

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It certainly feels like autumn has arrived this week with lots of wet and windy weather. I am always amazed at the resilience of students when they arrive very wet after a wet walk to school.

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

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

- A number of Y11 students visited Cambridge University and stayed in halls of residence as part of a science visit with the other FCAT academies. They were a credit to the academy.
- Year 7 have been working hard on recording different types of weather during geography this week, probably the right week for it!
- Well done to all students who have participated in catch up reading testing this week and to the staff involved in organising this.
- Our Reception children have made a great start to their time at Unity. They are role models to other children in terms of how to walk through school.
- Myami and Hayley in Year 9 showed the school value of Consideration and Respect for Everyone (CARE) this week supporting a student in their class.
- William in Year 4 showed the E for Effort in PAUSE this week when he overcame his fear of swimming and now cannot wait for lessons next week.

Open Evening - 5th October 2023 (All Parents/ Carers) - Further Reminder

Our annual open evening is on the 5th October 2023 from 4:00PM till 6:30PM. This is a really important evening for the Unity family as we look to try and recruit children for Nursery, Reception and Year 7 for future years. I am always very proud of the number of our children who take part and help. To allow us to set up for the evening, the academy will close to all students at 2:05PM on this day.

PAUSE - Attendance Last Week (All Parents/ Carers)

There is still some room for improvement around attendance - every single day matters. Your help with this is much appreciated. Well done to the 539 students, 56% of the school, who have had 100% attendance so far this term. Disappointingly, 40% of students are not on track to meet our 96% minimum target. If there is any support we can offer, please let form tutors or class teachers know.

Reporting Bullying or Pastoral Concerns (All Parent/ Carers)

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'.

Unity Academy Safeguarding Review (All Parents/ Carers)

You may recall me mentioning the visit of Mr. Williams, former Ofsted inspector into school this week to carry out a safeguarding review. This is the third time that Mr. Williams has visited since December last year and each time he speaks to a randomly selected group of children from across a number of different year groups. I wanted to share some of the feedback from these conversations this week as they demonstrate the culture we are always working hard to create in school.

- The work and training with staff is creating a climate of support for all students, visible in the school.
- Primary and secondary aged students spoke very positively about how the academy keeps them safe.
- All students spoken to knew that they could speak to any member of staff with a lanyard if they felt sad, bullied or troubled.
- Students reported a clear reduction in bullying and said that when there had been any issues, it had been sorted for the better.
- Students were very positive about what they were learning in PSHE and how it helped them.

Uniform Consultation (All Parents/ Carers)

We have listened to the large number of parents who have raised significant concerns about the cost of our uniform alongside some students who are concerned about elements of uniform. Whilst we have less compulsory branded items than other academies, we can't deny that the cost of uniforms is a burden to families. Over the next few weeks we will begin to consult with students and parents about possible changes to uniform arrangements from September 2024. We are only consulting on things that will reduce the cost of uniform and make it more accessible to purchase in high street stores. Please be aware that this will be a consultation - no decisions have been made and should any decisions be made to make changes, these will be phased in and support will be available for families who need it. We will write to parents shortly about this.

And Finally...

Students across a number of year groups have been applying for student ambassador roles within the house system this week; it has been lovely to see so many of them keen to take part. I will report back on who is appointed shortly.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher