

15th March 2021

Dear parents/carers

It has been a pleasure to welcome our students and staff back to the school site this week. Thank you for supporting the arrangements for our staggered return which I am delighted to say has run seamlessly. The exemplary conduct of students and their willingness to engage in our safe protocols has been central to the success of our site re-opening.

At the time of writing, we will have conducted over 2000 lateral flow tests in school. Thank you to all parents for their support in getting their children tested on site over the past week. In line with expectations, we have had no positive results from testing at this point. Students being tested will undertake their third test on site on Tuesday (Years 11, 12 and 13), Wednesday (Years 9 and 10) and Thursday (Years 7 and 8).

On completion of the third test students will be given home testing kits to bring home. There will be total of six tests to cover three weeks. These tests are very similar to those undertaken at school and students should undertake them twice a week with the help of parents, preferably on Monday and Thursday mornings before school. In order to comply with the DfE and NHS requirements, we ask that test results are logged on the NHS site (details are provided within the testing packs) and also ask that you complete our [online form](#) to report results back to the school on a weekly basis, whether positive, negative or void.

If a positive result is received, then a confirmatory PCR test should be booked [online](#) or by calling 119. Whilst waiting for the PCR result, the student and all members of the household are required to self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, then the isolation ends and the student can return to school. Void tests should be repeated. If you run out of tests due to a void test, please contact Mrs King in Student Services.

The tests provided should only be used by students. Parents who wish for other members of the household to be tested can arrange to collect test packs from a [local test site](#) or by requesting them [online](#).

We are all aware that the virus is still prevalent and that students and staff may become infected at any time. In the unfortunate circumstance that this happens we will, as we did in the autumn, contact families of students who have been in 'close contact' with positive cases to inform them of the need to self-isolate.

As term develops, we are reminding students of the autumn term COVID precautions. Students remain in bubbles, have split lunches in dedicated areas and arrive/leave in sequence. A reminder that our arrival times are:

Year 7 – 8.15am	Year 10 – 8.30am
Year 8 – 8.15am	Year 11 – 8.25am
Year 9 – 8.20am	Year 12/13 – 8.30am

As an additional COVID precaution all staff and students have been asked to wear masks, including while in lessons. Again, although we are all finding this challenging, the school has risen to the request. We look forward to the promised review of mask wearing by the government at Easter that hopefully will remove this requirement.

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

Given that we are trying to maximise face-to-face teaching we will change slightly our normal early dismissal at the end of term. Lessons on Wednesday 31st March will run as normal for the greater part of the day. We will finish with tutor time and normal dismissal times with students leaving at:

Year 7 – 2.50pm	Year 10 – 3.15pm
Year 8 – 3.00pm	Year 11 – 3.20pm
Year 9 – 3.10pm	Year 12/13 – Variable

As we optimistically look ahead to the summer term and gradual lifting of restrictions we will constantly review our priorities. Extra-curricular activities will increase and it is possible that by late in the summer term events such as trips, assemblies, parents' evenings, etc. may start to resume in the normal format. We will watch and plan carefully as the next few weeks unfold.

As this happens there will naturally be an increase in our social media traffic and I would urge you to keep abreast of our Twitter and website updates. Our Twitter accounts are @UxbridgeHighSch, @UHSPincipal, @UHS_VAPA, @DT_UHS and @UHSPE.

If your family circumstances have changed, you may now be eligible for free school meals. If you haven't done so already, please complete this [application](#) for free school meals. Once completed, even if you are not currently eligible, the system would notify us if you do become eligible in the future. Also, if eligible, this will attract additional funding in the form of pupil premium for the school to support your children. If your child is in the sixth form, please also enquire with the sixth form team about the sixth form bursary that may be able to support their studies.

Support, including vouchers, will continue to be provided by the council during the school holidays through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#). The council will contact all eligible parents, but if you have any queries please contact the council on 01895 558200 or wintergrant@hillingdon.gov.uk

As always, if any parents have concerns and questions, please feel free to contact school year teams and guidance staff.

Year	Year Leader	Email Address	House Leader	Email address
7	Mr Sharda	ssharda@uhs.org.uk	Mrs Herbert	sherbert@uhs.org.uk
8	Mr Toma	ytoma@uhs.org.uk	Mrs Herbert	sherbert@uhs.org.uk
9	Mr Janar	mjanar@uhs.org.uk	Miss Watson	gwatson@uhs.org.uk
10	Mr Smith	csmith@uhs.org.uk	Mrs Fisher	nfisher@uhs.org.uk
11	Mr Wolf	twolf@uhs.org.uk	Mrs Fisher	nfisher@uhs.org.uk
12 & 13	Mr Churchill Miss Mangat	jchurchill1@uhs.org.uk amangat1@uhs.org.uk	Mrs Le-Gall	alegall@uhs.org.uk

I hope that this will be my last update of this nature and that my next communication will be our summer newsletter.

Yours faithfully



N B Clemens
Principal