

Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

Once again, thank you very much for your ongoing co-operation and support in what has been incredibly challenging times for all. We are very grateful to those families who have contacted us with encouragement and positive feedback - this means a considerable amount to the staff in our schools.

We wanted to provide a brief update on where we are currently.

Exams (Year 11 and Year 13)

On Friday 20th March the Government announced that GCSE and A' level exams would be cancelled in 2020 to enable schools to focus on supporting children who will remain in school and to provide certainty for pupils, parents and teachers regarding the sitting of exams. Further guidance on the cancellation of exams was also provided on Friday 20th March. This has raised many questions, which the Government have sought to answer here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>).

Ofqual, the exams regulator, are now working with exam boards, teachers' representatives and universities to finalise the process by which grades will be awarded. As a school, we await further guidance from Ofqual and therefore are not able to make any decisions regarding how grades are awarded.

We appreciate that this is a challenging and uncertain time for you and your child. When further guidance is made available to schools, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will communicate how grades will be awarded for your child. **Until then, could I please request that you do not contact your child's teachers regarding GCSE or A' Level grading.**

Free School Meals

We have been in contact with local supermarkets regarding voucher schemes and have registered with Tesco's who are providing an e-voucher service. This provision should be in place over the next few days. Those families in receipt of Free School Meals will be contacted directly regarding this service.

However, we fully appreciate that in the current climate families will be experiencing changing circumstances and possibly hardship, and would urge any family in that situation to contact the school at office@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk so that the school can provide whatever assistance it can.

Supporting your child's learning

As you will have seen, the school has provided a raft of activities that your child can complete at home to continue their learning and there are a multitude of different charities and companies providing online learning and access to materials free of charge. We recommend that students follow their timetable to ensure they study a broad range of subjects and engage in super curricular activities, wherever possible.

Childcare provision

In the letter sent on Friday, the Government's guidance is that **if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be**. We currently have a childcare provision running from Foxborough Primary School and Trevelyan Middle School for those who are vulnerable and for those whose parents are key workers (Upton Court Grammar School is currently closed). We appreciate that your family's individual circumstances may change. If you are not currently using this provision but need to in the future (e.g. taking on employment in one of the identified key worker roles), then please contact the school at office@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk.

In line with the Government guidance, we would like to reiterate the need for social distancing to minimise the spread of COVID-19. Please ensure all unnecessary journeys and contact are minimised and that hygiene practices are adhered to.

We will endeavour to keep in contact with you throughout this situation. If you need to contact the school, please use the following email address: office@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk. We aim to respond within 48 hours but please be patient as we continue to respond to this situation.

Yours faithfully,



M. Pritchard
Headteacher