



Our ref: MB/MS

11th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. A special welcome to parents of all our Year 7 students who are new to University Academy Warrington. As parents of youngsters in Years 8-11 will confirm, the first year at secondary school will go extremely quickly and before you realise it, your sons/daughters will be enjoying their Year 11 Prom.

Our academy has always prided itself on a unique 'family atmosphere' and supportive climate. Ofsted recognised this in their visit in November when they said 'Strong relationships based on mutual respect exist between staff and students. This has a positive impact on students' learning'

All parents can be assured that the staff will do their very best to ensure each and every child feels safe, makes academic and social progress, and is known to staff. We want all children to experience the joy of success in and out of the classroom and to enjoy and achieve in equal measure.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to new members of staff. **Mr Hinchliffe** joins the Humanities department, **Mr Loizou** in the Mathematics department and **Mr Murphy** in the Science department. We also welcome **Mrs Roberts** who becomes the Academy Human Resources Officer.

GCSE success

I am delighted to report an increase in the percentage of students achieving the equivalent of a grade C or above in mathematics and the percentage of students obtaining a grade C or above in English still remains strong.

Alongside this, results in other subjects show a continued improvement compared to their performance at A*- C last year. The number of students obtaining a grade A* and A (or equivalent) has also increased.

Among the many individual successes are:

Holly Cain, who achieved one grade 9, one grade A*, one grade 8, three grade As and three grade Bs. Using the new criteria Holly also obtained a grade 9 (equivalent to an A**) in her English which means she has performed in line with the top 2% of students in the country.
Bryn Mitchell, who achieved one grade A*, one grade 8 and a further three subjects at grade A.
Abigail Jones, who achieved one grade A* and a further four subjects at grade A.
Kirsty Wareing, who achieved one grade A* and a further three subjects at grade A.

Believe • Belong • Become

Info@UAWarrington.org

UAWarrington.org



Uniform

As part of our drive to continually raise standards, I would like to request your full support in ensuring that your child attends school punctually every day, and that they are fully equipped and prepared for the day ahead. In particular I would ask that our students wear their academy uniform with pride at all times. Shoes should be black leather, with no trainers or canvas material permitted. For health and safety reasons, the only jewellery permitted as part of the academy uniform is a wristwatch.

In addition to smart uniform it is essential that students are fully prepared for their learning each day, having checked their planners each evening to ensure that they have all the necessary books, equipment and homework for the following day. As parents, you are encouraged to check and sign your child's planner regularly in order to monitor their progress, check on homework and to maintain communication between home and the academy.

Mobile phones

One key objective for the academy continues to be improved student progress and attainment, and I therefore wish to focus on all aspects associated with learning, eliminating distractions and disturbances. One particular distraction to learning is that of mobile phones. I would like to request the support of parents/carers in reminding their child that these are not allowed in the academy during the school day. Students who are seen using a mobile phone during this time will have it confiscated and stored safely for parents to collect.

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.

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. Please see attached term dates for this academic year.

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.

Open evening

Our Academy Open Evening takes place on Tuesday 19th September and is a very important date in the academy calendar, and a crucial part of our recruitment into year seven in 2018 and beyond.

Many of our students will act as academy ambassadors at the Open Evening and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment to the academy.

The academy needs to be well prepared and at its most impressive on these occasions, and therefore students will be dismissed at 1.50pm on Tuesday 19th September to enable preparations to be made. Should the early closure present childcare difficulties, please contact your child's Head of Learning.

I continue to place a high premium on regular communication between home and the academy. We update our website regularly with copies of letters, key dates, news about the academy and individual student successes.

I would also encourage you to download our free UAW parent app as another method of communication. If you need any assistance with this, please contact us and we will help.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and involvement as we work together to secure the best outcomes for all our young people.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Barclay', written in a cursive style.

Mrs M Barclay
Principal