



# UNSWORTH ACADEMY



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to our first Friday update of the academic year 2024/25. In order that new parents are aware, and as a reminder to existing parents, I'll recap our pledge to you. We communicate whole school messages every Friday. One week we send a letter and the next week we send a video (which we love involving the children in and giving them opportunities to practice public speaking!). Parent Voice and Parent's Forum has always expressed a desire for regular communications, so I'm hoping you are happy with a continuation of this plan.

I must start with news of our Year 11 Leavers' Exam Results. They did amazingly! National averages are still being calculated and released by government, but early indication is that the cohort have broken the school record for progress/value added. Current unvalidated data has our Progress 8 at +0.20, which means that the progress the children made with us over 5 years is in the top 20% of schools nationally. It, also, means a third consecutive positive yearly progress figure.

This all translates to the vast majority of our 180 Year 11 leavers having personally achieved superb results, which give them access to college courses and set them up for life. They worked incredibly hard, in tandem with our fabulous staff team, and I could not be prouder of them. A huge, huge well done to all.

The start to 2024/25 has gone excellently this week. Our new Year 7 cohort have settled quickly and seem very happy as they get used to Unsworth classes, systems and people. They have been keen to make a strong first impression and have done so successfully. Other year groups have, also, settled well. Over summer we have moved the position of several departments in the building to avoid Maths being split between the main building and the new block. We have, also, recruited a talented group of new staff who you will meet as the year goes forward. A further, very significant change is our swap of Management Information System (MIS). We have moved from SIMS to Arbor, which is affecting Gateway Apps, parent notifications of behaviour/achievement points, payment processes etc. Thank you to everyone for their patience with this. In the long run, this system will be far easier for us all and has many more functionalities. Our Operations Team will communicate with you as we resolve issues over coming weeks.

You may have seen the national news this week about changes to Ofsted inspection. Single word judgements will no longer be issued in inspection reports. At Unsworth we remain due for inspection this year and we are continuing on our Good to Outstanding 4-year Development Plan. Together as students, parents and staff, our relentless ambition to keep improving is what makes our school community special. Next Tuesday is the first of our 5 Good to Outstanding information evenings, in which we set the context and intention for the year ahead. We start with Year 7 and look forward to welcoming all those Year 7 parents who are able to come.

Thank you all. Looking forward to a super year,

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

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