

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear parents/carers

Again, my apologies for another short notice letter reflecting what was announced in the national media on 30<sup>th</sup> December. Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, has updated the expectations of schools about when and how they re-open in January in support of the national campaign against COVID-19.

All secondary schools have been asked to further extend the staggered start to the spring term. In addition, it has been confirmed that schools have been asked to host testing of students and staff for COVID-19 using the new fast-acting lateral flow tests.

At Uxbridge High School this means that for exam group students in **years 11 and 13** learning will begin with remote lessons on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Students in these year groups should remain at home and should log on to Microsoft Teams at 10.50am on the 5<sup>th</sup> for registration with their form tutor. Online lessons will begin with period 3 and will then follow the normal timetable. Students in both year groups will return to school for face-to-face teaching on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

An exception to this will be for those **students who are scheduled to sit vocational examinations** in January. These will run as published in students' timetables. Students should arrive in plenty of time for their exam and report to the Lancaster reception. Strict social distancing precautions will be in place. If you are in any doubt, please contact the school.

We will provide on-site education for our more **vulnerable children and children of key workers** from the start of term. Staff from our Flexible Learning Centre will be in contact directly with some families on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to invite students to school from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. If you are a critical key worker and are unable to source care for your child during this first part of term, please contact the school office ([office@uhs.org.uk](mailto:office@uhs.org.uk)) to book a supervised study space. We will confirm arrangements back to you by email.

**Students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** will remain at home for an extra two weeks and return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January at normal times. Remote learning for these groups will commence on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Students should log on to Microsoft Teams at 8.40am to remotely attend registration with their tutors. Tutors will explain the process of remote learning which will follow our normal school timetable. Please confirm to your son/daughter that they will be expected to attend registration and five lessons for the full school day.

We are currently scheduled for **all students** to return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This date may be subject to national change depending on the national COVID picture.

Meanwhile we will be working to set up a rapid flow testing centre. The set up will include the collection of parental consent forms for all our students. When we have more details on this a further communication with parents will be sent and will include the consent form. Once up and running the aim is that we will roll out regular testing to the whole school community. This in turn will hopefully reduce the future need for self-isolation periods for staff and students where infection occurs.

Principal: Nigel Clemens BSc, MA

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During periods of remote learning and on return to school, all students must continue to follow the rules set out for tier 4. This particularly includes those related to mixing with other households when they are not in school and when they are travelling to and from school. As students return in phases to on-site education, they will resume our **COVID protocols**, including regular handwashing/sanitisation, wearing face coverings and strict observation of our social distancing protocols. Please do feel free to contact the school during this staggered start-up period if you need further clarification. I will update parents in the case of further changes.

While these arrangements are challenging for us all, may I wish you all a happy new year and hope that the brighter news on the horizon will bring an end to disruption and a return to normality for us all.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N B Clemens', written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

**N B Clemens**  
**Principal**