



Our ref: MB/MS

13th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

So, we approach the end of another busy year in the life of University Academy Warrington. We have had much to celebrate and we continue to go from strength to strength and are looking forward to the future.

I am writing to let you know the arrangements for the last day of term and to provide you with some important information as we start to think about the next academic year.

As Principal, I am immensely proud of both staff and students. There are too many individual achievements and celebrations to list but I believe that the incredible work that goes on here every day is a reflection of our aspirations that every child can be the very best that they can be. Particular thanks go to all the staff that have organised performances, trips, visits and enrichment opportunities this year, which contribute hugely to the life of the academy.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all staff for their hard work and support for our students in striving for the very best outcomes.

I would also like to extend a huge thanks to both carers and parents for your support in helping us to maintain the high expectations that we have of all our students.

We say farewell with thanks to Mr. Hinchliffe who leaves us to join a school in London and Mrs. Roberts, HR Officer. We wish them every success in their new roles.

We also welcome Mrs S. Kitson - Teacher of Science, Mrs. Robinson - Teacher of Mathematics and Mr A. Schreiber-Spiers - Teacher of Humanities (Geography) who take up posts with us in September.

Changes to the Academy Day

Staff and students have indicated that they would like a short form time every morning so that they can meet with their Form Tutor to reinforce the high expectations we have regarding uniform and equipment. We have re-arranged the academy day to enable this to take place.

8.40am – 8.50am	Form time
8.50am – 9.50am	Lesson 1
9.50am – 10.50am	Lesson 2
10.50am – 11.05am	Break
11.05am – 12.05pm	Lesson 3
12.05pm – 1.05pm	Lesson 4
1.05pm – 1.20pm	Form time for Years 8/10
1.20pm – 1.50pm	Lunch Years 8/10
1.05pm – 1.35pm	Lunch Years 7/9/11
1.35pm – 1.50pm	Form time for Years 7/9/11
1.50pm – 2.50pm	Lesson 5
2.50pm	End of School Day

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Uniform

The Academy has received a number of enquiries from parents/carers who have concerns that the UAW uniform will change following the recent UCAT announcements. Can I please assure you that there will be **no change** to the Academy uniform for the next academic year. If any change is made in the future this will be made in consultation with parents/carers, students and other stakeholders.

Our school rules regarding uniform remain unchanged.

All outdoor coats must be plain black or grey and hoodies will not be permitted under any circumstances; shoes must be plain black leather look, and of course, no training shoes.

Jewellery, including earrings, is not permitted for health and safety reasons and also because it is inappropriate for school wear. Extreme hair colours and styles are not encouraged and we request your co-operation in this matter.

New for September – Parent and Student SIMS App

To improve communication and to support your child's independent learning in September we are introducing a new SIMS app. The key features will be:

- Communication and reporting: push messages can be received instantly with important school information.
- Student academic reports can also be received within the app.
- Important information: term dates, school timetables and trip information is readily available.
- Data collection: parents will be able to update contact, personal and medical information within the app.
- Homework set by teachers can be seen by both students and parents from home via the app or a computer.
- Information regarding your child's attendance will be found within the app.

The app works on most Android and iOS devices and can also be accessed through a web browser. To download the app to your device, visit the App or Play Store and download 'SIMS Parent' to get started, or login at www.sims-parent.co.uk using a desktop computer or laptop. An invitation email is sent to the main contact for a student when they join the school app.

A timetable will be given to students at the start of the academic year, homework will be sent on the UAW school app easily enabling parents to support their child's independent learning and complete homework before set deadlines. Any written communication to your child's Form Tutors or other staff should be sent through by letter. Planners will no longer be issued in September.

Holidays in Term Time

I must also draw your attention to important amendments to legislation surrounding holidays in term time.

Since September 2013, **the new law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** Any applications for leave of absence must be in exceptional circumstances and the Principal must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.

Parents can be fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

In the academic year 2011 to 2012, **9.7% of all absences in England were due to parents taking their children out of school during term time.** This high level of absence led the DfE to make this important change to legislation.

As an academy, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays. However, there is an expectation that all schools introduce firm policies and stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences during term time.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the academy to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

This new legislation will bring about increased attendance and improving standards in all schools. Further information can be obtained from www.dfe.gov.uk

End of Term/Start of New Term

The Academy will close for the summer at 12.00noon on **Friday July 20th**

The Academy will re-open in September on **Tuesday 4th September** for all year groups at the following times:


Year 7	on-site by 8.40am
Years 8, 9, 10 and 11	on-site by 12.05pm

Examination Results

May I remind year 11 that GCSE results can be collected from the Academy on **Thursday 23rd August from 9.00am – 12.00noon.**

We wish all our students good luck with their examination results in the summer and we look forward to welcoming students back in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Barclay
Principal