



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool,
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www.unity.blackpool.org.uk

Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

13th February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

It was a busy and productive last week as we hosted two of our most important events of the year: the Year 9 Options Evening and the Year 11 Parents' Evening.

The turnout was fantastic, and it was wonderful to see the school so busy with families dedicated to supporting our pupils' next steps.

The main hall was filled with a real **"buzz" of activity** as Year 9 pupils and their families explored the different subjects available for GCSE and BTEC study.

Choosing options is a major milestone in a pupil's journey. By attending in such high numbers, our pupils are now much better equipped to make **informed decisions** about their futures. Seeing pupils talk passionately with teachers about potential careers and interests shows just how seriously they are taking this process.

For our Year 11 pupils, the focus was firmly on the upcoming summer exams. Teachers were delighted to have the opportunity to advise and guide parents and carers on how to best support revision at home.

Education is a partnership. We often find that this **combined support**—where the school, the pupil, and the family all work together—is exactly what makes the difference when it comes to those final grades.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who braved the evening chill to join us. Research consistently shows that when parents are involved in these evenings, pupils feel more motivated and perform better.

If you were unable to make it last week, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year to catch up on any missed information. We strongly encourage all parents to attend these events whenever possible—it really does make a world of difference!



What have we been up to this week?

This week, a team of staff had the absolute pleasure of taking our primary and secondary Dance Clubs and the Harmony Group to the School's Alive rehearsal and also attended the evening performance with them. When we say absolute pleasure, we absolutely mean it. Their behaviour and conduct during the rehearsal, whilst watching other schools perform and also when bringing the whole evening to a close with their performance was simply impeccable and we are incredibly proud of every single one of them. There were some nerves but they were so supportive and encouraging of each other and were a truly amazing bunch to be with. Well done all of you! We love that we give our children the opportunity to perform on a world class stage such as the Winter Gardens!



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Reception brought their Chinese New Year theme to a close with a whole class dragon dance. They were all very comfortable sharing their knowledge of China and how Chinese New Year is celebrated in comparison to how they may celebrate different festivals at home!

Mrs Shaw has spent a couple of lunchtimes with our Nursery children this week. Their growing confidence is just fantastic to see. They try different foods and will talk openly about what they like and dislike. They are clearly used to our routines and expectations now and are developing lovely friendships with each other. Well done all of you!

The primary RRS assembly this week was delivered by Mr Cooper and focused on the importance of our School Uniform. He spoke about the fact that it shows we are all a part of the same team and that our uniform symbolises this. Wearing a full school uniform is one of our school expectations and by wearing it we are showing that we are ready to learn at school and are respecting the expectations. Staff will be focusing on school uniform after the holidays to check that it is in place. The full uniform list is on the primary newsletter every week should you want to check it. The expectation is that children wear a Unity logo jumper, a white shirt, black trousers or skirt (not leggings), wear fully black shoes and have a full P.E. kit in school. Please support your child in meeting our school values by providing a full school uniform. We do have some spares in school so just let us know if you need any support with this. After the holidays we will recap again on our school values and expectations to remind the children of them.

This week, our secondary **RRS** curriculum focused on the diverse world of **Careers in the Armed Forces**. Through a series of engaging assemblies and dedicated form-time sessions, our secondary students explored the vast array of pathways available—from engineering and logistics to medical services and peace-keeping roles.

These sessions are vital for helping our students understand how their skills can translate into global opportunities while reflecting on the importance of service and teamwork. It was fantastic to see so many students asking insightful questions and considering how their own strengths might shape their future careers.

Finally, this week, Y9 visited the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. This is an important visit to support the choice of GCSE Options for our students, and it provides a vital bridge between their current studies and their future aspirations. By stepping onto a high-performance campus, students can see firsthand how the subjects they choose today—from humanities to creative studies—translate into the specialist facilities and career paths of tomorrow.



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New Messages

Attendance

Well done and thank you very much to all students, parents and carers for working very hard and successfully to improve attendance. This is having a very positive impact. Year on year primary attendance has increased by 1.5%, secondary by 4.4% and whole school attendance by 3.2%. Punctuality is also massively improved with late arrivals reduced by 68%. This translates into approximately **10000** days of additional school attendance! We now need to keep pushing to improve these yet further.

Thank you

Important Update - Introducing Pebble – Secondary Catering

After the half-term holiday, we will be upgrading how the canteen operates for secondary students for a faster and more efficient service.

What's changing

We are moving from 4-digit pin numbers to fobs with QR codes

The FSM allowances will be accessible from 11am every day, rather than just on Thursday's and Friday's that we have been trialling for the last few weeks. Please continue to work with your child about managing their expenditure carefully to ensure they have a balanced food intake throughout the day.

The ability to accept cash via machines in school will be removed. If you have not already registered for MCAS, we encourage you to do so in order to add funds to your child's lunch account by card.

We have introduced a new "Simple Sandwich" of either cheese or ham in a bread roll for £1.35.

What will happen

In morning registration on Tuesday 24th February your child will be issued with a fob with a personalised QR code on a house colour key ring. They should keep this safe and not share it with any other student. Lost fobs may incur a charge for a replacement.

If your child is not in registration on the first day back, it may delay them accessing the food provision at break or lunch. The same applies if they forget their fob on any single day.

At meal service, the fob is scanned by the machine, the student selects their food and the charge is made to their account accordingly. You will continue to be able to see purchases via MCAS as now.



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Existing Balances

Existing credit balances will be transferred over the half term holiday and as such you will not be able to add funds to your child's account from 2pm on Friday 13th February until 9am on Thursday 19th February. This will allow us to make sure that only the relevant information is added to the new system.

In the unlikely event that you have a debit balance on a secondary dinner account, we will contact you about this separately.

Standing Messages

Primary Newsletter (Primary Parents/ Carers) - Please [click here](#) to view the primary newsletter.

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, 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, and behaviour reports (Positive and Negative) are now also available.

Reporting Bullying/ Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)

As usual, this has closed for the half-term break and will be reopened at the start of half-term 4.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Connolly'.

Mr. J. Connolly
Acting Headteacher