Our ref: SCR/EJO

October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to remind you that college will close after college on Friday 22 October 2021 for the October half term and will re-open on Monday 8 November 2021. We break up for the Christmas period on Friday 17 December 2021 and return on Tuesday 4 January 2022. The holiday dates for 2022-2023 are on our college website.

Due to Covid-19 all residential trips have been cancelled for the last year and a half. Unity College has a reputation for offering a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom. I am delighted to inform you that we will be offering trips from September 2022 onwards again for the current years 7, 8, 9 and 10. If travel restrictions are re-introduced the trips will be cancelled as the safety of the students and staff is paramount. Further information about these trips can be found on our website.

We ask that you support and encourage your children to test twice a week at home, every week, with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. This will help us reduce the transmission of Covid-19 among our children. Please report and upload test results [online](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result), even if they are negative or void, as this allows us to understand the virus and take additional action when needed.

In addition to regular twice weekly testing:

* Children who receive a positive LFD result should isolate and book a PCR test to confirm their result.
* Children who are identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace should take a PCR test and continue to go to school while they wait for their result.
* In response to potential outbreaks, your school, college or local health team may advise additional testing. For example, if your child is identified as a close contact, they may be asked to take daily LFDs, while they wait for their PCR result. In this scenario, they should continue to attend school as long as their LFD results remain negative.

Additionally, please encourage your child to [follow guidance on wearing face covering](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own)s in crowded spaces with people they don't know well, for example on school transport.

We still have cases of Covid-19 at Unity College. Due to this the Year 10 Parents’ Evening on Wednesday 17 November 2021 will be virtual. Year 10 parents should receive a letter by Tuesday 9 November explaining how the virtual Parents’ Evening will work. There will also be a letter on the website for further details. I hope that future Parents’ Evening can take place in college but this will depend on the Covid-19 rates locally.

Students are always expected to be in full uniform including a blazer. I have been very impressed this term with how smart students look. It is essential that all students are always in full uniform 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 optional uniform item. Jewellery is not permitted for students except for a watch. With the weather now deteriorating I strongly urge your child to wear a coat to college on top of their blazer.

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 must take into consideration several 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. 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 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 but 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 by the Park Rangers. 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 residents. If you are coming into college during the day for a meeting, you can park on site including the turning circle.

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