



23rd January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Next week, our Year 6 pupils will be participating in their **second practise SATs week (Mock SATs)**. These sessions are a vital part of our preparation for the upcoming assessments in May.

Both pupils and staff have been working incredibly hard, and we are delighted to report that **the children are making good progress**. While these weeks can be challenging, they are an essential tool for:

- **Building Confidence:** Familiarity with the test format helps reduce anxiety and build emotional resilience.
- **Targeted Support:** Results help us identify specific areas where pupils might need a little extra help over the coming weeks.

We are so proud of the dedication shown by our Year 6 cohort so far, and know that the much valued support they receive from home is real help. We wish them the very best of luck for the week ahead.

I would also like to make you aware of an opportunity to support the school as we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on Unity Academy's Governing Body. Should you be interested in nominating yourself for this role, please complete the google link: <https://forms.gle/okEfKCVTLdQuyQ4v7> by Monday 02nd February 2026.

If you would like any further information about the role, please contact governance@fcat.org.uk

What have we been up to this week?

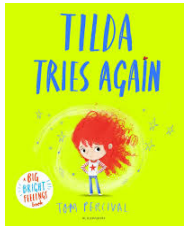
The Trust Director of Maths has been working with Year 1 and she emailed Mrs Shaw this week with some really positive feedback. "I have just been to see year 1 for a full hour and they really impressed me. Miss Tench has fully embraced all the suggestions that we have discussed together and transitioned year 1 to whole class maths teaching in a very short space of time. The children were using mini whiteboards to demonstrate their understanding, they used base 10 resources and managed to complete independent work as a whole class". Well done to Year 1 and Miss Tench!

We have our very own David Attenborough's in Year 3! The children have written and filmed themselves presenting some fantastic descriptions of a fox. The music and the imagery of the fox behind them as they read aloud their writing made it feel like they were presenting a nature programme on the tv. Excellent work 3HP!

Tommy in 1MT shared his English book with Mrs Shaw this week and she said that the work he had produced was simply fantastic. His handwriting was beautiful, with his letters nicely shaped and consistent in size. The vocabulary he used in his writing was excellent - he even used the word petite! Looking back at the progress he



has made from the first page of his book where he had written one sentence of three words to now where he had written a paragraph was so good to see. Well done Tommy!



Our RRS focus in primary this week was '**Resilience**' using the story 'Tilda Tries Again' by Tom Percival. This lovely story really helped the children to understand what resilience is and why it is so important when they are finding things tough. Ask them about it! Next week we will move onto '**E-Safety**' and the importance of not chatting to strangers online and not sharing any personal information.

This week in secondary, our RRS curriculum and assemblies have focused on **resilience**, with a particular emphasis on **academic resilience** – supporting students to persist, reflect, and respond positively when learning feels challenging. These messages are especially timely as we move through a demanding point in the academic year.

On Wednesday evening, we were delighted to welcome back our Year 11 Class of 2025 for Presentation Evening. It was a genuinely uplifting occasion, celebrating their GCSE success and recognising outstanding achievement through subject awards presented by their teachers. It was a pleasure to see students and families back with us and to acknowledge the hard work and resilience shown across their secondary journey.

New Messages

Yondr pouches

We have noted a recent decline in the consistent use of Yondr pouches to securely store mobile phones during the school day. We will be reminding students of the expectations around this policy and, crucially, the reasons behind it: safeguarding, wellbeing, reduced distraction, and a calm, focused learning environment. We ask for the continued support of parents and carers in reinforcing this message, ensuring phones are placed in pouches each morning and supporting the school in maintaining high standards that benefit all students.

Repeated Messages

Year 6 have their mock SATs next week - 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 8:35am please with all children arriving by 8:40am.** Thank you for your continued support.



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?

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)

**UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL**

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Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

[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>

Sign up for The National College - <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/unity-academy-blackpool>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Connolly
Acting Headteacher