



30th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Following some incidents in school linked to misuse of vapes with a small number of our pupils in the secondary phase, I met with the police earlier this week. I would like to share with you some information as a result of this meeting.

#### The Risks: More Than Just "Steam"

- Health Hazards: Vapes often contain high nicotine levels that harm adolescent brain development.
- Illegal Substances: Some unregulated liquids contain dangerous illegal drugs like synthetic cannabinoids ("Spice") or THC, which can lead to seizures and medical emergencies.

#### The Law

- Under 18s: It is illegal for anyone under 18 to buy or possess vapes.
- Proxy Sales: It is a criminal offense for an adult to buy vapes for a minor.

Our school site is a vape-free zone. To protect our community, we enforce the following:

- Strict Ban: Vapes and all related equipment are prohibited on school grounds.
- Sanctions: Students caught using or possessing vapes will face formal disciplinary action.
- Confiscation: Any vapes found will be confiscated and destroyed immediately.

#### Working Together

We ask that you speak with your child about these dangers and the legal consequences of vaping. Your support is vital in helping us maintain a healthy, focused environment for all students.

#### [What have we been up to this week?](#)

This week our Year 6 children have completed their second set of mock SATs. It was so lovely to see them coming into school on time to have a bit of breakfast with their friends and, more importantly, not being phased by the tests and showing real can-do attitudes. We are incredibly proud of every single one of them! Once we have marked them we will share the results with their parents along with our recommendations for which precision tutoring sessions they need to attend to give them the absolute best opportunity for success.

3HP completed AR tests this week and Miss Purdy shared some of the children's reading progress with Mrs Shaw. There are some absolutely phenomenal improvements in reading in a short space of time. Well done all of you, keep up the hard work.



## UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

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Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

Our RRS focus in primary this week was E-Safety and the importance of not sharing any personal information or chatting to strangers online. As parents, please keep a close eye on your child when they are using technology and chat to them openly about talking to you if anyone contacts them or anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. Next week we will move onto looking at the importance of 'Controlling our emotions' using the Tom Percival story 'Ravi's Roar'.

This week in the secondary phase, our RRS curriculum and Mrs Whitehead's assemblies have focused on academic excellence.

Year 10 students took part in another highly successful Science Super Learning Day, this time exploring *atomic structure*. Year 8 students visited UCLan to deepen their understanding of future pathways and careers, while Year 9 attended a careers fair at the Winter Gardens, giving them valuable exposure to a wide range of post-16 and post-18 options.

We have also maintained a strong focus on adherence to the Yondr mobile phone policy. The vast majority of students continue to meet expectations consistently, with only a small minority requiring reminders — a clear sign that high standards are becoming the norm.

### [New Messages](#)

#### Primary school uniform

In the last week of this half term, primary's RRS focus will be school uniform with the aim of improving the standard of it. I am giving you advance notice of this focus to give you as much time as possible to make sure that your child has the full and correct school uniform in place after the holidays. This includes a jumper with the Unity logo, fully black shoes and a full P.E. Kit. Don't forget that we do have some spare uniform in school which has been kindly donated by parents so please don't hesitate to contact us should you need to. Thank you.

#### School's Alive

Some of our children are representing Unity on the Winter Gardens stage at the School's Alive Festival on Wednesday 11th February. Tickets are available from the Winter Gardens Box Office.

### [Repeated Messages](#)

#### 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.



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## 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)

[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.



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**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