



# ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Springfield Road, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0EB

Telephone: 01229 483900

Web: [www.uvhs.uk](http://www.uvhs.uk) E-mail: [uvhs@uvhs.uk](mailto:uvhs@uvhs.uk)

Headteacher: Mr Matthew Hardwick BA (Hons), N.P.Q.H.

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Muldoon BA (Hons)

Our Ref: CBc/EBu

*An exceptional school at the heart of the community*

17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

When I last wrote to you, I spoke about our culture of Feeling Safe in School at UVHS and our constant ambition to improve.

This week we are launching our latest Feeling Safe in School survey for the pupils. Pupils will have the opportunity to share their voice on what UVHS is doing well but also where we can improve. In my assemblies prior to Christmas, when I last spoke to the students on this, I reiterated that pupils should tell us what they think, not what they think we want to hear.

As part of our growing safeguarding culture, we will also be launching Feeling Safe in School parental and staff surveys in the coming weeks. I will let you know when the parents' survey is live on the UVHS website and encourage you to complete it.

A key part of safeguarding culture is attendance, and I truly believe the safest place for UVHS children during the school day is in their classroom, with their class teacher. If you have concerns about your child's attendance, please get in contact with your child's Head of Year to discuss the issue.

The Government are also concerned about attendance and have begun to put more emphasis on the responsibility of parents, carers and school. In August 2024 the Government guidance on attendance was updated so that schools are now required to report absences directly to the local authority. I believe there are two main points for parents and carers to be aware of on this.

The first is regarding the arrival times of pupils to school. Every school across the country must have the registers open for exactly 30 minutes in the morning. The UVHS registers open at 8.50am and close at 9.20am. If a child arrives at school after the registers shut, then that child's attendance for the morning session of school does not count towards their attendance. If your child is persistently late to school, this will be classified as not attending school in the morning when reported through to the local authority. The local authority may take the decision to fine parents based on this data. On this point, I encourage all parents and carers to ensure their child(ren) arrive at UVHS before 8.50am.

The second point is that all schools must report holiday absence directly to the local authority. If a child reaches 10 missed registrations (cumulative) due to holiday absence (there are 2 registrations a day; morning and afternoon) then the local authority will now automatically issue a fine. When a fine is issued, there will be a fine for each parent of the child separately. The fine will increase every time it is triggered. If a pupil is missing from school without notification of holiday but UVHS has reason to believe your child is absent due to holiday, then we must classify the absence as holiday when reporting our data. If you have concerns or questions about this then I encourage you to contact our local authority, Westmorland and Furness, directly via this [link](#). Finally, should you need to request leave of absence for your child, please use the UVHS [Leave of Absence link](#).

To help UVHS parents and carers understand and track their child's attendance, UVHS is going to launch automated emails reporting attendance data through on a Friday. If you do not wish to receive these emails, please let the main office know and we are happy to remove you from the list.



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Thank you for taking the time to read the information above, we are excited about the next stage in the journey for the pupils at UVHS and a positive experience in 2025.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Buckley

**Assistant Headteacher: Student Welfare (Designated Safeguarding Lead)**

