



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/CPI

An exceptional school at the heart of the community

20th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to thank all of you who contributed to our parental questionnaire on remote learning.

We know nothing can replace the experience of being in the classroom with a teacher and fellow students. However, we were delighted by your responses and the support you have shown to the school. Over 400 parents responded and gave an overwhelming endorsement to our efforts. There were also many constructive suggestions as to how we can improve, and we will give serious consideration to all of these. Unfortunately, we may not be able to respond individually due to the volume of ideas but please be reassured they will all be given serious attention.

Nothing is perfect and we are trying to do our best to maintain a high level of education for our students. It is important that we also look after the health of our students and teachers so that they can both perform at their best. From our parental survey a number of points raised by parents indicate that we need to refine our practice. These issues are:

- Students are spending too much time using screens.
- The amount of written work being produced is higher than usual and consequently feedback from teachers is being received more slowly.
- Due to the nature of online learning, it is much harder to give feedback during a lesson.
- Students are then spending more time completing work set during lessons outside lessons in addition to homework.

As you will appreciate, given the amount of time students have already missed it is necessary to maximise the effectiveness of what we do. Therefore, we are going to change the way we deliver lessons to years 7 to 11 from Monday 25th January. Lesson times remain the same. However, lessons will change in terms of the way they are organised for years 7 to 11:

60 minutes	Online interactive live lesson as is happening now
10 minutes	The teacher remains online to answer any questions
30 minutes	Students are released to complete any work they need to do following the lesson, offline where possible / have time away from the screen.

Additionally, you feel that your children particularly the younger ones, are overloaded with homework. To this end, from Monday 25th January, we will be suspending homework for years 7, 8 and 9 until the February half term and replacing it with a 'UVHS KS3 Learning Through Enrichment' programme which will encourage students to focus on their physical, social and emotional wellbeing. Our staff are now developing this platform and you will be contacted with more details later this week.

The vast majority of you tell us that we have greatly improved our online provision since the first lockdown; we are very pleased to hear this. Some of you feel you need more guidance on how Teams works, downloading documents, etc. We have a dedicated webpage with links to advice on using Microsoft Teams - <https://www.uvhs.uk/microsoft-teams>. The page also has instructions for



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students to install their own copy of Office 365, covered by the school license, so they can edit documents and view PowerPoints at home in their own time.

Parents of year 7 and 8 asked when they will be able to have feedback on their child's progress in school. We are hosting a virtual parents' evening for year 9 this week and this will be followed by other year groups later this term. The parents' evenings are conducted online by video link and parents can make appointments to speak to each subject teacher.

- Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening – Tues 2nd and Thurs 4th February
- Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening – Tues 16th and Thurs 18th March

May we again thank you for your support and for all the positive comments. In what has been a difficult time for all of us it is extremely uplifting to hear your kind words.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hardwick
Headteacher

Mrs A Desbottes
Deputy Headteacher

