



Our ref: MB/MS

13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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.

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. **Ms Kitson** who joins the Science department and **Mr Schreiber-Spiers** who joins the Humanities department.

### **GCSE success**

GCSE students at University Academy Warrington have plenty to celebrate across the board. We are delighted to report an increase in the percentage of students achieving a strong pass (the equivalent of a grade B and above) in Mathematics and English.

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 8 or 9 has also increased significantly. Over a quarter of all students obtained the top grades of 7, 8 or 9 (A/A\*/A\*\*) in Chemistry and Physics. A fifth of students obtained the top grades of 7, 8 or 9 (A/A\*/A\*\*) in History. 100% of students who studied Statistics obtained grade A or B.

We would like to congratulate all our students. Among the many individual successes are:

- Ethan Holton, who achieved six grade 9s, two grade 8s, one grade 7 and a grade A. Using the reformed criteria, Ethan has performed in line with the top 2% of students in the country in the majority of his subjects.
- Bence Barta, who achieved one grade 9, two grade 8s and three grade 7s.
- Fatima Yozgyur, who achieved one grade 9, three grade 8s, 2 grade 7s and a grade A.
- Cameron McKinney, who achieved five grade 8s, one grade 7 and a grade A.
- Lucy Bretherton, who achieved two grade 8s and four grade 7s.

### **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 training shoes or canvas material permitted. For health and safety reasons, the only jewellery permitted as part of the academy uniform is a wristwatch.

**Believe • Belong • Become**

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### **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 disruption and disturbances. One particular distraction to learning is the use of mobile phones. I would like to request the support of parents and carers in reminding their child that they 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 at their convenience.

### **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 as Principal I 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.

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 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September and is a very important date in the academy calendar, and a crucial part of our recruitment into year seven in 2019 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 University Academy Warrington.

The academy needs to be well prepared and at its most impressive on these occasions, therefore students will be dismissed at 12.20pm in order for preparations to be made for the event. Students will have an extended break that morning and any students who require free school meals will be able to have their lunch during this time. Should the early closure present childcare difficulties, please contact your child's Head of Learning.

### **SIMS Parent App**

This academic year we will be using the SIMS Parent App for setting and monitoring homework for all of your child's subjects. This will replace student planners.

The SIMS Parent app also allows us to easily communicate with you as parents. Whether it's sharing information regarding attendance, school reports or sending reminders for homework tasks, all of the information is easily accessible from the convenience of your phone, tablet or PC.

SIMS Parent is designed to support the partnership between student, parent and school by sharing key information from your child's school life. SIMS Parent is secure, intuitive and informative, providing you with information on your child's progress to help inform, celebrate and support your child every step of the way.

The app will easily enable parents to support their child's independent learning and encourage completion of homework before set deadlines.

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

Some of the app features include:

- A list of key school dates, including term dates and staff inset dates.
- The ability to view and update your contact details, so that we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency.
- Receipt of automated alerts and notifications directly to your phone or tablet.
- Sharing of information such as attendance, homework and timetables, you can keep up to date with your child's progress in real time.
- Automatically linking students from the same family to your account.

I continue to place a high premium on regular communication between home and the academy. We also update our website [www.uawarrington.org](http://www.uawarrington.org) regularly with copies of letters, key dates, news about the academy and individual student successes.

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



Mrs M Barclay  
Principal