



# ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Springfield Road, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0EB

Telephone: 01229 483900

Web: www.uvhs.uk E-mail: uvhs@uvhs.uk

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/AJH

*An exceptional school at the heart of the community*

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware the government has made announcements yesterday re the delayed and staggered reopening of schools next week. The tone of this letter remains unchanged from the one I sent to you on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, but please read carefully as there are some significant changes. The government has announced that:

- Only vulnerable children and children of key workers to be in school from the week of 4<sup>th</sup> January,
- Have Year 11 and 13 in school during the second week back.
- Arrange to offer testing for all children, starting with vulnerable children and Years 11 and 13.
- Provide remote education for other children during the first week of term.

Whilst testing is clearly a very positive way of controlling the spread, this particular test is only effective when done in a very well planned and regulated manner. Therefore, we will need time to plan, recruit staff, obtain consent from parents and again physically rearrange the school. The timing of the government announcement is therefore not exactly ideal. Like always at UVHS we strive to do things in the best interests of our school community, therefore we have made the following decisions after much angst.

1. We introduce testing as soon as is practicable, safe and effective.
2. The government has suggested that we convert the first day back after Christmas, the 4<sup>th</sup> January, to an INSET day to enable planning to take place. We believe that this is necessary as much of the work we will have to do in preparation cannot be done with the country closed for Christmas. **Therefore, the school will be closed to all children on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, including vulnerable children and those of key workers.**
3. **From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**, we will be open for:
  - a. Vulnerable students who require childcare. I have attached the criteria for this at the end of this letter and there will be an online form to complete in the same way as in the summer term.
  - b. Children of Key Workers.  
The link to request childcare is:  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HiLfe0d0jEqu0l2FaH5XWvdQcK-WyChNpyvF-P0npyBUMDVTWdJmME1QSTRaMkhOSTQ3WEJYVlIVUy4u>
4. **From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January**, we will be open for Year 11 and 13.
5. **All students will return on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**, obviously subject to any further government intervention.
6. **All year groups will be taught online**, through Microsoft Teams, from **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January and they return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.
7. We will ask parents to complete a consent form if they wish their child to take part in the tests with another covering letter in the New Year.
8. **Mock exams for Y13** will now take place from **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January** and for **Y11** will take place from **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February**.



# ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Springfield Road, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0EB

Telephone: 01229 483900

Web: [www.uvhs.uk](http://www.uvhs.uk) E-mail: [uvhs@uvhs.uk](mailto:uvhs@uvhs.uk)

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:

*An exceptional school at the heart of the community*

Next week we will plan, taking advantage of all available support to implement the government's testing programme and I will write to you next week with further details. Please contact us through the usual routes with any queries, but please be aware we are still reacting to the government's announcements,

**Mr M Hardwick**  
**Headteacher**

## Appendix

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
- other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health