petcheys-community-nominations/>

Our families continue to reassure us that they have suitable arrangements to keep their children safe. If any 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 let us know straight away.

If you need to contact us, voicemails are being monitored 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. We will endeavour to respond where needed as quickly as we can. Please also tell us if your email, phone number or any personal details have changed so that we can keep our records up to date.

I will next write to you on Thursday 7th May unless there are significant changes to the current situation.

Yours faithfully



N B Clemens
Principal

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