



8th May 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we head into May, we want to share a quick update about the upcoming national exams. Our **Year 6** pupils are preparing for their **SATs**, and our **Year 11s** are beginning their **GCSEs**.

The children have been working incredibly hard, and we are so proud of the dedication they have shown. We know this can be a busy and sometimes stressful time, so here is how we can work together to help them shine.

Key Dates for Your Calendar

- **Year 6 SATs:** These will take place from **Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May**.
- **Year 11 GCSEs:** Most main exams begin the week of **11 May** and continue through June.

During the exam period, "normal" routines often go out the window. Pupils might feel more tired or anxious than usual. To help them stay calm and do their best, we are focusing on a "healthy body, healthy mind" approach both at home and at school.

How you can help at home:

- **Early Nights:** Sleep is fuel for the brain! A regular bedtime helps them stay sharp and focused.
- **Good Food:** A healthy breakfast and plenty of water make a huge difference to concentration levels.
- **Praise and Positive Vibes:** A little bit of encouragement goes a long way. Let them know that you are proud of their **effort**, regardless of the result.
- **Keep it Calm:** Home should be a place to switch off. If they seem stressed, a quick walk or a favourite snack can help them reset.

What we are doing at school: We are keeping things positive and supportive in the classroom. We'll be providing plenty of reassurance, clear instructions, and a calm environment to make sure every pupil feels ready to show what they know.

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

Reception children have made Mrs Shaw smile this week, and she has commented that she has really enjoyed seeing how much the children have grown and changed. The progress they have made is very nice to see, as are the friendships! Personal, Social and Emotional development is a prime area of the Early Years curriculum, and so it links throughout every other curriculum area. As much as the adults are always talking,





modelling conversation and thought processes and demonstrating how to take turns when speaking, it is also nice to sit and watch the children as you gain so much knowledge of what they know and understand and therefore can plan their next steps just by observing them. The picture above shows a group of children who worked together to build a castle. There was turn-taking, discussions about the "best way" to do something and "what would make it strong?" Not all children agreed, so there was some debating and compromising, but they all handled it in a mature way. Young children's imagination is the best part of teaching! Being there when they make a discovery and share their ideas about what they think they have found is always fascinating. The second picture shows one child's 'Caterpillar egg'. The boys decided that it was "very precious so (they) need to look after it". Well done, Reception!



Our RRS this week was completed in classrooms as we had no assembly on Monday due to it being a Bank Holiday. Our focus this week was on being ready to learn and on tiredness. Teachers spoke with the children about how important it is to have good sleep routines and patterns so that they are awake, alert and ready to access their learning. Children were given scenarios to discuss together to decide what they think someone should do - e.g., *it has been a long week, Mia had lots of tests this week at school and extra-curricular activities every day after school. On Saturday, she had to wake up very early for her swimming competition. What should she do on Sunday?*

This week in the secondary phase, our RRS curriculum and assemblies have focused on the theme of courage. Students have explored what courage looks like in everyday life — from standing up for others and making positive choices, to showing resilience during challenging situations. The assemblies encouraged students to reflect on how courage is not always about big moments, but often about consistently doing the right thing, even when it is difficult.

Year 9 students also took part in a separate assembly focused on sexual health, providing important education around healthy relationships, informed choices, and personal wellbeing in an age-appropriate and respectful manner.

[New Messages](#)

In addition to last week's message about ensuring bikes are securely locked, we also ask parents/carers to encourage students to ride safely and sensibly when travelling to and from school. It is particularly busy around the back gates at the end of the day, and we ask that all students exercise caution and consideration for themselves, pedestrians and other traffic.



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

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Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

Repeated Messages

A reminder that as the weather changes, children will need an application of sun cream before school - we would recommend the longer-lasting 12-hour type ones wherever possible. Your child will also need a hat that is clearly labelled with their name. The ones with neck protection are particularly good!

Nursery - Nursery places are available for September. Please contact the school office for more information or to arrange a visit.

Year 6 SATs week - 11th - 14th May is Year 6 SATs week. We expect all children in school, on time every day and especially this particular week. Children can come into school from 8:35 am Monday to Thursday that week for breakfast with their friends. All children should come directly to the Drama Hall at 8:35 am where staff will meet them. **A message from the Year 6 team** - Only one more week until SATs, so please get your children to practice their times tables. So many questions relate to the knowledge of times tables, and any increase in speed or knowledge can only be an advantage. Thank you

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>

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

Yours sincerely,



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