

MEDIA RELEASE

September 18, 2009

**Unicom helps Wythenshawe schoolchildren learn new skills**

Photographs available at [www.unicomimages.co.uk](http://www.unicomimages.co.uk)

NORTHENDEN-based telecoms provider Unicom has helped children in Wythenshawe settle into school by funding an adventure trip to Wales.

Unicom has supported Manchester Enterprise Academy, formerly Parklands High School, for the past five years and this year donated £15,000 to ensure the whole of Year 7 could benefit from an educational and bonding break outside of school.

The donation paid for pupils to attend an adventure and challenge course at The Outward Bound Trust's Aberdovey centre in North Wales.

Unicom operations director Chris Earle said: "We are proud of our Manchester roots at Unicom and wanted to make sure we could give something back to the community.

"This is the fifth year we have supported the school by funding this trip and we are happy to assist in helping make the transition into high school an enjoyable experience.

"We believe businesses have a vital role to play in supporting their local community and we will continue to build on our relationship with the Academy and help the educational development of schoolchildren in Wythenshawe."

Certificates were presented to pupils yesterday, Friday, to reward their achievements on the Aberdovey trip.

Lorraine Carrington, head of Year 7, added: "The Year 7 trip is a fantastic way to ensure the children experience outdoor learning.

"This is important not only for building relationships, but also for emphasising how enjoyable and rewarding it is to learn new skills.

“We are delighted Unicom has supported us once again and ensured we offer our students the chance to experience a new learning environment.”

A number of former students from Manchester Enterprise Academy are now employees at Unicom.

Unicom specialises in telecom, broadband and website services for the small business market. It currently services 80,000 businesses across the UK.

Visit [www.switchingon.com](http://www.switchingon.com) for further details.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About Unicom**

Unicom, a trading name of Universal Utilities PLC, is a telecommunications service provider specialising in the small business market. It currently provides telecom, broadband and website services to 80,000 small businesses throughout the UK. Unicom has an annual turnover of over £45m, and employs 500 people at its 10 regional offices situated around the UK.

Unicom has attracted its business customers by offering discounts of up to 60% off BT's prices, at the same time as keeping customers on the BT network. Unicom currently supplies in excess of 450 million minutes of call time to its customers each year. Unicom differentiates itself by offering a high standard of personal customer service, with no premium rate 0845 or 0870 numbers, no recorded messages or menus, and no overseas call centres. Unicom boasts one of the highest customer retention rates in the industry.

Unicom has a directory enquiry service, 118 777. Based on calls from a BT or Unicom telephone line, 118 777 is 28% cheaper than 118 118, and 53% cheaper than 118 500. Calls from other networks may vary.

Unicom was ranked 26th in the Sunday Times Profit Track 100 listings in April 2006, 89th in the Sunday Times Fast Track 100 index in December 2006 and 96th in the Sunday Times Profit Track 100 listings in April 2007. In September 2007 it achieved a ranking of 95th, and in September 2008 a ranking of 88th, in the Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100 index. In October 2008 Unicom became ISO 9001 certified.

For the year ending April 2009, Unicom reported pre-tax profits of £11.2m on a turnover of £44.5m (with profits up 14.3% and turnover up 7% from April 2007). Unicom expects profits to be in excess of £12m on a turnover of more than £48m for the current year.

Unicom is a patron company of The Outward Bound Trust.

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