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Newsletter from the Interim Head of School

No:2

Dear Parents and carers

I hope the half term went well and everyone enjoyed the break.

Term 2.2

As I mentioned in my last Newsletter - the next few months in the lives of everyone at the school are very important and I just wanted to keep in touch and advise you all of where we are up to as a school and changes to come.

In just my third week at UCS I wanted you all to know that I have not changed my initial opinion that the young people here are a highly impressive set of individuals, who, I am very clear, can thrive. I am equally clear that we must all find ways to work together on common goals and expectations in a partnership focused on the understanding that our students can and must succeed.

Culture of Respect

Already, this week I have noticed the signs and impact of raising our expectations for students. One example of this has been the hugely improved standard of uniform since starting the new half term. This is a huge credit to all parents and carers for ensuring that our young people have arrived at UCS looking very smart, professional and starting to understand the pride involved in being prepared for learning.

Wherever I see our students making the extra effort to ensure uniform is spot on I will say so positively to encourage them and make them know that they represent the 'culture' of respect that we all want to see at the core of UCS. To all parents and carers a **huge** thank you from your Interim head of School for supporting us with uniform standards.

Parental Events

Following on from the first Parental Forum event held at school before Half term we have held a Year 11 Parental Study Support Evening on Thursday this week. The aim here has been to provide practical revision and study strategies to help Year 11 students meet the challenges of external examinations. Again, many thanks for everyone's attendance and support. I have attached the presentation notes from the evening for anyone who could not attend.



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As we agreed at the Forum I would like to offer an increased range of times and dates for parents to meet again to share our thoughts, concerns and where we deserve to - celebrate our successes. Please find the dates below:

Dates for your calendar:

10th March - Year 11 and 13 Mock Results Day

23rd March - Year 11 & Year 13 parents evening 5-7pm

28th March - Parent Forum 2. 6-7:30pm

31st March - End of Term - Easter

17th April - INSET day for staff

19th April - Online Safety Evening 5.30-7pm

26th April - Year 9 Parents Evening 4-7pm

1st May - Bank Holiday

3rd May - Year 8 Parents Evening 4-7pm

8th May - Bank Holiday King Charles III Coronation

10th May - Study Skills Engagement Evening for Years 10-12 5.30-7pm

24th May - Parent Forum 3. 6-7:30pm

26th May - School Closes for Half Term

5th June - School Reopens

11th July - Parent Forum 4. 6-7:30pm

20th July - School Closes for Summer



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As I mentioned previously, I am offering a regular drop-in opportunity for parents to come into school and talk with me about any individual needs. This will be on Friday afternoons from 2:00-4:00pm - no appointment is necessary and will continue from 10th March onwards.

Thank you for all the time taken by parents who have contacted me already – it has been an excellent opportunity to get to know you and begin the school improvement journey.

National Teacher Strike Days

We are aware that there will be a further National Teachers' Strike Days planned for the 15th and 16th March. The school will endeavour to review the situation regularly and inform parents of arrangements when it becomes possible to do so. Please refer to the UCS website and Parentmail for updates.

Change at UCS

As I have mentioned previously there is a need for positive change at UCS. Where we have begun the process of raising expectations I have seen our students rise to the challenge.

However, there is much to be done.

The work of the school in revising and strengthening its approaches to behaviour, safeguarding, personal development, curriculum and professional standards has begun.

I will endeavour to keep you all in touch with these necessary changes on a weekly basis.

I will be making clear to all students in daily assemblies what is expected of them and how best to take advantage of the opportunities we collaboratively create for them.

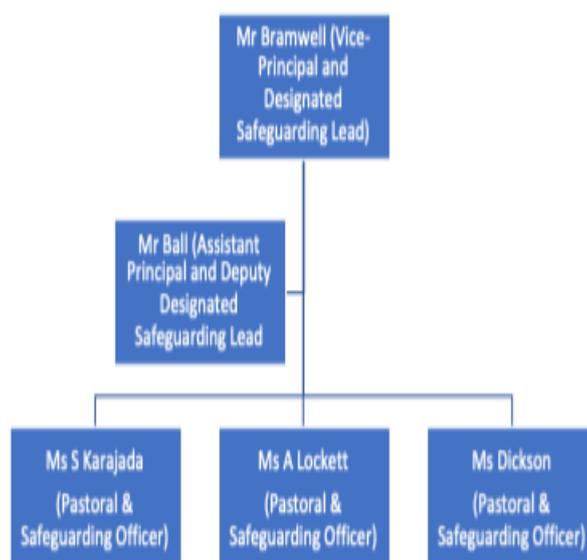
Again, I would seek your full support in the challenge we as staff must, with care and consideration, give to students over the weeks to come.



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Safeguarding Contacts

The school has revised its safeguarding contacts, see website for full details:



If you are not comfortable raising a concern in person, then you can do so anonymously via the SHARP system which is on the front page of our website.



Report using The SHARP system

I look forward to seeing all our young people become their best and to continue working with our school community positively for their benefit.

Best wishes

David Terry
Interim Head of School
3.03.23