

6 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Return in September

As our school year ends I wanted to thank you for your continued support and to share with you some updates and key information.

Thursday 21st of July will be our last day and we will close at 12:30 pm. We have ensured that our normal bus service will be available to transport students home. Food and refreshments will also be available from 11.10 am on the day. Students will then return to school on Monday 5th September and will be expected to be on the school premises no later than 8:45 am in full school uniform, equipped and ready to learn.

After six years as Headteacher at Up Holland High School, I remain as determined as ever to deliver on our pledge to be Dedicated to Excellence in all that we do. Working collectively and having that shared ambition with parents enables us to provide the students with the very best educational experience possible. The parental workshops that we have launched and hosted this year are already shaping some of the decisions that we make and informing parents with key information. We will continue to increase our level of consultation in September and encourage parents to attend.

We recognise that the development of the 'whole child' is an integral part of our work and that we have a moral obligation to provide more than just GCSE results. We want the students to achieve both fantastic outcomes and to develop their interpersonal skills so that they are confidently prepared for life beyond school, ready to contribute to their local communities and the wider world. At the heart of this ethos, we will continue to promote our core skills and values of leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication as we see them as fundamentally important for students as they move forward into further education or employment.

Staffing update

The school's increased popularity and growth in numbers have allowed me to recruit some additional high-quality appointments throughout the year and for September, strengthening the teaching and leadership across the school.

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miss R Coupe | Science Teacher |
| Mr C Farrell | PEPA Teacher |
| Mrs S Halsey | Progress Leader - English |
| Miss S Whitelock-Wainwright | Geography Teacher |
| Miss M Martinez Lopez | MFL Teacher |

The following staff have left or will be leaving this year. We thank them for their years of service at the school.

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|---------------|-----------------------|
| Mr C Phillips | Teaching Assistant |
| Mr R Langdon | ICT Network Manager |
| Mr C Ryan | Progress Leader - MFL |
| Mrs C Farren | MFL/Transition |
| Mrs M Lord | English Teacher |
| Mrs J Corner | Geography Teacher |

Building update

Work has already started on improving the facilities for September. This commitment will be ongoing over the next few years so that we are able to create a learning environment that the students deserve and are proud of. Work for this year includes:

- Additional gender-neutral toilets to complement the existing single-gender options
- New toilets within PE changing rooms
- New Conference facility utilising more readily the exam hall space which will support parental events and training for staff
- Additional meeting space to facilitate work with agencies and parents
- Carpeting and decoration across the school
- Improved signage to help students and visitors to navigate the site
- Disabled access via the turning circle with an intercom system installed
- More sheltered areas created for students

- Investment in additional technology
- Additional changing facility to support the growth of Performing Arts.

School Uniform

Please note that we expect all students to return in full school uniform including shoes, please see the website for a list. Our providers Slaters and AC Sports also have a full list of uniform required. We do have some preloved uniform that is available in school if you contact the main office.

If ears are to be pierced we recommend doing this at the beginning of the summer holidays as piercings are not allowed in school.

Behaviour

As we return into September we will very much be returning to those high expectations in respect of behaviour and attitude to learning. We thank you for your support in working with school on this as we appreciate that we are stronger together. We have added an appendix to our revised behaviour policy to provide a summary overview of behaviour and expectations within school, please see the website for further details.

Attendance

In September attendance will become again one of our focuses in school, particularly with the new attendance guidance coming into effect. There is a national drive to ensure that students attend as much as possible with the rationale that schools are best placed to serve the needs of young people from an academic and social perspective. Schools will therefore alongside parents be accountable for absence in school and we need to continue working together to reduce the number of lost days.

School Partnerships

You may be aware that we already work closely with a number of schools within our locality in order to improve the provision and the quality of education for Up Holland students. This work involves schools from Lancashire, St Helens, and Wigan as we make the most of our geographic position that borders three authorities. Following the release of the Government White Paper for Education specifically, the drive for all schools to be part of an Academy Trust we have been formalising more of this work in recent times,

sharing good practice and working more closely as we consider the best way forward for Up Holland High School.

Once we return in September it is my intention to meet with parents to discuss and consult on what we consider to be the most appropriate options for school, ensuring that at the heart of any decision that it is one that will improve the experience for Up Holland students and the community we serve. Further details will follow.

If there are any questions you have over the summer period please contact school via the Contact Us page on the website or the Communication Gateway on the Parent Portal as these will be responded to quicker.

I wish you all well for a happy and healthy summer, confident that the forthcoming year will see school improve still further.

Yours sincerely

Mr Scarborough
Headteacher

