



16th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week, Year 11 students are receiving their mock exam results. This is often a week of mixed emotions. Some students will be **celebrating** their hard work, while others may feel **disappointed or discouraged** by their grades.

Whatever the results, the most important message for your child is this: **these results are a snapshot in time, not the final word.** Mock exams are a practice run. Their purpose is to show us what is working and what needs more attention. If your child didn't get the grades they wanted, please reassure them that **there is still plenty of time to make a difference.** Every year, we see students make incredible progress between January and the summer by using feedback to focus their revision.

The message for all our pupils is that whatever has happened in the past, you can always reset, work hard and change your future.

What have we been up to this week?

Spending time in Miss Ayers' classroom this week was a particular highlight for Mrs Shaw this week. Her calm and positive approach is just fabulous and the children were so very focused in their English lesson. The new scheme we have introduced for writing is really working well. The texts are challenging to access but the scaffolded approach makes them accessible for the children. Miss Bateman's class were studying *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and the vocabulary used by the children in their writing blew me away. Whilst Ms Brayne's class were mesmerised by her reading as they used highlighters to highlight tricky words and words that proved the main character in the text was brave. Mrs Shaw has truly loved what she has seen this week!

Our RRS curriculum in primary this week was focused on supporting the children to 'Manage their own feelings'. Sometimes the emotions they feel can be enormous and it takes time and maturity for them to recognise firstly, the feeling itself and secondly, their response to it. We have discussed coping mechanisms and breathing techniques with the children to support them with their understanding. Next week we will move onto a focus on 'Resilience and facing problems'.

This week in secondary, our Ready, Respectful, Safe (RRS) curriculum has focused on kindness and compassion, explored through form time and reinforced in assemblies. The message was simple but powerful: how we treat each other matters. Small, everyday acts of kindness shape our culture, strengthen relationships, and make our school a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and able to succeed. This is character education in action, not just words on a slide.



Year 11 also received their mock GCSE results this week. These moments matter. For some students, the results confirmed that their hard work is paying off. For others, they were a wake-up call. What matters most is the response. Mocks are not a judgement; they are a checkpoint. They tell us what's working, what needs tightening up, and where to focus next. Progress from here is absolutely possible, and staff are fully behind every student as they push forward towards the summer exams.

To recognise effort, progress, and success, today we welcomed the winning **Blue Team** from last half term, alongside **Red Team** students who improved their current working grade by at least one or achieved a Grade 4 in English and maths. They were treated to a celebratory Subway and KFC lunch at break. This wasn't about perfection – it was about commitment, improvement, and stepping up when it counts.

The message to students is clear: effort is noticed, progress is celebrated, and there are rewards for doing the right things consistently. Let's keep that momentum going into next week.

[New Messages](#)

Year 6 Mock SATs

Year 6 have their mock SATs in 2 weeks - 26th-29th January. I cannot stress enough the importance of the children being in school, on time, every day. Whilst we do talk to the children about not worrying and focusing on doing their very best and, I do hand on heart mean that, we do need to give them these opportunities to practice so that they are well prepared for the real tests later in the year. We take the opportunity to run this mock SATs week as the one will run in May which means we ask the children to come in early to meet for breakfast with their friends. **Children should come to the Drama Hall (and not the classrooms) from 8:30am** please with all children arriving by 8:40am. Further details will follow shortly.

Important Update: Changes to Catering Services

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know about a small change to our school catering service starting this week. This applies only to Secondary Catering.

What is changing?

On Thursdays and Fridays, students who receive Free School Meals (FSM) will now be able to access their daily lunch funds earlier in the day, starting at break time.

Why are we doing this?



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

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Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

This change is being made to support our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils who attend college on these days. By making the funds available earlier, these students can eat a full meal before they head out to their college placements.

Managing lunch money

Because the daily allowance will be available from the morning break, students will need to manage their spending carefully.

Please talk to your child about the following:

- Planning ahead: If they choose to spend their money on snacks at break time, they may not have enough left to buy a full meal at lunch.
- Self-regulation: It is up to each student to make sure they save enough of their allowance to stay fueled throughout the school day.

We want to make sure every student still gets a healthy, balanced meal. If you have any questions about these changes, please feel free to contact the school office.

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)

The link to raise a concern remains on the website. Click on the three lines and choose to raise a pastoral/bullying concern under the parents heading. These concerns are reviewed by the senior team and allocated to the most appropriate member of staff to investigate and communicate with parents.

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>



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Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Connolly
Acting Headteacher