Dear parents, students, staff and governors

We reach the end of this most unusual term in good spirits. As you know, on 1st July our all-through model of education became part of Unity Schools Partnership, a trust, like us, with children at its heart and a mission to achieve the highest standards of education. Unity describes itself as “a family of independent schools with a shared ambition to transform lives” and we are delighted that our three-phase approach will now be part of a bigger family, offering more opportunities and a chance to share best practice across twenty-eight schools in Suffolk, which between them span our age range from nursery to the end of sixth form.

During this term, all our campuses have adopted ‘blended learning’ where a mixture of remote and in school education, following our all-through route planners have ensured continuity of the curriculum and assessment. We have also, through a series of additional activities and challenges, strongly reflected the values enshrined in our Bury St Edmunds all-through education system. This edition is based on those values and is a fitting end to an academic year that has drawn upon them more than ever.

As we reach the summer holidays, we thank you for all your co-operation, support and kind messages received and wish you a restful holiday.

We very much look forward to having all our pupils back with us in September.

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Inside this issue:

Being the best we can be
All of us have our own strengths and weaknesses. A quiet determination to do our best enables us to improve on both and to contribute as best we can to society.

Being that nice person to know
We encourage all our pupils to be kind, caring, reliable, honest, helpful, loyal, good friends.

Getting Involved
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Being the best we can be

All of us have our own strengths and weaknesses. A quiet determination to do our best enables us to improve on both and to contribute as best we can to society. We therefore encourage everyone to give of their best at all times, with modesty and humility; confidently, but never arrogantly, being ambitious and creative.

This has been reflected this term in some superb work from the day-to-day learning and in challenges across our primary, middle and upper phases. The ‘ambition challenge’ has become a regular feature with a number of challenges within and across campuses involving a range of curricular and extra-curricular activities including art, baking, crafts, music, science and writing, all entered for local and national events.
Getting Involved

This sums up a second set of aspirations and values we share. We encourage everyone from nursery to sixth form to give new activities a try, to commit reliably to activities we take on, to try to look after our environment and strengthen our communities.

The examples represent some of the work we have done this term.

Being that nice person to know

We encourage all our pupils to be kind, caring, reliable, honest, helpful, loyal, good friends. We encourage respect for tradition whilst embracing change. In summary, we work hard to develop all those qualities which will enable our pupils to leave us as good citizens ready to play their part in society and give something back to our communities. This period of lockdown has enabled us all to help others, support our NHS and care workers, and truly be those nice people to know.

Our Y5 and Y6 English group had the task of writing a letter to the West Suffolk Hospital staff to say thank you for all they are doing during the global pandemic. It’s safe to say it was greatly appreciated by the amazing NHS staff.

We are very lucky at Westley to have such a wonderful garden. Here are some of our year 6 pupils helping to keep it looking great. Next stop the RHS Chelsea flower show!
Staying Fit and Healthy

During the lockdown period our sports partnership has continued with sports staff leading activities at the primary and middle phase campuses for those children who have been in school. The Partnership also set a series of nine challenges that all pupils could be involved in. After nine rounds and a bonus round, the middle phase was at the top of the leaderboard, with the primary and upper phases tied just below. We also all took part in the national sports challenge and uploaded our entries. As a result every campus was given a certificate from the Youth Sports Trust.