

READY, RESPONSIBLE, SUCCESSFUL

Year 10 are building the foundations for GCSE success

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 has made a positive and purposeful start to the academic year. Students have settled well into the increased demands of Key Stage 4 and have approached their studies with maturity, determination and ambition.

We have been particularly pleased by the positive attitude shown by the vast majority of students in lessons, around the school site and through their engagement with homework and wider opportunities. As students begin their GCSE courses in earnest, the habits they establish now will play a significant role in their future success.

Our focus this year is simple: excellent attendance, high standards, strong study habits and making the most of every opportunity available. By working together, we can ensure that every student is supported to achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Mrs Enekwa

Head of Learning, Year 10



The Year 10 Gold Standard

1 Uniform

Worn correctly and with pride. **Flared trousers and mesh trainers are not permitted** under the uniform policy; students wearing flared trousers may be sent home to change before lessons.

2 Attendance

One of the strongest indicators of academic success. Our ambition is at least **96%** for every student; even small amounts of absence quickly lead to gaps in learning.

3 Learning

Successful Year 10 students complete all Post & Prep, arrive fully equipped, engage positively in every lesson, review and revise regularly, and seek support when they need it.

Looking Ahead

More stories and news: [uhs.org.uk/News & Events](https://uhs.org.uk/News&Events)



MON 11 - FRI 15 JANUARY 2027
Work Experience Week
 Five days in a real workplace. Placement deadline: Sunday 29 November 2026.



24 MARCH & 21 MAY 2027
Careers Fair & Careers Day
 Two key dates in the Year 10 careers programme.



APRIL 2027
PPE preparation & examinations
 Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations. Regular revision from now makes all the difference.



JULY 2027
Reward Trip
 For students who achieve 150 positive points by the end of the academic year.

Work Experience 2027

Work Experience is one of the biggest careers opportunities available to Year 10 this year: five days in a real workplace. Students do not need to have their future career already planned. Any placement can provide valuable experience.

● **Explore** Industry

Explore an industry and gain a valuable insight into the world of work.

● **Develop** Skills

Build key employability skills: communication, teamwork, organisation and independence.

● **Discover** Careers

Discover future careers, build confidence and gain examples for college, university and job applications.

How parents and carers can help

- Encourage your child to think about industries or workplaces they would like to experience.
- Speak to family members, friends, neighbours and local businesses who may be able to offer a placement.
- Help your child secure a placement that is practical for them to travel to.
- Remember that all work experience placements have value, even if they are not directly linked to a future career idea.

How students have been preparing

- During form time, students have been exploring the benefits of work experience, discussing potential opportunities and learning how to approach employers with confidence.
- We have been encouraging students to take the initiative in finding their own placements, while providing guidance and support along the way.

KEY DATES

Placement Deadline

Sunday 29 November 2026

Work Experience Week

Monday 11 – Friday 15 January 2027

Careers Fair

24 March 2027

Careers Day

21 May 2027

96%

our attendance ambition
for every student

Attendance Matters

Every lesson counts. Students who attend school regularly make stronger academic progress, develop better relationships with staff and peers, and are more likely to achieve their target grades.

We would like to thank the many Year 10 students who continue to demonstrate excellent attendance and punctuality each day. Your commitment to learning makes a real difference.

Parents and carers can support by:

- Ensuring students arrive on time each day.
- Booking appointments outside school hours where possible.
- Monitoring attendance through [Arbor](#).
- Encouraging students to attend whenever they are well enough to do so.

Preparing for PPEs

Although the Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) may seem some way off in **April 2027**, the most successful students are those who prepare consistently throughout the year. Students should now be:

Revisit. Revisiting key knowledge regularly.

Create. Creating revision resources as topics are completed.

Build a routine. Establishing a regular study routine at home.

Post & Prep. Completing [Post & Prep](#) to a high standard.

Use the resources. Using revision platforms and materials provided by teachers.

Little and often. Small, regular revision sessions are far more effective than last-minute cramming and help students retain knowledge for future GCSE examinations.

A Positive Start to Year 10

Year 10 students have made an excellent start to the academic year and should be proud of the positive culture they are helping to create.

As of 12 October, Year 10 attendance stands at **95.06%**, placing us ahead of most other year groups and reflecting a strong start to the year. Regular attendance remains one of the strongest indicators of success, and we thank students and families for their continued commitment to being in school every day.

We are also delighted to celebrate the positive contributions of Year 10 students across the school. Since September, students have earned **2,493 positive points** for consistently demonstrating our PROUD values and have been awarded **458 STAR behaviours** in recognition of exceptional effort, attitude and conduct in lessons. These figures highlight the maturity, determination and positive attitudes shown by so many members of the year group.

Key Year 10 Highlights

95.06%

attendance as of 12 October

2,493

positive points awarded since September

458

STAR behaviours recognised for exceptional behaviour and effort in lessons

This strong start provides an excellent foundation as students continue their GCSE journey.

150

positive points to qualify for the Reward Trip

150 POSITIVES = REWARD TRIP

Reward Trip 2027

Students who achieve **150 positive points** by the end of the academic year will qualify for our annual Year 10 Reward Trip in July 2027.

Students will have the opportunity to vote on their preferred destination, with options including attractions such as **Chessington World of Adventures, Thorpe Park and Cadbury World.**

The reward trip celebrates students who consistently demonstrate our PROUD values through excellent behaviour, strong attendance, positive attitudes and commitment to learning.

How to qualify:

- Achieve 150 positive points.
- Maintain positive behaviour.
- Demonstrate excellent effort in lessons.
- Attend school regularly and punctually.

Every positive point counts.

Looking ahead. Alongside Work Experience, the Careers Fair and Careers Day, PPEs and the Reward Trip, Year 10 can look forward to leadership and enrichment opportunities and continued preparation for GCSE success. We look forward to celebrating the achievements, successes and personal growth of Year 10 students throughout the year.

Need to get in touch? Email parents@uhs.org.uk.