



UNSWORTH ACADEMY



Friday 8th November 2024

Dear parents/carers,

A major focus this week at school has been Year 11 Mocks. At Unsworth we run a series of Mock GCSE exams in November and then a second series in late February. We find this builds a momentum of preparation for Year 11s that leads them into the crucial summer exams. The work ethic, attitude, tenacity and engagement they have shown this week has been superb. Well done all. We roll into week 2 from Monday and staff are already busy marking so students can learn from, both, what they have done well and what they could do better.

I need to include a reminder in this week's letter about our mobile phone policy. Our procedures regarding mobile phones are, obviously, against the context of national government guidelines. In February 2024 the Secretary of State for Education outlined that schools are to adopt one of 4 ethos to their approach:

1. No mobile phones on the school premises.
2. Mobile phones handed in on arrival.
3. Mobile phones kept in a secure location, which the pupil does not access throughout the school day.
4. Never used, seen or heard.

The reason this is in place nationally is to minimise distraction, disruption and diversion and to ensure active socialising, positive wellbeing and robust safeguard.

At Unsworth we decided on approach 4. We know that many parents like their children to have their phones for contact immediately after school and that many children have bus passes etc. digitally on their phones. This approach does require us all to work together, however. We cannot have situations whereby students covertly contact parents using their phones during the school day. It undermines our never used, seen or heard approach. At times, there is genuine need for children to contact their parents during school time. We will always facilitate this need by giving our learners access to office phones. Thank you, in advance, to all parents for supporting us with this.

Next Friday 15th November is Children in Need Day across the country. As you know, we play a very active role supporting a range of local and national charities. Friday will be a 'non-uniform' day for learners and staff, and we hope that everyone will donate £1 for the privilege. There is to be no inappropriately revealing attire please and, of course, if students would prefer to attend in uniform, that is absolutely fine. Poppie sales this week have, also, been raising money for the Royal British Legion. On Sunday, the Head Boy, Head Girl and I will attend the remembrance service at Unsworth pole and represent the whole school community by laying a wreath.

I am delighted to announce two Headteacher Awards this week. Riley Lewis and Summer Whittaker have been nominated for impeccable manners, kindness, organisation and resilience to solve design problems in their latest technology rotation. Very well done both. #Be Resilient.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend and a reminder that school will be closed to learners on Friday 29th November for a staff training day.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Fair
Academy Principal

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Unsworth Academy, Parr Lane, Bury, BL9 8LP

Tel: 0161 796 9820 **Email:** information@unsworth.set.org

Online: www.unsworthacademy.org.uk