

23 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to write to you to welcome you back to what feels like a more 'normal' way of operating the academy. I have included some updates below for parents/carers.

Incident on 16th September 2021

Thank you to parents/carers for your support and kind wishes following the incident on the 16th September 2021. I hope parents managed to receive the communication from the academy prior to reading the rather 'sensationalist' headlines in local media. Whilst our safeguarding measures already exceed all necessary guidance and legislation, we are looking carefully at any additional safeguarding measures we can put in place, whilst considering the welfare of your children. We need to ensure that any additional measures we put in place do not have a negative impact on children's necessary freedoms within the academy.

Open Day

Parents/Carers will be aware that COVID-19 rates are still increasing in Blackpool. Having considered this and the potential risks of inviting hundreds of visitors to the academy in a very short space of time, we have made the decision to cancel the open day planned for the 2nd October. One of the mitigations we would have needed to put in place would have been to ask parents/carers of existing Unity children and those who have visited the academy before to not attend. We do not feel that this fits with our ethos that 'In Unity, We Succeed'. We are pleased to welcome any parents/carers considering Unity Academy for either admission into Nursery, Reception or Year 7 to visit the academy by booking a tour through the website.

Nursery

I am delighted to be able to inform parents that as of the 1st September 2021, Unity Academy officially opened as an academy for children aged 2-16 with nursery classes. Our previous age range was 5-16 and the Unity Nursery operated as a separate educational setting within the same building. In practice this doesn't mean anything different for parents but it does mark a significant point in the history of the academy.

COVID-19 Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

I am keen to make it clear to parents/carers that the involvement of the academy in this programme is limited to making a space available for the NHS and handing out the initial consent forms. The issue of consent is one between parents, students and the NHS vaccination services. Unity Academy does not and will not advocate, encourage or discourage consent for these vaccinations. The academy and any colleague speaking on behalf of the academy on this matter will adopt a neutral stance.