



ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Springfield Road, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0EB

Telephone: 01229 483900

Web: www.uvhs.uk E-mail: uvhs@uvhs.uk

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

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Muldoon BA (Hons)

Our Ref: MHa/CJa Every child is valued, supported and empowered to achieve their unique potential.

16th December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you at the end of what feels like a very long term. This term has been one where we have embedded much change, notably developed teaching & learning and behaviour management routines, which are steadily moving the school in the direction we want it to go. The most notable event of the term being OFSTED's visit, the outcome of which you can read and judge for yourselves, but to us it underlined that we are on the right direction of travel.

However, much of this term we have had to deal with the more everyday, inclement weather and staff absence which has had an impact on day-to-day teaching. We have worked hard behind the scenes to replace staff who will be absent for some time or are leaving at Christmas. As you are probably aware, recruitment of teachers, particularly for areas where generally there are nationwide shortages, is challenging. This is even more difficult when replacement teachers are only required for a short period of time. However, as I write this, we will have specialist teachers, of a high quality, in all areas of the curriculum next term, including Maths, Science and Computer Science, which have been most affected this term.

As you are aware the school continues to develop. Therefore, we are making some changes to how we support students during their free time and the accessibility of the site at the beginning and end of the school day.

Breaktime and lunchtime

Firstly, we are making some minor changes to student lunch times. The timing of student lunches is not changing but, to maximise the time students have, we are no longer asking students to return their bags to their form rooms before going for lunch.

Students access the dining room during break while in possession of their bags, so this will just be an extension of this. Additionally, to improve the supervision of students, they will now be allocated to warm, communal dry areas. Year 7 will be allowed to remain in the dining rooms after they have eaten, Year 8 will use the Cloister and Year 9 the Hall.

During break times KS3 students (Years 7, 8 and 9) will continue to access the large dining room for break and lunch and will have full access to the Cloister and Hall as warm, dry spaces with plenty of seating - in addition to the main canteen seating area which will remain open throughout these times. They will no longer return to form rooms.

For KS4 students (Years 10 & 11), they will continue to have access to their form rooms. This is a privilege, as they are our role models for positive behaviour and we will be increasing supervision of these areas. These students will use the small dining room and then can return to form rooms. Year 11 will still be permitted to take their lunch off site, while their conduct allows.



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6th form students will not be impacted by these changes; other than they should leave the Cloister for the main school children at break and lunch.

Arrival at school

Secondly, we have been reviewing our school site opening times to ensure the highest level of safety and supervision for our students. As a result of this review, we have made the decision to make some minor changes to the time at which students can access school grounds. From Wednesday 7th January students will only be able to enter school grounds from 8:10am. This applies to the pedestrian entrances on both Springfield Road and Victoria Road. For 6th form students they will continue to use the gate by the Coach House.

This does not affect the timings of the school day in any way.

Can I please take this opportunity to remind you that even outside of school students continue to represent UVHS whilst wearing our uniform. As such, we must work together to ensure that they are always safe and positive contributors to the community both during and after school hours.

Term Dates

For your information, please see the term dates for this academic year:

Autumn Term	
School start date for Y7 students <u>only</u>	Wednesday 3 September 2025
School start date for Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11 and Y13	Thursday 4 September 2025
School start date for Y12	Friday 5 September 2025
Half term:	Monday 27 - Friday 31 October 2025
School end date:	Friday 19 December 2025
Spring Term	
School start date:	Wednesday 7 January 2026
Half term:	Monday 16 - Friday 20 February 2026
School end date:	Friday 27 March 2026
Summer Term	
School start date:	Monday 13 April 2026
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 4 May 2026
Half term:	Monday 25 - Friday 29 May 2026
School end date:	Friday 17 July 2026



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Group Changes

From the beginning of January Year 7 will no longer go to all of their lessons in their form group, only some of them (Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, PE and DT). For the other subjects they have been split up within their year-half but will still be in mixed ability groups. We do this with all KS3 groupings in order to give alternative mixes of personality within the working week. Your child's timetable could well look a little different next month in terms of rooming and teacher. The new timetables are available on Edulink; please ensure you switch the week to January to view these changes.

Year 11 compulsory IT courses will end at Christmas, with students receiving an additional English lesson in the run up to exams. To ensure the classes have their usual English teacher there may also be some changes to personal development lessons that run parallel on the timetable.

As you can see, quite a lot of change, but all important as we continue to move the school forward and make sure that all our children thrive.

Thank you for all your support over the past term.

I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and with hopes for a happy, healthy and successful 2026.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Hardwick
Headteacher UVHS