

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to Unity Academy for the academic year; I hope you have had a fantastic summer break. We were delighted to welcome children back into school this week. I would also like to welcome our new students and parents/ carers to the Unity family.

This is the first Headteacher's update of the academic year. This is issued to all parents/ carers by email on a Friday to the email address we have on our system. A text message is also sent to let you know. We are hoping to be able to text you the link to the letter on the website this year to save you opening emails!

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

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

- Reception and Year 7 have made fantastic starts to the new year this week. We have seen some amazing work in Y7 music and I really enjoyed talking to some of our new Reception children about the jungle animals!
- Year 11 textiles students were working hard to produce some fantastic designs this week.
- All students have made a really good start to the first week back at school; we are really proud of all of them.

### **New staff (All Parents/ Carers)**

I wanted to wish a very warm welcome to all our new staff as they join the Unity family. Some of these colleagues started before summer but I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce them all to you now. Details of new colleagues are below: -

- Mr D Cottom, Art Teacher
- Mrs M Hayward, EnglishTeacher
- Miss K Mallalieu, Science Teacher and Head of Year 9
- Miss C Lee, Class Teacher, Year 4
- Mr B Wainwright, Class Teacher, Year 1
- Miss G Phillips, Science Teacher
- Miss A Finch, Design & Technology (Food) Teacher
- Mr H Hesketh, PETeacher
- Mrs J Davies, PSHE Teacher
- Miss E Bond, Class Teacher, Reception
- Miss C Chesters, EnglishTeacher
- Mr B Weaver, Music Teacher
- Mr A Memory, Cover Supervisor (Primary)
- Mr J Howell, Cover Supervisor (Secondary)
- Miss A Wilson, Assistant Head of Year (Secondary)
- Ms H Kelly, Assistant SEND Manager
- Mrs C Porter, Senior Science Technician
- Mr D Hartley, Site Supervisor
- Mr N Howell, Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead

### **RAAC (All Parents/ Carers)**

Parents will have seen the news surrounding RAAC concrete. I want to reassure parents/ carers that we have complied with all requests from the Government regarding the building and have had structural checks for any areas where there was any uncertainty. These checks have confirmed that there is no RAAC within the building. Unity Academy is not on the list of affected schools.

### **School start time (All Parents/ Carers)**

Please accept our apologies for any confusion this week around this. The school day starts at 8:40AM. Children should be in class at this time.

Thank you to parents/ carers and students who have worked so hard to ensure everyone is here on time for the start of the school day.

### **PAUSE (All Parents/ Carers)**

Please ask your child what PAUSE and CARE stand for; they should know as they are in all classrooms and we remind them of them regularly!

P - Punctuality

A - Attendance

U - Uniform

S - Safe and Sensible behaviour

E - Effort

C - Consideration

A - and

R - Respect for

E - Everyone

I am sharing these as I want to mention attendance specifically. Every single day of attendance really counts towards children's overall attendance. The facts around attendance to school and the impact on student performance are clear - every day of absence harms the chances of student success.

We recognise that there are always some genuine reasons for absence but do ask all parents to support us in trying to ensure that children with any mild illness try and come into school. We will always call you if children are too unwell to be in school.

### **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'.

For new parents, this is a standard item on the update each week, not because there are high numbers of issues but just so you are aware of the quickest way to get in touch with us.

These concerns are monitored by the senior team and allocated to an individual colleague to deal with any concerns.

**And Finally...**

We are looking forward to a great year at Unity, if you need anything or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Mr.S.Cooke  
Headteacher