



# UNSWORTH ACADEMY



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The 2025 GCSE exam season starts this Monday. Our very best wishes to all Year 11 students – you are going to do brilliantly. Mr Fordham and Miss Steele wrote out to Year 11 parents this week outlining early morning revision sessions, timetable alterations and after school P6 revision. Virtual sessions are, also, being put on by our English and Maths teams at weekends and we will, of course, be operating a May Half Term Revision School. Remember our motto: *you can only do your best, but you can do your best.*

Improving reading skills is a perpetual focus of ours at Unsworth. There are a range of ways in which we do this including Sparx Reader, Bedrock, library lessons, texts across the curriculum and intervention groups. We conduct reading age tests three times a year to inform all the above. Next week is Reading Age Test Week for Year 7 to 10. Please support by ensuring that all learners don't forget to bring charged iPads. Currently live is, also, our Reading Challenge for Years 7, 8 and 9. By the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May deadline, learners need to have read seven books and submitted their completed bookmarks. Winners will be celebrated in front of parents at our Reading Awards evening, at which our special guest this year is author Jen Carney.

Today is the deadline for Year 10 students to apply to become Prefects for 2025-26. Applications are coming in thick and fast, and interviews will start next week. Soon we will be ready to announce to the community our Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputies and Sports Captains for next year. Good luck to all applicants.

I just want to give you a quick flavour of wider curriculum activities this week. Today 40 learners are on a joint History/English trip to Styal Mill in Cheshire. Our student body was represented by three learners yesterday at an Andy Burnham sponsored Greater Manchester event on child exploitation. There was also much VE Day reflection yesterday, which included a whole school 2-minute silence, and our Geography department were celebrating the 99<sup>th</sup> birthday of David Attenborough in a variety of ways, including coming dressed up as him! This week also saw a very exciting and competitive staff v Year 11s netball match. The staff gained some revenge in a 9-4 victory, which was timely after last week's football debacle!!

To finish briefing this Friday, we want to mention a couple of awards. On Monday we are going through a full Emotionally Friendly Schools accreditation. We have been recognised previously in this area but, fingers crossed, we may achieve the full award. And on Tuesday of this week, I accompanied three members of our superb staff team to the Shaw Education Staff Awards. In all, five of our staff received accolades and I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating them:

Mr Fordham – Leader of the Year- Shortlisted.

Miss Steele – Support Staff of the Year – Shortlisted.

Miss McAndrew – Rising Star – Secondary Sector Winner.

Mr Peacock – All Round Good Egg – National Winner.

Mr Orrell – Contribution to Education – Secondary Sector Winner.

Have lovely weekends everyone,

*A Fair*

**Mr A Fair**  
**Academy Principal**

**Mr A Fair Academy Principal**

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