

29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear parents/carers

I am writing to you with my final update of this term. Our return to the school site has gone very smoothly. I would once again like to extend my thanks to staff, students and our families who have been so supportive over this challenging period. You will be interested to know that we conducted over 3500 COVID tests during the first eight days of school, all of which were negative.

### **Home testing**

Students must continue testing twice a week at home throughout the Easter holidays. We will be sending extra home kits to use during the break; they will be distributed by form tutors on or before the last day of term.

In order to comply with the DfE and NHS requirements, we ask that test results are logged on the [GOV.UK test results site](#) (details are also 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.

The tests provided by the school should only be used by UHS students. If parents require additional tests or your son/daughter was unable to collect them from their form tutor, you can arrange to collect test packs from a [local test site](#) or request them [online](#). Parents who wish for other members of the household to be tested can also arrange to collect or order test kits in these ways.

### **Test and trace**

We will continue to support NHS Test and Trace and would ask that you email [office@uhs.org.uk](mailto:office@uhs.org.uk) if your son/daughter tests positive for COVID-19 up until Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Please include your child's name, date when symptoms started, date of confirmed COVID-19 test result and the date they were last in school. We will then inform other parents by email if your son/daughter has been a 'close contact' and is required to self-isolate. For clarity, if your child tests positive for COVID-19 having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted in this case. Please follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. If your son/daughter tests positive after 6<sup>th</sup> April, you should contact Test and Trace in the usual way.

### **Face coverings**

It is possible that as COVID restrictions are eased over the Easter period that the need to wear face coverings in school may be relaxed in some circumstances. We will advise students in school when we return if this is the case.

### **Letter from the Secretary of State for Education**

Parents may like to read, and share with their son/daughter, a letter to all students across the country from the Secretary of State for Education. The letter can be accessed [here](#).

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### **End and start of term**

In order to maximise in school teaching time, the last day of term will be a full day. Students will leave at slightly different dismissal times on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. These are:

Year 7 – 3.10pm	Year 10 – 2.40pm
Year 8 – 3.00pm	Year 11 – 2.30pm
Year 9 – 2.50pm	Year 12/13 – 1.15pm

Year 11 and 13 will then return at their usual times on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April (Year 11 at 8.25am; Year 13 at 8.30am). This is an additional day to support with end of course gradings. Students will attend normal lessons for most of the day with assessments beginning after lunch. A separate and more detailed letter containing more information will be sent to Year 11 parents.

All other students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will return to school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at their normal times. A reminder that the 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

### **A new school year and uniform**

I am delighted to report that planning for a more normal school year ahead is now underway. Our Year 7 places for next September have now been offered and, as usual, are heavily over-subscribed. Additionally, our Year 11 students have overwhelmingly expressed a desire to remain with us for their post-16 studies. Again, places are now being offered and confirmed, subject to end of year final gradings.

As part of our planning for next September we are undertaking a consultation in relation to our school uniform. I would be very grateful if you would complete a short survey at <https://tinyurl.com/2wsmk58c> immediately but no later than Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Finally, may I wish you a restful and healthy break over the Easter period.

Yours faithfully



**N B Clemens**  
Principal