



24th 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 Year 7 students have been working hard creating squishees in Textiles technology. A number of students have produced some excellent work particularly Nathan R who was very engaged in his work.

Safia A in Year 10 was observed at lunchtime carrying out a random act of kindness by offering to sit with a student in another year group who was sat alone.

Paige from Barclays Bank has been working in school this week as part of our skills for life work. She has worked with Year 3 and Year 5 and described the children as an absolute credit to the school. She was very impressed with their hard work and effort (as were we).

I was very pleased to see Reception practicing some wonderful walking through school as they passed through a busy canteen during secondary lunch time coming back from their PE lesson. They even took some time to demonstrate to me the work they had been doing on catching and throwing.

Our Year 10 prefects have been given their prefect ties this week, they looked incredibly smart in them and should be very proud of themselves.

Year 4 behaved excellently on their Tram Trip this week. They walked, in the rain (without moaning), to the promenade where they boarded a tram to see the human and physical features of Blackpool. They enjoyed seeing the beach, Blackpool Tower and the Illuminations amongst other things. We love being able to bring learning to life for Unity children!

This week Y6 completed a set of Mock SATs tests. We do these so that the children know what to expect when the real ones take place. It also means we can provide real precision teaching that is pitched and targeted at their individual needs! Most children have tried very hard and are progressing which is very pleasing to see. Once we have fully marked them and have an updated picture of each individual child's current point and what they need to work on to make further progress, we will be inviting parents to attend a meeting where we will share our ideas for supporting the children to hit the expected standard. We have limited time with the children in school and really need some support from families, so please excuse us for being quite pushy when it comes to the importance of the Y6 SATs tests.



[New Messages](#)

Uniform (All Parents/ Carers)

Parents will recall that we spent some time consulting with students and parents last year regarding uniform changes. We chose the options preferred by both parents and students. These changes were designed to support parents with affordability and to work with students to achieve a uniform they were more comfortable with. On the whole these changes have been well received and supported by parents and students alike. There are a few areas where I need to remind you about expectations.

- Students can not wear leggings or tracksuit bottoms for school*. They are able to wear black trousers. We have allowed students to wear flared style black trousers and are told these cost the same as leggings. Please ensure students are not wearing leggings or tracksuit bottoms to school. **Nursery children **are** able to wear tracksuit bottoms as this helps to support their toileting needs.*
- We changed the rules to allow plain black footwear with no identifiable markings. This has allowed students to wear plain black trainers and supported parents with the cost of footwear. White trainers, black trainers with white markings and black Crocs are not acceptable footwear for school.
- The black V neck jumper with a logo is a compulsory part of the uniform. We are happy to allow primary aged students to wear black cardigans with the Unity logo as an alternative. This is the only item that requires a logo and we would ask parents to support us with ensuring students are in the correct uniform.

Holiday Vouchers - Feb Half Term (All Parents/ Carers)

I am pleased to be able to confirm that Blackpool Council have informed us that they will be able to provide vouchers for £15 for each child entitled to free school meals to cover the February half term break. These will be issued in the usual way just before half term.

My Child at School App - MCAS (All Parents/ Carers)

We have realised this week that the behaviour information we thought was showing on My Child At School isn't being shared with parents as we thought. I wanted to apologise to parents for this and the delay in us spotting it. The issue is one which needs to be resolved by three different software providers and is therefore not a straightforward one. We are pressing for a solution as soon as possible and will let you know when one has been found.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

In our primary RRS curriculum this week, we have focused on the importance of having 'Good Manners'. Mrs Shaw did a little experiment on Monday and held the door into assembly open herself to see how many children remembered to say 'thank you'. She expected far more than she actually got. We did hear lots of children using



'please' and 'thank you' directly after the assembly and we saw a huge improvement when she did it again this morning! Next week we will move onto a focus of Respect and being the best I can be!

During this week in the secondary phase, students explored the importance of using respectful language and how it fosters positive interactions within the school community. Through activities such as word swaps, they practised replacing casual or disrespectful phrases with positive and inclusive alternatives, reinforcing the value of thoughtful communication (e.g., replacing "What?" with "Could you repeat that, please?"). Discussions focused on real-life scenarios where respectful language had resolved conflicts or created supportive environments.

[Repeated Messages](#)

Y11 GCSE Countdown

Thank you to all parents/ carers who have been supporting and encouraging their child to actively engage with the self-study tasks shared each week. Revision at home really does make a difference to student outcomes at the end of the year.

It's now **14 weeks** and counting until the first GCSE examination for Year 11. If your child has yet to begin their exam revision, now is a really good time to start. Please encourage your child to engage with the weekly menu of revision tasks provided in the link below. 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](#).

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 continue to 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.



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 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.



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

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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/enrol/unity-academy-blackpool>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher