

Our Ref: AGA/CHO

19 March 2020



TO: ALL PARENTS

Dear Parents

RE: CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – SCHOOL CLOSURE TO MOST PUPILS

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers, as defined by the Cabinet Office (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. Please let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories by clicking on this [link](#) and completing the form.

We will require your up to date mobile number, how many child places you need, the names and year groups of your child/children, your job title, employer and I'd be grateful if you could provide evidence of your employment. Could you please get this information to us by 12 noon tomorrow at the latest (Friday 20 March). Could you also please confirm that you are the sole 'key worker' of your child – places will not be available to those students who can be looked after by a non-key worker partner.

The school will be in touch with those we consider to be most vulnerable to offer a place. We do not anticipate that this group will be large. The whole reason for closing schools is to ensure social distancing.

Please be aware that if you are a key worker and your daughter is of an age to be left unsupervised at home, then you will not be in need of this arrangement and it is likely that people will be advised to self isolate as much as possible. It is anticipated that under this arrangement, should your daughter be coming to school, this will be supervised self learning and will not be taught lessons.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and I will let you know when this is by email.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

Over the course of the past week, we have been doing the following to plan to set up remote learning:

- Setting up Google classrooms
- Making sure that pupils can access their email accounts
- Discussion with pupils their access to the internet
- Adding work to the VLE
- Investigating the resources available on line that can be recommended to pupils
- Pulling together reading lists – please follow Upton Hall Library Twitter Feed

Upton Hall School FCJ

Upton, Wirral, Merseyside CH49 6LJ

Telephone: 0151 677 7696 Fax: 0151 677 6868 email: uhs@uptonhall.org

www.uptonhallschool.co.uk

Headmistress: Mrs Andrea Gaunt BSc (Hons) NPQH

We have no idea how long these school closures will last and we would ask that you would encourage your daughters to structure their day in order to complete the work. This is an unprecedented situation and it is unrealistic to think that the education provided by this method will be as good as it would be if pupils were in school. We will, however, do our best to limit the impact. One of the things that we pride ourselves on at Upton is that our pupils have teachers that are experts. They could never be replaced by computers but they will do their best. What I am confident of is that when this situation ends and pupils return to school, I would not want any other staff than Upton staff to help the pupils to catch up with what they have lost.

I have been talking to Heads of Year about how you will contact them if you have any questions. This can be done via the year group email accounts as usual. The Heads of Year will be checking them regularly.

Ms Murphy is currently putting together some further information on remote teaching and this will be emailed out tomorrow.

I am very conscious that we have a number of very vulnerable children in school. If you have any serious safeguarding concerns, you can email safeguarding@uptonhall.org. This email address will connect you with Mrs Griffiths, our designated safeguarding lead.

Yesterday's announcement also included the disappointing news that GCSE and A level exams will not take place in May and June. It is highly unlikely that any exams will take place at all. As a parent of a Year 11 pupil and as a Headteacher, I know how upsetting this is for pupils and Sixth Form students.

Tomorrow morning, we will be holding a special assembly for Year 11 pupils. After this, at 10.30, they will be allowed to go home from school early in the same way as they would have under normal circumstances, as a treat.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

We have already been in touch with you about a number of events which we will not be able to go ahead with. These include:

- Duke of Edinburgh's Awards
- Parents and Friends events
- School trips

This is as much as we know, right now, and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please do not hesitate to do so via uhs@uptonhall.org. And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Gaunt
HEADMISTRESS

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