



3rd May 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have had a great week. Spring has most certainly sprung this week and it has been great to have some fine weather!

Ready, Respectful, Safe (All Parents/ Carers)

Our behaviour curriculum continued this week as secondary focused on 'Respectful Language' and primary focused on 'Positive Challenge'. Both of these areas have enabled our students to really focus on the importance of how we are portrayed with the language and actions that we use. It is important that we set an example for others to follow and build a reputation that sets the tone for how teachers, our peers, potential employers and people in the outside world view us. The secondary students spent time considering whether or not the language they may hear or use is considered 'taboo' and therefore should not be used. Whilst the primary children have really had to think about how they can positively challenge or 'call someone out' if someone they are with is doing or saying something that is wrong, can cause offence or can hurt. Both primary and secondary will continue with these focus areas next week.

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 the Year 10 Science students who went on the recent NHS Vinci visit. The staff commented that the group behaved impeccably and their questions showed that they had paid attention throughout.
- The Y10 PIE group have run a social action project to raise awareness of men's mental health which included a staff v student penalty shootout and cake sale today.
- Mr Wainwright organised an excellent Primary Dance Day for some of our primary years, the children were engaged really well. The next date will be arranged soon (after Y6 SATs).
- Years 7, 9 and 10 have all been out on visits this week to either UCLAN, colleges for Compass Curriculum taster days or to work on a commando experience. Well done to all children who represented us really well and huge thanks to the staff for organising.
- 9U have worked really hard in French lessons this week.

Online Safety Warnings (All Parents/ Carers)

I wanted to repeat the message from a couple of weeks ago regarding us seeing an increasing number of children who are quoting inappropriate lines from or engaging in inappropriate activities which we believe are due to things they have seen on social media or through multiplayer games such as Fortnite. They are certainly not behaviours or words which are being picked up from staff in school! Could I please remind all parents that they have a responsibility to supervise their children online and that many of these apps and games have age limits for a reason. Social Media usually has an age limit of 13. For a child under this age to have an account it is likely they have had to lie about their date of birth to create one.

Unity does subscribe to a service to help parents with this. You can log into the national college and access lots of helpful advice about keeping your children safe online. The links to a [video explaining how are here](#) and the link to [sign up is here](#).



We have been asked this week to draw parents attention to the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion. This type of crime involved an adult offender threatening to release explicit pictures unless a child pays money. A child or young person is never to blame if they are a victim. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Examinations and tests (All Parents/ Carers)

Our Year 11 children start their GCSE examinations next week with Year 6 starting SAT's the week after. We wish all children the very best of luck for these examinations and tests.

It is important to make clear to all parents/ carers that these are nationally arranged examinations and we do not have influence over the date/ time of these examinations. We have to follow strict rules about children who attend late or do not attend. Children cannot simply do the exams when they return or catch up if they arrive late. Punctuality and attendance is so important for these examinations and your support is appreciated.

Social Media (All Parents/ Carers)

Every school has things that go wrong and no school is perfect. It is our preference to deal with any concerns or issues face to face and in an informal manner with parents through discussion and dialogue. With this in mind, could I please request that if parents have any concerns that they address them to the school directly rather than through social media. Equally, each week we share lots of positive things that take place through this newsletter and the primary newsletter, if your child has had a great experience - feel free to share this widely!

Primary Newsletter (Primary Parents/ Carers)

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

Reporting Bullying/ Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)

If you or your child needs to raise any bullying or pastoral concerns with the academy please [click here](#).

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,

S. Cooke



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