



# ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Springfield Road, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0EB

Telephone: 01229 483900

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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/AJH

*An exceptional school at the heart of the community*

15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach another Christmas, in the midst of the continuing national crisis, it is difficult to lift my head up from the day to day long enough to look at the world as a whole. As we are again enduring a wave of a new COVID variant, my optimism at the start of the year would seem to have been ill judged. We are again turning the school into a test centre in January, which means another staggered start. Our children have become inured to testing and COVID restrictions, their steadfast response to each new small imposition has been exceptional. However, I feel that my optimism at the start of this year was not totally misplaced.

Although this term has at times seemed everlasting, with the Government's little challenges (vaccinations, testing and restrictions) there has been a change. The school is beginning to feel normal, with lessons and achievement much more like the UVHS we are so proud of. It's about normality, not just with the removal of such things as bubbles, but with expectations in lessons. It is easy to forget what normal is like, and the teachers have worked hard this term to bring the experience of children in the classroom back to where it should be. It is the small things like Science experiments and Music lessons that make the experience meaningful for all. Outside the classroom, we are beginning to have sporting fixtures and a full programme of extracurricular activities are available to all.

However, it was the Christmas Fayre that brought home to me the magic that has been missing from the school over the past year as we have delivered the curriculum, but not the extras. It is strange how something so ordinary can be so important; happy children, having fun, the world as it should be. The generosity of our community with the Christmas hampers for the food bank was heart-warming and brought back some cheer, particularly having lost the important part of our traditional Christmas with the cancellation of the Christmas concert driving Mr Butler into the virtual world. We have been able to do a few small Christmas treats and the atmosphere in the school is warm and there is something of the usual excitement in the air, not normal but better.

Who knows what next year will bring; I've stopped trying to be Nostradamus and instead just hope for the best and plan for the worst. I hope that we will have Prize Giving for last year's Years 11 and 13. I hope that the exam series will be normal in the summer, and I hope that the trips and activities which make your children's education at UVHS so memorable will increase over the next two terms. You will of course understand that we must plan for every eventuality caused by the on-going pandemic.



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At times this year has seemed interminable, at others it seems only yesterday that we were planning for the return to school in January with the first round of Lateral Flow Tests. But yet so much has happened. As a school we have come through this most interesting of years better than we could possibly have imagined; the result of UVHS being a school with wonderful children, supportive parents, dedicated staff and an exceptional supportive community.

Thank you to everyone who has enabled us to not only survive but to prosper, so Merry Christmas to you all and with meaning far beyond the second part of the usual couplet, a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

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

