Our ref: SCR/EJO

24 September 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian

On Wednesday 3 October 2018 we are holding our Open Evening for year 5 and 6 students and their parents from 4.30pm-6.45pm.

To enable staff to prepare their subject areas **college will be closing at 2.15pm on Wednesday 3 October 2018**. Please make sure your child is able to make their own way home after college. If your child is not able to get home safely at this time they are welcome to stay in college, in a supervised area, until 3.10pm. The Learning Zone will be open as normal from 3.10pm until 4.10pm.

A number of students across all years may be asked to help on the evening and will receive a separate letter from subject areas. If your child is selected to help on the evening it is vital that they are in full uniform and ‘dressed for business’. Students should not wear any jewellery except for a watch and make up should be kept to a minimum as per our college policy.

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. It is essential that all students are in full uniform at all times creating a “dressed for business” atmosphere throughout the college. If students are going to wear a jumper in college it must have the college logo and be a V neck. The college jumper is an option uniform item.

The winter season will soon be 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.

At the end of college parents ARE NOT able to enter the college site to collect their child. We have a few parents who arrive before 2.30pm and park on the college site and wait until their child finishes college at 3.10pm. Access for parents in cars will be prohibited from 2.30pm until 3.20pm. Please park on the car park opposite the college if you are collecting your child from college. I am aware it is a pay and display car park, as long as you do not leave your vehicle you will not have to pay. DO NOT park along Towneley Holmes Road as you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice. The only cars able to access the college between 2.30pm and 3.20pm are to collect a child who has a disability, if this is the case please contact college so that a car parking pass can be allocated to you.

Please also refrain from parking at the back of college as this causes congestion for local residents.

If you are picking up your child after a college club you can collect your child from the turning circle on the college site. If you are coming into college during the college day for a meeting you can park on the college site including the turning circle.

Schools and local authorities have a new duty, required by the Department of Education, to promote education, progress and achievement for previously looked after children. These are children who may have been adopted, placed on special guardianship orders (SGOs) or a child arrangement order (previously, Residency Order) from care. These new duties recognise that children who have previously been in care may well require additional support as a result of their life experiences prior to being adopted or placed in permanent families. Schools are currently allocated additional funding for this group of pupils, called Pupil Premium Grant Plus, and this will continue. School will require a copy of the adoption, SGO or Child Arrangement Order (previously, Residency Order) certificate and may also need to contact the local authority. This information will be held securely and will only be accessible to those school staff, when necessary, to enable the support to be provided.

If you have any questions regarding this please contact Mrs Bev Worthington at college.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to Unity College as we work together to offer the very best learning opportunities and experiences for your child.

Yours faithfully



S Cryer (Mrs)

Headteacher