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31st December 2020

Dear Parent/carer

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have been able to enjoy a peaceful and restful Christmas.

Following the Government announcement yesterday, I am now able to update you on the return to school for pupils.

On **Monday January 4th 2021** the school will be open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers as previously stated. There are planned national exams which will still take place in the first weeks of term and it is expected that pupils in Years 12 and 13 should attend lessons as instructed by course leaders and subject teachers. Your child will be contacted by their subject teacher about their need to attend and must be careful to check their email regularly for updates. If your child is in one of these year groups, and you are unsure if they have a scheduled exam, please contact your child's subject leader or the school's examination officer: <u>Stephanie.haynes@uah.org.uk</u> Year 11 pupils will take their Construction exam as planned on Thursday January 7th. Mr Elsom has kindly agreed to provide an additional revision session at 8am, prior to the exam starting and will be in contact with his students at the start of the week.

All pupils in Year 11, Year 12 (one year course) and Year 13 will return to school on **Monday January 11th**. All other pupils in Years 7-10 and Year 12 will be expected to return to school on **Monday January 18th**.

The timings and structures of the day will remain unchanged. We ask that pupils access the site through the usual year group routes arranged since the start of the pandemic. We have been in contact with school transport and can confirm that this is expected to run as normal.

If your child has access to free school meals the school will be in touch with you regarding vouchers for the period that your child is asked to remain at home.

Lessons for all other pupils will be live-streamed via Microsoft Teams and supported through planned work on the school's VLE, Lesson Board. Training on how to access Microsoft Teams can be found on the school website in the tab for Parents. All pupils have a copy of their timetable for these lessons in their planner and they will access two or three streamed lessons each day. This can also be found on the school website.

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It is important that pupils check their school emails for communication from their teachers and that all notes are recorded neatly in order that they can be placed in exercise books. It is anticipated that the summer exams for GCSEs and A Levels will go ahead. It is therefore important that Year 11 and Year 13 access all their learning and show the same dedication as they have towards their mock examinations.

As you are aware, schools are expected to carry out lateral flow testing on pupils following their return to school. Plans for this will be implemented from January 4th, when we expect the testing kits to start arriving in school, and training to be made available to staff. This will be a new challenge for schools and the pupils.

I should like to thank you for your messages of support over the last few months. These have been warmly received and, by continuing to work together in this way, we will be able to meet the challenges of the next few weeks and months.

In the very near future, we will be requesting consent from you for your children to be tested. It will be most helpful if you can complete this as quickly as possible, as soon as arrangements are in place. We will, of course, keep you updated with regard to any further developments through emails, text and information on the school website, as soon as we are made aware by the relevant authorities.

I should like to take the opportunity to remind parents/carers of the need for pupils to attend in the correct uniform, including school shoes (not trainers) and for pupils to arrive at school with a face covering that must be worn in communal areas at all times.

Finally, I should like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely

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Miss S Paige Principal

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