

20th October 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for all your help and support this term.

Wow Moments in School this Week (All Parents/ Carers)

The Wow moments for this week are below. Well done to everyone involved.

- We were delighted to see a number of Year 7 students enjoying a reward breakfast with their Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year last week.
- Year 2 performed a fantastic harvest assembly this week.
- We conducted our termly fire evacuation drill this week. All students conducted themselves exceptionally well.
- Marley, Jasmine, Jack, Phoebe, Harry, Corey, Alina, Senith, Emily and Adeline all attended the primary anti-bullying training on Wednesday. They had a very long day but have generated lots of good ideas. Mrs. Bass has already been to see me to sort out some money to support you!
- Poppy in 5JB has created an amazing piece of art work at home to celebrate Black History Month.
- Students in Year 9 have been working very hard to secure their understanding of the essential knowledge linked to their study of gothic literature.

Staff Departures (All Parents/ Carers)

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to two very long serving and dedicated staff members of the Unity family today.

Miss. R. Nicholls leaves us today for a promoted post in the civil service. Many of you will have had contact with Rachael through her work in the office or in an admission meeting. Rachael has been a dedicated and committed member of the team for 12 years and we wish her well in her new role.

Miss. M. Hammond also leaves us today. Mandy has been off work for the last twelve months battling cancer. Due to ongoing treatment required and the impact of this, Mandy will not be able to return to work. Mandy has worked at Unity (and predecessor schools) for 20 years in behaviour support. She will have spoken to many of you over the years and (for some parents) was a member of staff when they attended the school. We are devastated that Mandy is leaving us but recognise that this is the best thing for her as she continues her battle. The best wishes of everyone at Unity are with Mandy at this time.

Half Term Vouchers - FSM (All Parent/ Carers)

Vouchers have now been issued to parents to cover the half term break.

Uniform Consultation - Misunderstandings (All Parents/ Carers)

Thank you to all parents who have voted in the uniform consultation. The link is [here](#) if you haven't voted yet. We have looked at some of the comments and wanted to clear a few things up to help parents/ carers who haven't yet voted.

- The proposals create one of the most relaxed approaches to uniform seen in schools. It is certainly more relaxed than others in the area. This is deliberate. The intention is to reduce conflict around uniform arrangements. There is a limit to how far we can go on the basis of safety but also to ensure that identity and uniform, which acts to make school equal for all, can remain.
- For clarity, we have mentioned plain black footwear. We have specifically not mentioned shoes. The consultation is about children wearing plain black footwear with no identifiable logos (i.e. in a different colour).
- The proposal is to make the uniform cheaper and would only apply from the start of September 2024.
- We would allow a phased approach to the uniform change so parents/ carers don't have to buy a new uniform. The current uniform would be able to be worn until it no longer fits.

Reporting Bullying or Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)

As is the case each holiday, the reporting system is turned 'off' over the holiday period and turned back 'on' when we return. If any parent/ carer needs to raise a bullying or pastoral concern, there is a link on the website to do so. Simply click on 'Menu' and under the 'Parents' heading choose 'Raise a concern' or [click here](#). This link will be unavailable from 9AM today, please call and speak to a member of the student support team if you have an immediate concern.

And finally...

I would like to offer you my best wishes for a restful and relaxing half term break. We look forward to seeing children again on **Tuesday 7th November at 8:40AM.**

Yours sincerely,





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