

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of our first term has arrived and I am delighted with the start to the academic year made by our students. It has been a busy term which has been filled with a wide range of activities, including several fixtures, the start of the Year 8 CCF programme, our first Year 9 Battlefields Trip and the continuation of our Education with Character Programme. Alongside this, students have approached their academic learning with great enthusiasm; Home Learning completion has exceeded 90% consistently over the past few weeks and our strong school attendance of last year has very much continued this term. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in making the start of our third year such a success.

Student Entrance, Exit and Parking

Thanks to all families for supporting with the smooth movement of traffic on site. This has settled well throughout the course of the term. We are however noticing that a number of students are leaving via the vehicle gate where there is no footpath available and are being dropped off or collected near to where the road is now closed. To ensure the safety of all, students should only leave via the main pedestrian gates. Should you be dropping off/picking up, please do so in a safe location or enter the school grounds. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Catering Update

Please note that there will be some changes to the lunchtime menus with effect from the start of Term 2. Next term's menu is published in our newsletters page for your information.

We will continue to have two main meal options every day (one meat and one vegetarian) - plus a choice of desserts.

There will be a Jacket Potato Bar with a choice of fillings (cheese, beans, tuna mayo, salmon mayo, veggie chilli).

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, there will be a rotation of street food options based on high street restaurant brands.

- Tuesday will be 'Wok My Way', Asian inspired noodles with a selection of protein and vegetables, served in square noodle takeaway boxes.
- Wednesday is 'Flat Breadz', authentic Greek flatbreads topped with marinated chicken or a plant-based protein.
- Thursday is 'Chick'N'Run', i.e. chicken served with a range of seasoned marinades and a choice of rice.
- The marinades and rice for each concept will change each week, for example BBQ, cajun or jerk marinades in rotation, served with jollof rice, egg fried rice, rice and peas etc.

Please do encourage your child to access school lunches over the coming terms.

Extra-Curricular Reminder

Thank you to all families for completing the preferences form. You will receive an email notifying you of your child's extracurricular activity for Term 2 this week. Clubs for Term 2 will start on **Tuesday 4th November**. They will end for the Term on **Tuesday 9th December** as we will be running a carol service on Thursday 11th December. Details of this will be released in due course. Club selections for Term 2 will run throughout Term 3. We will contact families at the end of Term 3 to reselect options when our extra-curricular offer is updated at the start of Term 4.

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 11th December – Save the Children Charity (£1.00)

On Thursday 11 December we'll be joining millions of people in the UK and beyond as they make the world better in a sweater.

It means we will be making a lasting difference to children's lives – whether that's investing in the education of refugees who have missed school, helping girls get their confidence back after being bullied, or giving kids in deprived areas of the UK a life-changing summer experience.

 Swap your PE top or school uniform top for your Christmas Jumper! (No Hoodies please) £1 donation for Save the Children 

British Army Careers Drop Down Day – Year 9

Last week, we were lucky to be visited by six members of our British Army to deliver a bespoke careers talk to our Year 9 pupils and tailored physical workshops based on teambuilding, communication and leadership - all skills & qualities required in the forces.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this enrichment day happen and we were thrilled to see all of our Year 9 pupils participate and engage with this opportunity.



Battlefields Tour 2025

Last week, a group of our students embarked on a powerful three-day educational tour to Ypres, Belgium, exploring the historic battlefields of World War I. The trip was a moving and memorable experience, offering students a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made during the Great War and the importance of remembrance. One of the most poignant moments of the trip was attending the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate and laying a school wreath in remembrance. As the buglers played their solemn tribute, students stood in silence, reflecting on the thousands of names inscribed on the memorial—soldiers who have no known grave. It was a deeply emotional experience that brought history to life in a way no textbook ever could. Throughout the tour, students engaged in thoughtful discussions, asked insightful questions, and demonstrated genuine empathy and respect. The trip not only enriched their historical knowledge but also fostered a sense of gratitude and global citizenship. We would like to thank all the staff who helped organise the trip and supported our students throughout. Special thanks to our guides, whose expertise and storytelling made the past come alive. This Battlefields Tour was more than just a school trip—it was a journey of remembrance, learning, and reflection that will stay with our students for years to come.



🎄🎅 United Learning Christmas Card Competition 2025 🎁🎊

Though October might feel a little soon to be thinking about Christmas, it is never too early to get in the festive spirit. That is right, it is time for the highly anticipated annual United Learning Christmas card competition!

The Christmas card competition is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to practice and showcase their artistic skills. It forms part of our commitment to delivering an Education with Character, by enabling pupils to explore their interests beyond the curriculum and get creative. For this reason, we invite all pupils to get involved.

Every student is welcome to participate and submit their Christmas Card entry to their Head of Year(HOY) by **Monday 3rd November**.

Good Luck! All United Learning schools will submit their entries, and the winners selected by United Learning will receive a £50 Amazon Gift Voucher!

Below is last year's winner for some creative inspiration!



Key Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 15 th October 2025	End of Term
Wednesday 29 th October 2025	Start of Term 2
Thursday 11 th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children £1)
Friday 19 th December 2025	End of Term 2 – Students finish at 12.15.

Kind regards

Jon Rutland
Principal