Our Ref SCR/EJO

November 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians

Unity College had a full Ofsted inspection at the beginning of November 2018. I am delighted to inform you that the college continues to be judged as a “Good” college and we achieved good in all areas of the Ofsted inspection. I attach a copy of the “Summary of key findings for parents and pupils”. The full Ofsted report can be found on the college website [www.unity-college.com](http://www.unity-college.com) and the Ofsted website <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>. If you would like a hard copy of the full report, please contact Mrs Johnson at college via phone or e-mail (e.johnson@unity.lancs.sch.uk) and we will arrange to forward a copy onto you.

We have a vision to be “Outstanding” by our next Ofsted in four years’ time. I attach a copy of the college vision for you so that as a key stakeholder at Unity College you can share in the college’s aspirations and continue to support us as we strive to offer an outstanding education for your child.

The term ends on **Friday 21 December 2018 at 2.10pm.** 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 7 January 2019 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 must take into consideration a number of factors 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 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 must 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 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 can 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 2019 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. **Students must also have a reading book in their bag each day.**

I attach an information sheet regarding the changes to free school meals.

We have recently reviewed our Assessment Policy and would strongly encourage you to have a look at the overview in the parent section on the college website [www.unity-college.com](http://www.unity-college.com) On the website you will also be able to view the Key Stage 3 subject specific skills and knowledge pathways to further support your child in year 7 and year 8.

Reading Week is the week beginning the 3December 2018 and Unity College has a sponsored Readathon. All students are being encouraged to complete a sponsored read. Further details are available from our college website.

On Monday 17 December 2018 we are holding our annual Carol Service in St Stephen’s Church in Burnley Wood at 7.00pm. All parents are encouraged to attend this festive evening.

On Wednesday 19 December 2018 there will be the year 7 Christmas disco in college for students who have had good attendance, punctuality and behaviour this term. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

A reminder that on Wednesday 9 January 2019 it is Year 11 Parents’ Evening from 4.00pm–7.15pm. Please check the college website for other parents’ evening dates for 2019.

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

 

Mrs S Cryer

Headteacher