

# Unity College

Towneley Holmes, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 3DF  
Tel: 01282 683010 • Fax: 01282 683012  
www.unity-college.com • enquiries@unity-college.com

11 December 2017

Dear Parent / Guardian

I write to you at the end of a very busy term at Unity College. Unity College has a vision to be Outstanding by 2019. I attach a copy of the college vision for you to read so that as a key stakeholder at Unity College you can share in the college's aspirations for the next two years and continue to support us as we strive to offer an outstanding education for your child.

As part of this vision we have a huge focus on literacy and oracy with an ambition that:

**"Students will read well, widely and often in order to develop a love of reading"**

The college invested in a college library in 2014 and as parents I know that you continue to encourage your child to read widely and often at home. There is an expectation that ALL students will bring a book to college each day to read. This can be a book that they own or one from the college library. Students are allowed to bring a Kindle/tablet if this is their reading e-book, however the college will take no responsibility if it is lost or stolen. Students must also ensure that their e-book is charged up each day. Please encourage your child to read at home often.

On the back of the College vision statement I include a copy of the Home School Agreement that parents, students and the college have agreed to. I would be grateful if you could read the documents through with your child to remind them of the college vision and our Home School Agreement as we work together to offer the best possible education for your child.

On our last day of term, **Friday 22 December 2017** the college will close at **1.30pm** for the Christmas break for all students. If you need your child to stay in college until 3.10pm on the last day of term please contact main reception and supervision until 3.10pm will be arranged for your child. The college will re-open on **Monday 8 January 2018 at 8.45am**.

The winter season is upon us and I hope that I will not have to close the college **due to snow** or other adverse weather conditions. A decision to close the college is not undertaken lightly and I will only close the college for health and safety reasons. It is an extremely difficult decision and I have to take into consideration a number of things including how safe it is for students and staff to travel to and from college safely. I also need to ensure that I have enough staff on site to teach and supervise students for the full day. Many staff do not live locally and travel a distance to college each day so they are not able to walk to work. I will endeavour to make a decision regarding any closure by 7.30am in the morning and will post a message on the college website. If I am closing the college I will also contact 2BR and Radio Lancashire to ask them to announce any closure. If it is announced on the radio the message has come from me as I have to give the radio station a password to ensure that the message is not a prank. Please do not ring college as I may not have anybody available to answer the telephone as they may not be able to get to the college. If the college is open but as a parent you are unable to get your child to college due to the conditions on the roads or public transport is cancelled you must use your judgment as to whether to send your child to college on that day.

Students are expected to be in full uniform including a blazer at all times. I have been very impressed this term with how smart students look. If students are going to wear a jumper in college it must have the college

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PASSION

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logo and be a V-neck. It is essential that all students are in full uniform at all times creating a "dressed for business" atmosphere throughout the college. Students are able to wear black or white socks / black tights. The fashionable over the knee socks are NOT permitted at college as they are not appropriate for school.

Students must not wear any jewellery except for a watch. Please ensure that your child does not have a piercing done over the Christmas break. Any piercing should happen at the start of the summer break in 2018 so that the earring(s) can be removed during the college day.

A number of students will be hoping to get a new mobile phone or another electronic device for Christmas. We will not take any responsibility for any mobile phone or any other electronic device including an iWatch that goes missing in college. If it is an expensive piece of equipment I strongly encourage you to get it insured.

Your child **MUST** have the correct basic equipment for learning. Can you please ensure that your child has everything they need each day including the basic writing/drawing implements e.g. a pen and pencil, also any specialist equipment/clothing e.g. food ingredients/PE kit for their lessons. **As a further reminder, students must also have a reading book in their bag each day.**

I include a copy of our latest "Safeguarding" newsletter for parents to support their child. This edition offers some online safety information to help you as parents understand what is out there so you can help your child to remain safe online. The newsletter also gives tips when talking to teenagers.

On Monday 18 December 2017 we are holding our annual Carol Service in St Stephens Church in Burnley Wood at 7.00pm. All parents are encouraged to attend this festive evening.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for Unity College as we work together to offer the very best learning opportunities and experiences for your child. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

*S Cryer*

S Cryer (Mrs)  
Headteacher

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