



UNSWORTH ACADEMY



Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to start by wishing you and your families a very happy and successful new year. On Monday, we welcomed back our fabulous students and staff to a snow covered Unsworth Academy. Fortunately, owing to the brilliant work of our dedicated site team, the school was able to open safely to allow a smooth and positive first week back.

Although I have visited the school a few times since my appointment in the autumn term, it has been great to finally get started and begin to get to know our amazing school community. The learners have made myself and Mrs. Brophy, our new Deputy Headteacher, feel incredibly welcome. The good manners, engagement and curiosity we have seen from the learners has been impressive, and they are credit to you, just as they are to our school.

Despite the distractions of the inclement weather, the students have started where they left off, focused on working hard and 'being excellent'. I have no doubt that this level of focus and application will lead to a very successful term ahead.

I understand that Mr. Fair wrote to you back in the autumn term announcing my appointment and sharing some info about my background. I just wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his support during the handover and to wish him all the very best in his new role. He spoke so highly about the support of the parent/carer community. I'm really looking forward to working in partnership with you, as we continue to push forward in ensuring Unsworth Academy provides the very best for our young people.

One of the reasons I was drawn to Unsworth was because my educational values align very closely with the vision and culture which exist here at the school. Aspirations, standards and expectations are incredibly high. I know from experience that this leads to learners feeling part of a community, feeling safe and happy, and ultimately being able to learn and achieve their very best. This is what I want for all of our young people, the very best educational opportunities and the very best life chances, and I will strive to ensure that everything we do at Unsworth supports that goal.

With regards to standards, Mrs. Brophy emailed home earlier this week with some reminders about uniform expectations. We have noticed some students wearing incorrect items such as trainers instead of shoes, false nails and jewellery etc. Please can I ask for your support in making sure that our lovely uniform is worn with pride. We have given lots of supportive reminders to the learners this week, but as of next week, non-uniform items such as jewellery will be confiscated as usual, so we ask that they are not brought into school.

This week, we have spoken in assemblies about positive new year's resolutions. All learners have been encouraged to reflect and consider a positive change they would

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like to make in their lives this year. Please do have follow up conversations with your child about any aspirations or goals they might have for the year ahead. Hummingbird sessions for the whole of Year 7 started well yesterday and the children behaved impeccably. The Hummingbird project covers how we learn ways to feel happier with mindfulness. It covers subjects like gratitude, kindness and character strengths. This is the fourth year that we have been fortunate enough to take part in this venture.

Next week we have some exciting events. Year 9 learners will be completing a design workshop hosted by Young Green Briton Challenge. It combines climate education with innovation, business and citizenship skills. Students will work in teams to identify climate issues and design entrepreneurial solutions to address them. The most promising teams can receive funding and mentorship, with the best ideas entering the National Challenge finals.

And on Tuesday morning, Year 10 will be having an assembly led by 'WHYSUP'. They will be giving advice to students on how to support their own mental health and wellbeing, specifically during exams.

Finally, can I again just say a huge thank you in advance for your ongoing support. It is a privilege to be part of this community and I look forward to working with you in the months and years to come.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Stewart
Headteacher

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