

2nd February 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy February! I hope you have had a good week. We have had a wonderful week in school with lots of very positive things happening.

Student Attendance (All Parents/ Carers)

One of the benefits of all through schools is being able to track attendance from children when they are 5 through to when they leave us at 16. It is noticeable that attendance deteriorates (for some children) the older they get. This often correlates with children beginning to have a 'mind of their own' and becoming teenagers! If you are a parent of an older child who is saying they are not well enough to attend school, please ask yourself the simple question "Would I have sent them in when they were younger?", if the answer is yes, then they can probably cope in school for the day.

Simple changes like this will have a big impact on attendance which is a priority for all of us.

Upcoming Changes to our Management Information System (All Parents/ Carers)

As I noted last week, FCAT are moving all schools to a new management information system over the half term break. As part of this transition, I can now confirm that it is highly unlikely that the Class Charts app will be accessible for parents in the first week back after half term. There is no action for you to take, you will simply not see information in the first week.

We will also be able to launch the My Child at School application to you later next term which will allow us to send push messages and notifications to the app as well as being able to access information about your child. As soon as we have the information to share, we will share this.

Year 9 Options Evening and Y11 Parents' Evening (Y9 and 11 Parents/ Carers)

Just a reminder that it is Year 9 and 11 parents' and options evening next Thursday. There are significant changes for the Y9 curriculum offer next year which we need to share with parents and as you would expect, attendance for the final parents evening before GCSEs is critical for parents/ carers of children in Y11.

Primary Parents Evening (Primary Parents/ Carers)

It is parents' evening for our primary aged children on Monday after school. Please speak to a member of staff on Monday morning if you are not aware of your appointment times. If you can no longer attend, please do let us know so that we can keep to our timing schedule!

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

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

- Well done to Alex C who has been very helpful with 3LC as they have been making vegetable curry.
- Well done to Poppy in 5JB for her amazing art work.
- Year 9 have had a great week with lots of compliments about the way they have behaved and conducted themselves. The NHS team doing injections were very complimentary about them as were very large numbers of adults at the careers fair which they attended this week.
- Well done to all primary children (and staff) who have worked so hard decorating the Elmer for Brian House. We will be part of a trail of decorated elephants for people to spot in Blackpool.
- Well done to all the Y10 students who have been selected as senior prefects. They have handled themselves incredibly well throughout the selection process.
- Year 5 had a great visit to Turton Towers this week. They behaved brilliantly! It was a fabulous experience for all children and they were excellent representatives of Unity Academy.



SEND Drop In (All Parents/ Carers)

Following the success of the last coffee morning and drop in, we have arranged another for later this term. The drop in for mental health and SEND support takes place on the 8th February, 8:30 - 10:30am in the community hub space. A poster is on the final page with more details.

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

We have recently signed up to an online platform that offers online safety videos made specifically for parents/ carers. They are hosted by Myleene Klass and are very short. There is no cost to accessing these.

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>



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Headteacher: Mr S Cooke BSc, NPQH

Sign up for The National College

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/unity-academy-blackpool>

Primary Newsletter

Click [here](#) to access the Primary Newsletter.

Reporting Bullying or Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)

To report any pastoral/ bullying concerns, simply click on 'Menu' and under the 'Parents' heading choose 'Raise a concern' or [click here](#). As per our normal operations, we will make the link unavailable from Wednesday of next week (in order for us to pick up any concerns on Thursday before half term) and re-enable it after half term.

Reporting Absence (All Parents/ Carers)

If students are absent from school for any reason, please call the school on the main switchboard number above (01253 355493) to report the absence as soon as possible each day. If this is before the school opens, a message can be left on the answerphone. These are checked daily.

And finally...

Please don't forget that the last day of this half term (9th February) is an INSET day and school is closed to students on this day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher

Thursday 8th February

MENTAL  HEALTH
~and~

SEND

Parents Drop In

8:30 - 10:30

@The Hub

Does your child need support with their SEND or SEMH needs?

Do you have questions about SEND or mental health provision in Blackpool?

Meet our school SEND & SEMH team and other agencies involved in supporting young people in Blackpool

