

Urmston Grammar School

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13th September 2023

RE: UpLearn Independent Study

Dear Year 13 Parents & Carers,

It is the start of a very important year for our Year 13s and so I am writing to update you of a new approach we are taking in the sixth form to support our students to reach their full potential.

UpLearn is an online independent study platform available for A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Economics and Psychology. These are some of the most popular A Level subjects and currently over 90% of students in our sixth form study one or more of them. Last year students were given the opportunity to purchase a year subscription to this resource at a discounted rate and we were also able to provide this free of charge for students who qualified for the sixth form bursary. **This year we are taking the bold step of providing this valuable resource for all students who study these subjects.** More information regarding UpLearn can be found [here](#).

How does UpLearn help?

- It provides innovative and engaging tasks for students to complete to ensure time spent on independent study is used as effectively as possible.
- Artificial Intelligence features show students what topics they need to focus on and guides them to complete tasks which will lead to the greatest progress.
- The amount of time students engage with their learning can be fully tracked and monitored by teachers. This will help ensure students are committing sufficient time to their independent study.

We intend to integrate UpLearn as a routine way of working for our sixth form students. When students complete work on UpLearn they build up 'Experience Points', known as 'XP'. At a steady rate of study 1 hour on UpLearn equates to approximately 70 XP. Starting from Monday 18th September all students will be expected to earn a minimum of 140 XP (approximately 2 hours of study), on UpLearn per subject per week. This will be in addition to any homework tasks set by teachers and any further independent work students complete. This is the third

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year our sixth form has used UpLearn and our experience to date shows an extremely strong correlation between student engagement with this resource and their academic outcomes at A Level.

How can you support as a Parent/Carer?

- Show your son/daughter that you have an awareness of UpLearn and that it should form a routine part of their weekly study.
- Encourage them to show you how they use it and how many XP they have accumulated.
- If you feel your son/daughter isn't doing sufficient independent study, guide them to use UpLearn more frequently.

When purchased as an individual, the cost to subscribe to UpLearn for a single subject is £369.99. Though we have negotiated bulk discount to provide UpLearn access for the whole sixth form, the school is still making a significant investment to support our students. If you are willing to make a voluntary contribution through [ParentPay](#) towards of the cost this it would be much appreciated. A suggested amount of £30 per subject would be welcomed, though any contributions will be gratefully received. This cost is already covered for any students who qualify for the sixth form bursary.

For those subjects which are not currently supported by UpLearn, Subject Leaders are investigating equivalent ways of supporting independent study in their own subjects. We hope to begin implementing these during the school year.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Kennedy-Fowler
Deputy Headteacher