



ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Springfield Road, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0EB

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Headteacher: Mr Matthew Hardwick B.A. (Hons), N.P.Q.H.

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs Susan Hewson B.A. (Hons), N.P.Q.H., Mrs Alessandra Desbottes M.A. (Oxon)

Our Ref:

MHa/SSI

An exceptional school at the heart of the community

10th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Well, we are nearly at the end of 2020, and all things considered it's not been a year I will remember with too much affection. However, even though we have faced the odd challenge this year, this school and this community are always at their best in times of adversity. I am really proud of all the individuals who make up our community and I am proud of the parents who have rolled up their sleeves and got on with life and home education (who would have thought that we would be dredging up maths knowledge from thirty years ago?). I am proud of our dedicated staff who have gone above and beyond to teach effectively, but constrained by the safety restraints. The attendance of the staff in this school has been much higher than in most other schools across the country, which has enabled us to continue to deliver a full curriculum when many schools have been forced to run a rota system. However, I am most impressed with your children. They have done everything we have asked, they have followed the safety systems, they have worn their masks, they have behaved calmly and maturely and they have engaged with their learning. When they have been taught online they have participated and thrived. Remember that much of the joy of attending a school, particularly UVHS has been absent, no extra-curricular activities, no performances, no trips and no competitive sports. They cannot even wander the site at will. They have borne all this with a stoicism that many who do not work with young people believe is lacking from the modern child. You should be as proud of them as I am.

I hope we can detect a light at the end of the tunnel, that the vaccine will allow some return to normality. I hope we can return to a more normal curriculum sooner rather than later, whilst retaining the safety measures and that more activities will be available, but for now we must battle on to ensure the achievement of our students.

We now have all our year group 'bubbles' back in school and thankfully we haven't had any positive tests amongst our school community for a few weeks. With the Christmas holidays approaching we continue to emphasise our key safety messages every day and hope that we don't have any more cases before everyone enjoys a well-earned break.

The very first thing we were told to do back in March was to wash our hands and this remains the most important step to control the spread of the virus. Students still wash their hands and use hand sanitiser when they arrive at school and frequently during the day. The one way system remains in place and we insist on masks in all indoor public places, although unfortunately a number of students do arrive each day without one. I am sure you will join us in reinforcing these important safety measures when you talk to your children at home and ensure that they come to school every day with a mask.

School will remain open until the end of term on Friday 18th December. If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they and their siblings must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. You may have seen the DfE's announcement that schools should have an 'INSET' day on Friday 18th December. We consider that this is unfair on parents who will have to arrange child care at short notice given the small positives it would bring, I think I can cope with being contactable on Christmas Eve. However, we were already



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in discussion with school transport to end school at 12.35 pm instead of 1.50 pm, on Friday 18th in line with other schools as we felt that this would allow us to teach in the morning, but remove the lunchtime social contact which would mean that any case in a year group would affect the whole year group. There will be 'grab-a-bags' available for students who normally receive a school meal. If your child requires a 'grab-a-bag' please email catering@uvhs.uk by 10.00 am on Thursday 17th December. The buses will pick the students up at 12.35 pm and students will be released in time to catch the 12.42 pm train.

All that remains is for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and hope for a less interesting New Year. Thank you, again, for all your support, it is this which has made it possible to get through this year as well as we have.

Look after you and yours over the holidays.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hardwick
Headteacher

