

11th May 2020

Dear parents/carers

I hope you and your family have had a pleasant bank holiday weekend.

I am sure you listened with interest to the Prime Minister's announcement last night. He mentioned for the first time the possibility of partial school reopening. His statement that some key groups of secondary students would be able to 'see their teachers in some way' before the summer was positive news. If conditions are met we will receive more detail from the Department for Education in daily briefings.

Meanwhile, we continue to plan and deliver our curriculum as best we can. Thank you for your understanding as we are modifying and refining online work and contact with your son/daughter. We hope that changes make things more efficient and engaging for both staff and students. The changes are based on feedback from yourselves and staff.

Can I please ask that, above all else, your son/daughter responds to weekly communication from his/her tutor. Attendance at the weekly online tutor time through Microsoft Teams is by far the best way to do this. Any student unable to attend must message their tutor weekly. Where this does not happen, senior staff will phone parents. Where contact is not regular or lost, we are working with the London Borough of Hillingdon's Social Services to follow up.

Students enjoyed our first series of 'live lessons' last week and we are planning more for the weeks ahead. Following this link will take you to the upcoming timetable of live lessons: <https://www.uhs.org.uk/page/?title=Live+Learning+Programme&pid=260>

We have briefed students on some basic 'musts' which are important when attending 'live lessons'. In summary, students must:

- Log on to the lesson 2 minutes before the start time, with the best WiFi signal possible. Tablets, mobiles and laptops should be charged and they should have paper or an exercise book and pen ready
- Dress in normal clothing (no pyjamas)
- Sit in an appropriate room where parents can go in and out. If possible, there should be a blank wall behind them
- Listen to the teacher during the lesson
- Wear headphones if they are in a room with other members of the family and set microphones to mute
- Use chat, cameras and microphones sensibly
- Follow class rules for asking questions

I look forward to hearing feedback on live lessons this week.

I am delighted that we are now offering house assemblies. These are popular with students who appreciate seeing and hearing from staff they know well. The assemblies contain themes and special messages from staff, house captains and prefects. Each assembly also announces students of the week. These awards are given in recognition for online work and character credits received. There are also exciting competitions for students to take part in. All students who are recognised or win competitions will receive prizes in the post. The most recent house assembly is here: <https://uhsorguk.sharepoint.com/sites/StudentPortal>. Your son/daughter will need to log in so that you can view this.

This week we have developed a special 'learning assembly' that takes students step by step through all the stages in accessing online work. I urge parents also to watch this:

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<https://uhsorguk.sharepoint.com/sites/StudentPortal>. Again, your son/daughter will need to log in so that you can view.

Please take time to look at the developed Covid-19 page on the school website: <https://www.uhs.org.uk/page/?title=COVID%2D19+Latest&pid=257>. This contains all previous parental updates, links to the student portal, live learning programmes, information for Years 11 and 13, extra sixth form resources and safeguarding information. The useful link to StarLine gives parents access to educational advice and help with home learning from a variety of experts.

We are posting articles and pictures on our Twitter accounts and we urge you to follow the school accounts: @UxbridgeHighSch; @UHSPincipal; @UHSPE; @UHS_VAPA.

Our families continue to reassure us that they have suitable arrangements to keep their children safe. If any that we 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.

Yours faithfully



N B Clemens
Principal

Congratulations to the following recent student prize winners:

Student of the week 29/04/2020: Farhin (Y10 York); Molly (Y9 Tudor); Yasmin (Y10 Lancaster); Luckshayan (Y7 Windsor); Aryan (Y10 Stuart)

Student of the week 01/05/2020: Aakifah (Y9 York); Dylan (Y7 Tudor); Aleesha (Y10 Lancaster); Rohan (Y11 Windsor); Ayesha (Y8 Stuart)

Competition winners of the week 01/05/2020: Jake (Y7); Nehaa (Y8); Jessica (Y9); Farhan (Y10); Stanley (Y11)

Identity

(A poem by Kanicia, winner of a poetry competition organised by the English department)

What is identity? Who am I?
I am me. Brown, tall, curly hair
I stand strong and show I care
I love my family and my friends
I am me! I am 12 years old, UHS is where I attend
Being happy and being me
Is important and how it should be
Identity is about who you are
BE YOU AND I'LL BE ME!