Parent Information Booklet 2025-26 Year 8

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Welcome from Head of Year 8
Mr Hall

Dear Parents,
Welcome to this information booklet designed to equip you with key information relevant to help you support your child for what Year 8 brings. It is vital that we work together as a partnership so that our students can be best prepared and feel supported and I look forward to being able to do this with you.
Our year group vision is below, and I thank you all in anticipation of us working collaboratively to bring out the best of Year 8.

In Year 8, we build on the foundation of last year by challenging students to take ownership of our skills and accountability, while continuing to grow in confidence, resilience, and responsibility for our future ambitions.
Mr Hall, Head of Y8

Calendar specific dates

Inset Day - Staff only	3rd September 2025
All students return to school	4th September 2025
Inset Day	10th October 2025
Inset Day	13th October 2025
Inset Day	28th November 2025
Assessment point with report	December/January 2026
Inset Day	2nd February 2026
Y8 Parents Evening	5th March 2026
Inset Day	6th March 2026
Assessment point with report	May/June 2026
Inset Day	26th June 2026

YEAR 8 Autumn

ENGLISH
The Hound of the Baskervilles.

MATHS
Four operations practice.

Algebra.

SCIENCE
Organisms, waves and chemical reactions.

GEOGRAPHY
North America - weather hazards.
Asia - trade & population.

DRAMA
The incident at the youth club and creating monologues.

ART
On rotation over Autumn and Spring:
Identity - photography.

PSHE
Drugs and Alcohol.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
Colour changing LED lamps.

FOOD & NUTRITION
Oodles of noodles, super salad and soups.

PE
Problem solving and teamwork through: Football, Table Tennis, Handball.

RS
God and the environment.

HISTORY
Changing lives and beliefs 1485-1603.
Rise of the British Empire.

COMPUTING
Computer safety.
Understanding computers.

FRENCH
Past holiday and sports.

SPANISH
Life at home.

The media.

MUSIC
Minimalism.

Video game soundtracks.

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YEAR 8 Spring

ENGLISH
Play: Goggle Eyes.

MATHS
Shape problems, Pythagoras, percentages and fractions.

SCIENCE
Electricity and magnetism, Earth science, forces and motion.

GEOGRAPHY
Volcanoes and earthquakes.

Globalisation.

DRAMA
Trestle masks Dan Nolan (script exploration).

ART
Seascapes - drawing and painting.
Gargoyles - Clay.

PSHE
Changing relationships.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
Memphis clocks.

FOOD & NUTRITION
Food and pasta science.

PE
Problem solving and teamwork through: Rugby, HRE, Basketball.

RS
Celebration and Suffering.

HISTORY
The Transatlantic Slave Trade. Age of Revolutions.

COMPUTING
Apprentice.

AI and machine learning.

FRENCH
Technology. Invitations and chores.

SPANISH
Food and health.

MUSIC
Britpop - music gets political! Blues.

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YEAR 8 Summer

ENGLISH
Poetry: *Characters and Voices.* **Play:** *A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

MATHS
Ratio, substitution, plastic project.

SCIENCE
Space, health, variations and evolution.

GEOGRAPHY
Global issues - Our Plastic Planet.

DRAMA
Genre and The White Room.

ART
Cityscapes - perspective drawing.

PSHE
Understanding prejudice.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
African masks - linkages.

FOOD & NUTRITION
Foundations in nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices.

PE
Problem solving and teamwork through: Netball, Badminton, Cricket.

RS
Love and Purpose.

HISTORY
Rights and reform for women and working class men.

COMPUTING
Python.

Computer networks.

FRENCH
Festivals and celebrations. Future holidays.

SPANISH
Holidays.

Environment.

MUSIC
Reggae and music enterprise.

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Role of the Tutor / Parental Engagement

Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children, and are the primary influence on their child's attitudes towards school, their learning and their future success. Research clearly shows that good schools become better schools when there is a strong connection with parents as part of the learning community. At USH we work hard to build strong and engaging relationships with our parents.

The first point of contact for parents is their child's tutor who plays an important role in supporting and guiding students through their time at USH. Tutors see their groups each morning for tutor time where alongside registering the group there are a variety of activities such as:

- Sharing key messages/information
- Wellbeing activities
- Mentoring
- Reflecting on school reports
- Rewarding and celebrating House Points and Attendance
- Attending assembly
- Year group and House competitions
- Numeracy and literacy activities to support a lifelong love of reading and numeracy

The tutor is the member of staff that sees your child every day and is able to build an important and lasting relationship with them through their time at USH.

THE USH Way

BELIEVE

BE READY
Punctual and equipped
Listen and follow instructions

BE POSITIVE
Contribute widely
Learn from mistakes

BE DETERMINED
Show resilience
Purposeful in what you do

RESPECT

BE KIND
Supportive of others
Show politeness to all

BE PROUD
Pride in yourself
Pride in your community

BE RESPONSIBLE
Be an upstander
Lead by example

SUCCEED

BE PROACTIVE
Participate and ask questions
Embrace opportunities

BE YOUR BEST
Put in the effort
Challenge yourself

BE ASPIRATIONAL
Push yourself
Strive for more

Rewards and Behaviour

Our behaviour and relationships policy can be found on the school website.
Supporting students to make good decisions is an important part of school life. Consequences to behaviour teach students to accept responsibility for their actions. Positive behaviour is rewarded and negative behaviour is challenged, understood and corrected.
Positive behaviour is rewarded in a number of ways such as:

- The awarding of House Points for displaying the USH Standard in lessons
- Praise postcards/letters sent home
- Certificates
- Praise and recognition in tutor times
- Celebration assemblies
- Reward trips
- Recognition of excellent work

When students make poor choices, staff work with them to help them reflect and improve on their future choices. Incidents are recorded on Bromcom and consequences are put in place.
A range of consequences and strategies are used to support students in reflecting on their behaviour and making positive change:

- Teacher conversation (during lessons or free time)
- Restorative conversations with staff and students
- Phone call home to inform parents
- 10 minute catch-up
- 30 minute after school catch-up
- 45 minute after school catch up
- 1 hour Senior Leader catch-up
- Internal Exclusion (working in isolation in school)

School Uniform

You will find our full uniform policy on the school website.
Our school uniform is important in helping our students establish themselves as part of the USH community and to instil pride in our school. Parents play an important role in supporting their child and the school in achieving this.

We believe uniform is important for the following reasons:

- It contributes to our ethos and sets an appropriate tone to support positive behaviour
- It helps students feel equal in regard to appearance
- It promotes a sense of community and belonging
- It encourages pupils to treat each other and the school environment with respect
- It supports pupils in learning how to dress in a manner appropriate to the activity being undertaken and to the environment in which they inhabit
- It promotes a positive profile in the community

We therefore ask that parents help to support us in this. Our basic uniform consists of:

- School blazer
- White long or short sleeved shirt
- School tie
- Black pleated skirt no shorter than knee length
- Black tailored trousers (not narrow legged)
- Black tailored knee length shorts (loose legged)
- Plain navy blue V neck sweatshirt or jumper
- Black or white socks
- Plain black opaque tights
- Black, polishable shoe or trainer-shoe.

(Ankle boots are permitted)

School uniform website link

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School Uniform

PRIDE | FAIRNESS | COMMUNITY

BLAZERS
To be worn at all times with your shirt tucked in and tie done up.

SKIRTS
Black pleated skirt—knee length. No jersey, lycra or clingy material.

SHORTS
Black, tailored shorts. No sports shorts.

SHOES
Polishable and all black. Trainer shoes are allowed. No tags or coloured logos.

TROUSERS
Black tailored loose legged trousers. No jeans/cargo trousers.

JUMPERS
Navy blue V-Neck jumper or sweatshirt. No round neck, hooded or zipped jumpers.

JEWELLERY
Allowed: Watch, 1 stud per ear
Not allowed: Necklaces, bracelets, rings, nose studs/retainers

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USH Boys PE KIT

USH Girls PE KIT

Loose fitted shorts only – cycling shorts are NOT permitted

Most Items available on Skoolkit

USH PE Uniform Process

MISSING / INCORRECT KIT 01

1st Time

- Borrow PE Kit from PE Dept

Consequence

- 10mins Catch Up

MISSING / INCORRECT KIT 02

2nd Time

- Borrow PE Kit from PE Dept

Consequence

- 30mins Catch Up
- Contact Home

MISSING / INCORRECT KIT 03

3rd Time

- Borrow PE Kit from PE Dept

Consequence

- 45 mins Catch Up
- Contact Home

No Kit & Refusal to borrow kit

Consequence

- 45mins catch up
- Contact Home

Non-participation work

In PE Kit - The expectation is that you help out in PE lessons

Consequence

45mins catch up

Truancy or Refusal to comply with the above

Consequence

SLT Catch Up

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO WEAR PE KIT EVEN IF YOU ARE INJURED OR FEELING UNWELL

PLEASE BRING A PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTE TO YOUR PE TEACHER IN THE LESSON, EXPLAINING YOUR NON-PERFORMING PARTICIPATION

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PE Uniform

- All kit must be clearly labelled and named
- The wearing of shin pads is compulsory and we also strongly advise the wearing of a mouth guard for some sport.

Please contact the PE Department should you require further assistance

- USH PE Polo Short
- USH PE ¼ Zip Fleece
- USH PE Zip Sweatshirt
- Black Shorts or PE Skort
- Plain Black Tracksuit Bottoms
- Plain Black Leggings
- Black or White Trainer Socks or Black Football socks
- Trainers (Astro style trainers to be worn on the MUGA and moulds and studs are only permitted for lessons on the field)

Cycling Shorts are NOT permitted as part of the PE kit as PE shorts

Mobile Phones and Headphones

Mobile phones and headphones are not allowed out at USH.

We understand that mobile phones often play a big part in our students' lives and that there are benefits to them. However, we believe that school should provide an environment where students can be away from their phones and focus on their learning and building positive relationships with others.

Students may bring phones to school but they must remain out of sight, turned off, in bags. If a student is seen with their phone/headphones the member of staff will confiscate the phone and the student will be able to collect it at the end of the day. Parents will be notified if this happens.

If a student has their phone/headphones confiscated for a third time parents will be asked to collect them from reception at the end of the day.

School Equipment

As part of the USH Standard we encourage students to 'Be Ready' in school. Arriving to lessons with the right equipment means that lessons can begin promptly and being organised is an important habit to develop. Please support your child to 'Be Ready' by ensuring they bring the following to school:

- A school bag
- Black pens (at least 2)
- Pencils (at least 2)
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Scientific Calculator
- Colouring pencils and highlighters are also useful

Social Media and Messaging Apps

Social media can be a hugely positive part of young people's lives. Many of our students are given access to smartphones as they start at USH. Negotiating the pressures of social media and the new freedom of having a smartphone is challenging for all young people.

Unfortunately, these apps are not always used responsibly and students need regular support and guidance in using them sensibly. We strongly recommend that parents are aware of what apps are on their child's phone and have access to check what they are viewing online. Apps such as TikTok, Snapchat and WhatsApp can easily be misused and cause social problems that carry on into school.

We will seek to resolve and support with concerns about social media that happens outside of school hours but our control over this is limited.

The following websites give good advice to parents on how to support your child as they learn to use their phones responsibly:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones

The School Day

Students should arrive to school at 8.25 to allow them time to get to their tutor rooms for the start of the day.

8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast Club - open and free to all students
8:30 - 9:00 Arrival and Tutor Time
9:00 - 10:00 Period 1
10:00 - 11:00 Period 2
11:00 - 11:20 Break
11:20 - 12:20 Period 3
12:20 - 13:20 Period 4
13:20 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 - 15:00 Period 5
End of school day 15:00

Homework

At Upper Shirley High we value homework. It has been shown that effective homework has a positive impact on achievement. Departments will set a range of different homework tasks that give students the opportunity to deepen their understanding and consolidate and enrich their learning. The timetable below is to establish and maintain a regular pattern of home learning and sets the expectation for each subject:

Homework schedule on next page

		Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
Year 7	English/Maths / Science	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight
	All other subjects		30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight
Year 8		Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
	English/Maths / Science	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight
	All other subjects	30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight	30 mins/fortnight
Year 9		Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
	English/Maths / Science	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight	1 hour/fortnight
	All other subjects	45 mins/fortnight	45 mins/fortnight	45 mins/fortnight	45 mins/fortnight	45 mins/fortnight	45 mins/fortnight
Years 10-11		Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
	English/Maths / Science	2 hours/fortnight	2 hours/fortnight	2 hours/fortnight	2 hours/fortnight	2 hours/fortnight	2 hours/fortnight
	All other subjects	1.5 hours/fortnight	1.5 hours/fortnight	1.5 hours/fortnight	1.5 hours/fortnight	1.5 hours/fortnight	1.5 hours/fortnight

Our platform for homework is Google Classroom.

Homework enables students to:

- Take responsibility for their learning through review and practice of what has been covered in class
- Improve their thinking and memory
- Develop positive study skills, learning habits and time management
- Learn how to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials and computer websites to find information
- Explore subject knowledge more fully than classroom time permits and to extend learning by applying skills to new situations

Homework enables parents to:

- Learn more about what their child is learning in school
- Spark your child's enthusiasm with the learning and to broaden their understanding through your own knowledge of the subject
- Communicate with the school any difficulties your child is having with the task

We ask that parents, students and staff work collaboratively to ensure that the students get the most out of their homework to continue to
support their achievement.

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular and Punctual Attendance – it is imperative for a child's future that he, or she makes the most of his, or her time at school. This means attending regularly and turning up on time – qualities also valued by employers.

Students must arrive at school and be in their tutor room ready to register by 8:30 am.

Absence from school

Parents must notify the school by telephone, email or text each day by 8:30am if a child will be absent from school for any reason. Medical evidence of illness may be requested for students that are absent for more than 3 consecutive days.

REPORTING ABSENCE	**TELEPHONE**	**023 80522721**
	EMAIL	**absence@ushschool.org**

Medicine can be given to students at school at a time that ideally will coincide with their breaks (medication will only be administered if the parent has filled out and signed a medication form). As far as possible, we ask all parents to organise all appointments outside of the school day. Medical appointments scheduled during school hours must be communicated with your child's tutor at least 48 hours in advance of the day missed.

We would encourage parents to consider carefully if their child is actually well enough to attend school if they need medication.

Medical and first aid

At USH the health and safety of our students is our top priority. When a student falls ill during the school day, it is important that we ensure their well-being as they leave school grounds. To maintain their safety, we have a clear policy in place regarding how students should be collected when unwell.

Key Guidelines:

- No Walking Home Alone: For the safety of all students, those who are feeling unwell are not allowed to walk home unaccompanied, regardless of the distance from school. This is to ensure they receive appropriate care and support on their way home.
- Parent or Guardian Collection: A parent or legal guardian is required to come to the school's Reception to collect their child. This allows us to confirm that the student is leaving in the care of a responsible adult who is fully aware of their condition.
- Alternative Collection Arrangements: If the parent or guardian is unable to collect the student personally, they may nominate a trusted individual (e.g., a family member or family friend) to pick up the student. However, in this case, the school must receive written consent (via email) from the parent or guardian prior to collection. This consent must clearly state:

  The full name of the person collecting the student

  Their relationship to the student (e.g., aunt, neighbour)
- Emergency Contact Information: We encourage parents to ensure that all emergency contact details are up to date so that in case of an urgent situation, we are able to reach someone immediately.

This policy is in place to provide peace of mind for both parents and staff, ensuring that students are always looked after properly, particularly when they are feeling unwell.

AUTUMN 1 Clubs

EVERY CLUB YOU ATTEND YOU WILL GET A HOUSE POINT.

NO NEED TO SIGN UP, JUST DROP IN AND MAKE SURE YOU USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

SCAN ME

MONDAY LUNCHTIME

English Homework (ENG4)
Support with English homework

TUESDAY BEFORE SCHOOL

Prayer space 8.15 (Learning Support)

TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Guitar Club (MUS2)
All abilities welcome to come and play guitar

Netball club (Netball courts)
All Year Groups
A chance to learn netball skills ready for match play

Basketball club (sports hall)
Year 8, 9, a chance to learn basketball skills ready for match play

Creative iMedia
ICT1 NEA Resubmission

Year 11 English intervention ENG3

Dungeons and Dragons (RS1)
Role play game with adventure

Design & Technology (DT1)
Year 7 & 8 Christmas decoration using 2D Design and the laser cutter

Year 10/11 Textiles (Art 1)

Year 11 GCSE Music composition coursework drop in (MUS1)

Year 11 Art (Art 2) and Photography (PG1)

WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME

Dungeons and Dragons (RS1)
Role play game with adventure, fun and friendship

Pokemon (Hall)
Strategy game involving pokemon cards

WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Choir (MUS 1)
Perform in concerts and school community events

Social football (Muga) Year 7 football for fun

Year 11 GCSE PE and BTEC Sport Intervention (ICT1)

Volleyball (Gym)
Guest coach KS3,

Origami (MA5)
All years welcome, learn how to make origami items

Year 11 French intervention (MFL2)

Year 11 Further Maths (MA1)

Crochet (Lib)
Learn how to crochet

Year 10/11 Textiles (Art 1)

Year 11 GCSE Music composition coursework drop in (MUS2)

Year 11 Art (Art 2) and Photography (PG1)

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME

Eco Committee (HUMS 5)
Get involved with whole school eco projects

Geography club (HUMS 6)

THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Year 11 Food & nutrition NEA support (FD1)

Social football (Muga)
Year 8 football for fun

Year 11 Volleyball
Guest coach
Learning volleyball skills for match play

Fitness club (fitness room)
All year groups, use the weights room

Touch rugby (field) All year groups, learn the skills to put into practise in games

Year 11 GCSE Maths club (all rooms)

Creative Writing Club, ENG4

Warhammer Painting Club, LS

Chess Club (MFL 2)
All year groups, learn how to play chess

Year 9 Homework Hub (ICT 2)
An opportunity to gain support from PSW

Year 10/11 Textiles (Art 1)

Year 11 GCSE Music composition coursework drop in (MUS1)

Year 11 Art (Art 2) and Photography (PG1)

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME

Chess Club(MFL 2)
All year groups, learn how to play and challenge your friends

FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Jazz Band (MUS 1)
Invitation only

Table tennis(Gym)
All year groups

Design & Technology GCSE NEA Support (DT1) Year 11
Week B 3-4pm

Clubs change each half term, above is an example of clubs run, these are subject to change.

FAQs

- **What clubs are available to my child?**

These change on a termly basis. Please head to our website to see current clubs we are offering. http://uppershirleyhigh.org/extra-curricular.

- **What do I do if my child has lost something in school?**

Please ask your child to report missing items to their Tutor, they will then be directed to the lost property area.

- **How do I join the parent forum?**

Our Parent Forum group meets every term to discuss a variety of school issues. Please look at our latest E-bulletin for the next meeting date, no need to book, please come along.

- **How do I join the PTFA?**

The PTFA are always on the lookout for new volunteers; if you are interested in joining the group please contact nick.russon@ushschool.org.

- **How do I pay lunch money onto my child's account?**

For parents, an email will be sent home with your username and an invitation code you can use to set up your account. If you do not have an invitation code, please email us at MCAS@ushschool.org and request one.
A user guide can be found online http://uppershirleyhigh.org/documents/content/MCAS-Parent-Guide.pdf

- **Where can I find the Home School Agreement?**

This can be found on Page 12 of the Behaviour and Relationship policy on our website. http://uppershirleyhigh.org/policies-and-compliance

Useful Contact Information

GENERAL ENQUIRIES TELEPHONE 023 80325333
WEBSITE: www.uppershirleyhigh.org

All teachers can be contacted by phone (on the number above), or through the school website. Simply click on the staff list, find the member of staff and complete the online form. Teachers will then receive this email and will contact you.

Please contact your child's tutor first and foremost if there are any questions, queries or concerns regarding your child, their school day, their progress or any key matters to resolve.