



17th January 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you are well and have had a wonderful week.

### What have we been up to this week?

Our career conversations have started with Year 10 students this week. Year 11 were completed before the Christmas break. We have been very impressed with the way students have engaged with these discussions and conversations, particularly Deacon P in Y10 whose session had to be extended because he had so many mature and sensible questions.

Harry W in Year 9 has been doing some work to support our Y6 children in their PE lessons this week. He has been absolutely brilliant for a number of weeks and is providing a fantastic level of support.

Well done to some of our Year 10 children who have been learning sign language to enable them to communicate with a student who has joined us recently who is deaf.

Year 9 are heading off to the Winter Gardens next week for the Blackpool careers convention, we had visitors from one of the organisations this week to introduce the sessions to the students.

Year 3 and Year 5 children have taken part in their first Barclays Life Skills sessions this week. It focussed on 'Strengths, goals and aspirations' which is a part of the Barclays LifeSkills suite of career-related learning activities for primary aged pupils. The aim being to teach children about key skills for the workplace and provide the opportunity to explore a range of careers and industries.

Year 6 took part in their first Reading and Rugby session. Phoebe commented that *"It was really fun! We had to read first and then we went outside and learned how to play tag rugby. Some of us have made a little group together so that we can do it ourselves at another time"*.

We now have a Duke of Edinburgh Award cohort in school who are starting to get to work on the award scheme. This is a nationally recognised award scheme. Thanks to Mrs. Darlow and her team of staff volunteers for their support with this.



## [New Messages](#)

### Mobile Phones, Watches and Headphones (Secondary Parents/Carers)

We have seen a few more issues with mobile phones (and headphones particularly) post Christmas, this is not unusual as children often receive new technology for Christmas. As a reminder for secondary children all phones and headphones must be locked in the Yondr pouch each day. A number of children are claiming to not have phones with them (which is fine), we will conduct random checks on students to ensure the devices aren't available to them.

Please could all parents/carers remind children of the expectations and support us with this by not calling or messaging your children during the day. If you need to get in touch with someone, please call the school office.

### Children leaving early (All Parents/Carers)

We have seen a significant increase in the number of children who are being picked up early. The reasons are varied but for some children, it is most days. If you do need to pick your child up early for an appointment, please provide us with 24 hours notice and the evidence to enable us to authorise the absence.

### ADHD Northwest

There is still time for parents and carers to sign up to the next course which starts on 28th January. Please see the attached flyer at the end of this update for full details.

The course is for parents / carers who have a child under 25 that they think may have ADHD. A diagnosis is **NOT** required and so this is especially beneficial to adults with children waiting to be assessed / diagnosed.

Referrals can be made by a professional **or by the parent / carer**. Please click on the website link for details - [Contact Us | Adhd North West \(reception06660.wixsite.com\)](http://reception06660.wixsite.com)

### Ready, Respectful, Safe

In our primary RRS Curriculum this week, we have recapped our school expectations. We like to do it early on in a half term so that the children know and understand what we expect of them. Mrs Shaw was very happy in Monday's assembly when the children could tell me our school values of Ready, Respectful and Safe. They could also give her examples of how they can demonstrate them. They also talked about our classroom rules of 'Good Looking', 'Good Listening', 'Good Sitting' and 'Kind Friends'. Again, the children could discuss what they look like when they are being followed correctly! Next week, we will move onto a focus on Good Manners.



In our secondary RRS Curriculum we have covered the topic, "Good Manners," emphasising the significance of showing respect and kindness in daily interactions. By focusing on positive greetings, appropriate body language, and considerate actions, students learn how to create positive and welcoming environments for those around them. Understanding that good manners go beyond just polite words, students will recognize how non-verbal cues, such as eye contact and a smile, can make others feel valued and respected. Developing these skills fosters stronger relationships and contributes to a more harmonious and thoughtful community

### [Repeated Messages](#)

#### **Y11 GCSE Countdown**

15 weeks and counting until the first GCSE examination for Year 11. Please continue to encourage your child to engage with the weekly menu of revision tasks provided in the link below. With the right engagement and support, students have an opportunity to make rapid progress in their knowledge and skills in the lead up to the examinations. The expectation at Unity is that all Year 11 children commit to completing at least one task each day. Details of these will also be emailed directly to students via their school email address.

#### **How can you help?**

By encouraging your child to complete self-study tasks every day and monitor this. Recognising their commitment and effort goes a long way to building their confidence in the run up to their exams. As always, if you require any additional advice or support around self-study, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

This week's tasks can be found [here](#).

#### **Reading in Primary**

We don't send out formal homework in primary years, instead we ask you to listen to your child read 3 times per week. Please [click here](#) to answer a short questionnaire about reading with your child(ren). It is an anonymous survey but if you would like to add your name and your child's name, we can specifically provide any support you may request within the questions. Reading is absolutely crucial and runs through every area of our curriculum. I'm sure I don't need to point out how important it is for children to be able to read. We hear the children read in school as often as possible and provide lots of opportunities throughout all lessons for children to read aloud. The support you give them from home is so beneficial because it gives them further opportunity to practice what they have learned! Please hear your child read 3 times per week, thank you.

#### **Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts**

Did you know? Unity Academy has our very own Scout Group that runs each week on a Thursday to provide our young people with Skills For Life!



We run sections for each age group from 4 years old and up. In addition to the weekly meetings on a Thursday after school we also offer a wide range of trips, camps, nights away and adventurous activities for all age groups.

Squirrels (For ages 4 - 6 years): Thursday : 3:15 until 4:30 pm

Beavers (For ages 6 - 8 years): Thursday : 3:15 until 4:45 pm

Cubs (For ages 8- 10.5 years): Thursday : 3:15 until 4:45 pm

Scouts (For ages 10.5 - 14 years): Thursday : 3:15 until 4:15 pm

[More information can be found by clicking here.](#)

Our in school Scout Sections are run by a group of volunteers, most of which are parents of children at Unity Academy. Without this support, it would not be possible to provide these amazing opportunities for the young people. If you feel like volunteering with the Scouts is something you might be able to offer, please do get in touch. It might be to support one section meeting a month, offer a certain skill you have or to support behind the scenes with finance and administration. Whatever your skills, every little offer of help is invaluable to us.

[To inquire about a place for a young person or about adult volunteering with the Scouts, please click here.](#)

### [Standing Messages](#)

#### **My Child at School App (All Parents/ Carers)**

[Please click here](#) for a link to the site. If you access this on a mobile device you can access the links for the apps. If you have not signed up, please download the app from the relevant app store and click 'sign up' and use the school postcode (FY2 0TS) or school ID (14676) to register. You must register with the email address we hold on our system for you.

Parents are now able to access attendance and achievement/ behaviour information on the My Child at School app.

#### **Primary Newsletter (Primary Parents/ Carers)**

Please click [here](#) to view the primary newsletter.

#### **Reporting Bullying/ Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)**

The link to raise a concern remains on the website. Click on the three lines and choose to raise a pastoral/bullying concern under the parents heading. These concerns are reviewed by the senior team and allocated to the most appropriate member of staff to investigate and communicate with parents.

#### **Online Safety Support for Parents/ Carers (All Parents/ Carers)**

Click [here](#) to access the link to this week's online safety guide for parents. You can also sign up for The National College for free and view a wide range of resources and videos to support your family with online safety. To do this follow the link below:

Sign up tutorial video - <https://help.nationalcollege.com/parent-walkthrough>



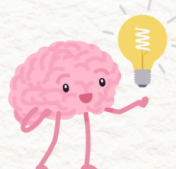


Sign up for The National College - <https://nationalcollege.com/enroll/unity-academy-blackpool>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Cooke  
Headteacher

ADHD North West



## ADHD PARENT EMPOWERMENT & TRAINING COURSE

JOIN US FOR 6 SESSIONS OVER 3 WEEKS

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS  
9.30AM OR 6PM

We invite you to join us on a journey to  
unlock your child's full potential.

Our expert team is dedicated to providing you with  
tools, strategies and support necessary to help your  
child thrive.

Through a personalised, step-by-step approach, we  
will work closely with you to offer support that  
addresses your child's unique needs and aspirations.



START  
DATE  
28TH JANUARY  
2025



Visit [www.adhdnorthwest.org.uk](http://www.adhdnorthwest.org.uk) for more details and to  
access the application form or call us on 01254 886886