

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Welcome to the latest edition of our Academy newsletter! We're delighted to share updates, achievements, and important reminders as we continue through the spring term.

During this term, pupils took part in an exciting **SMART Day**, engaging in hands-on activities and collaborative projects that extended their learning beyond the classroom.

We also marked **Children's Mental Health Week**, an important initiative focused on promoting emotional well-being and resilience. As part of the week, school staff and Compass Bloom delivered workshops aimed at equipping pupils with strategies to support their mental health.

Our **Yr 9 AI Champions** enjoyed an AI-focused trip to London, visiting News UK and engaging in interactive sessions with NEWS UK staff, gaining valuable insight into the current and future of AI-driven industries.

We also took time to commemorate **Holocaust Memorial Day**, reflecting on the importance of remembrance and understanding. We were honoured to welcome Judith Rhodes, who delivered a moving workshop, 'The Little Suitcase'. This powerful session gives pupils a deeper understanding of the Holocaust's impact and reinforced the importance of empathy, justice, and historical awareness.

I would like to draw your attention to the information on **page 7** of the newsletter which **highlights some important information** regarding changes to the unauthorised leave policy and a reminder of uniform, equipment & homework expectations.

As we approach the half-term break, we hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved rest and quality time with family and friends. Thank you for your continued support in your child's education. We look forward to a fantastic remainder of the spring term, celebrating the achievements and potential of every pupil.

Mr A Galbraith
Principal



PE THIS TERM

The Year 7 and 8 girls' netball teams have been competing in a variety of fixtures this half term

Through hard they've delivered some impressive and skillful performances on the court.

A huge congratulations to all the pupils involved!



The Year 11 BTEC dance group immersed themselves in intensive workshops with a talented freelance dance artist. They are in the process of choreographing a captivating performance, which will serve as a key component of their final GCSE course assessment.

This performance is a valuable opportunity for them to push their creative boundaries, showcasing both their growth as dancers and their ability to express ideas through movement.

A group of Year 8 girls and boys participated in the Preston Annual Indoor Athletics Competition. The pupils delivered some outstanding results, demonstrating exceptional resilience and a strong work ethic throughout the event.

Their determination and team spirit were truly commendable, making it a memorable and successful day for everyone involved.



On Monday, 3rd February, the Year 11 Health and Fitness group had the opportunity to visit Burnley College's High Performance Gym, where they took part in an expert-led fitness programme delivered by the college's tutors.

The day was enjoyable and also incredibly rewarding, leaving all the pupils with a deeper understanding of fitness and a renewed enthusiasm for their studies.



Year 7 & Year 9 pupils dived into BARF OF THE NET!

A thrilling mystery hosted by Chris Martin from Murderplays.com.

Pupils cracked the case of the poisoned halftime soup and unmasked the culprits:

Miss Chelsea Bunn & Jinx Dribbler!

There were some amazing detective skills on display, along stellar acting performances and a fresh take on storytelling—it was a day to remember.

Stay tuned for more exciting activities to spark a love of reading!



Pupil First Aid

We were thrilled to welcome back the team from Daisy First Aid! Pupils learned essential emergency first aid skills and how to step up and help when it matters most.

Empowering young minds to stay calm and make a difference in emergencies—what a brilliant way to start SMART week!



Year 9 AI Champions Trip

Day 1

Our Year 9 AI Champions started their adventure with a long coach journey to the capital 🚗.

First stop: The Gunpowder Plot Immersive Experience, featuring an incredible Virtual Reality (VR) tour of Guy Fawkes' tale! 🕶️🔍

Afterwards, they enjoyed a delicious feast at Bella Italia 🍕🍷 before settling in at the hotel for some much-needed rest!

Day 2

Our AI Champions visited News UK, exploring how a modern news agency operates across print, audio, and visual media 📺📰🎧.

Working first hand with AI specialists they discovered cutting-edge applications of AI 🤖🌟 and wrapped up the day with a fantastic ideation session to plan future AI projects!

A big thank you to all of the staff at News UK who gave up their time to ensure we had a great visit.

What an amazing trip! 🚀

#AICHampions #AlintheMedia #LondonAdventures



BOOK BESTIES



After School Club
This term, our Book Besties gathered to share thoughts and feelings about *The Last Paper Crane* by Kerry Drewery. The group agreed it was a truly engaging read that left a lasting impression. Interested in joining the adventure? Stop by EN4 to collect your copy and become part of the Book Besties!

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day 2025 | Tuesday
11 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

The AI Safety programme, delivered to KS3 for Safer Internet Day, was developed in collaboration with Google DeepMind and the Raspberry Pi Foundation to equip pupils with essential knowledge about AI Ethics, privacy and responsible usage.

YOUNG WRITERS



Exciting News!

Our talented young writers have received their copies of *Wonderverse*.

An incredible anthology celebrating the creative writing of pupils across KS3! Congratulations to everyone whose work is now in print for all to enjoy—what an amazing achievement!

These amazing pupils have also made it to the final stage of a national creative writing competition!

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Our pupils had the amazing opportunity to engage with the moving story of 'The Little Suitcase' as part of our Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration.

Their heartfelt reflections highlight the power of remembrance and the importance of understanding our shared history. Together, we honoured the resilience of those who endured the unimaginable.



YEAR 11 & ASSESSMENTS

HALF TERM INTERVENTIONS

Date	Morning Session	Afternoon Session	Online Subject & Time
Sun 16th Feb			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drama 4pm - 5pm
Mon 17th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography, CMO & CJO: GG3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RS, SBU: RE2 Maths, SKE: MA1 Science Triple & Comb Biology, SPA/REH: SC2 & SC3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish 7pm -8pm
Tue 18th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Fitness, CMA: IT1 Art & Design, CHU: AR1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art & Design CHU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History 4pm-5pm
Wed 19th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English, LMC / RAN: LT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English, LMC / RAN: LT 	
Thu 20th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths, LWE:MA3 Maths, SKE: MA1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science Triple/ Comb Higher Chemistry Paper 2 – PMI: SC3 Combined Foundation - GMC: SC4 	
Fri 21st Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography, CWH: IT1 11.00 – 12.30PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography, CWH: IT1 	
Sat 22nd Feb			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RS 7.15pm - 8pm
Sun 23rd Feb			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History 6.15pm - 7.30pm Maths 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Reminders

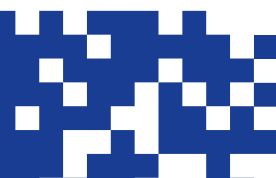
- GCSE Assessment Dates - Thursday 8th May 2025 to Thursday 19th June 2025
- <https://www.gcsepod.com>
- Year 11 Assessment AP2 Timetable <https://www.fulwoodacademy.co.uk>

AP2 Dates

- Yr 7 10th Feb - 28th Feb
- Yr 8 24th Feb - 7th Mar
- Yr 9 3rd Mar - 14th Mar
- Yr 10 10th Feb - 28th Feb
- Yr 11 10th Feb - 28th Feb

Upcoming Dates

- 27th Feb - Yr 7 Parents Eve
- 6th Mar - World Book Day
- 7th Mar - Yr 11 Geography Field Trip
- 20th Mar - Yr 8 Parents Eve
- 24th Mar - Winmarleigh Trip
- 1st Apr - Bowling Trip
- 3rd Apr - Yr 10 Parents Eve
- 04th Apr - Finish for Easter Break



Attendance

Important Information: Changes to Unauthorised Leave Policy

Lancashire County Council has introduced updated procedures regarding unauthorised absences from school. Attendance is crucial for pupils to reach their full academic potential, and excessive absences can significantly impact progress.

From 1st January 2025, the following rules will apply:

Unauthorised leave of less than 15 school days – a penalty notice will be issued.

Unauthorised leave of 15 school days or more – the Local Authority may prosecute parents instead of offering the option to pay a penalty notice fine.

If a leave request of **three weeks (15 school days) or more** is submitted in advance, a warning may be issued stating that prosecution will take place if the leave is taken. However, even if no warning is issued, prosecution can still occur as there is **no legal entitlement to a warning or a penalty notice.**

We strongly encourage families to avoid absences during term time. If you are considering requesting leave, please ensure that you submit a formal request in advance, the form can be obtained from the attendance office.

Uniform, Equipment & Homework Expectations

A reminder that pupils must adhere to the **school uniform policy** at all times. **All pupils must bring a bag to school every day.** Pupils are allowed to wear **only one pair of stud earrings and a watch.** **False eyelashes, false nails, and blemish patches are not permitted.** Additionally, for any pupils missing a tie—these are available from the equipment shop for £6.50 and should be replaced as soon as possible.

For Key Stage 3 pupils, SPARKS homework deadlines are as follows:

- **Maths** – due by **8am Monday morning**
- **English** – due by **8am Tuesday morning**
- **Science** – due by **8am Wednesday morning**

Pupils have **one week** to complete each homework task. **Failure to meet deadlines will result in a one-hour compulsory catch up session.** Please encourage your child to manage their time effectively and complete their assignments on time.

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PE Extra Curricular Time Table

PE - Extra-Curricular Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fixtures
All Years (32 spaces) Badminton Club 3.05pm-4.05pm MHO/KYB	Year 9 and 10 Boys Basketball Practice 3.05pm-4.05pm MHO	Year 7 and 8 Boys Basketball Practice 3.05pm-4.05pm CMA	Year 11 Intervention Health and Fitness Dance 3.05pm-4.05pm	Boys Preston Cup Football Basketball
Year 9 and 10 Boys Football Practice 3.05pm-4.05pm CMA	All Years Girls Volleyball Practice 3.05pm-4.05pm KYB/LTU			Girls Badminton Competition



Safeguarding

It's been a busy half-term for our Safeguarding and Pastoral team with lots of visitors in school to support pupils in a variety of ways, from mental health worries to coping with conflict. We would like to thank Compass Bloom, Barnados, Preston North End Community Trust and The Wish Centre for working with us and supporting our students.

Just to give parents an idea of how some of these external agencies have helped, here are a couple of words from the pupils themselves:

One of our Year 8 pupils who worked with Cameron from PNE has said *"it was really good, it helped me a lot, and helped me see things differently. I'm feeling loads better now."*

A year 9 pupil, who had support from Taylor from the Wish Centre said *"it's really helped me, I've got loads of strategies to use now when I'm feeling angry or overwhelmed."*



We are also very proud of two of our year 10 pupils who supported Ms Walker, our DSL, with a session at a local primary school on Online Safety. They spoke about their experiences of social media to a captive audience of year 6 pupils, who learned a lot from there open and honest accounts of their experiences.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Preston Safeguarding Hub: **0300 123 6720** or out of hours **0300 123 6722** (5pm - 8am)

Food banks: Salvation Army - **01772 555425**, Luv Preston - **01772 298107** Noor Food Bank - **07921 887383** or **07764 432643**

Kooth is an anonymous site which helps children and young people to feel safe and confident in exploring their concerns and seeking professional support. Log on to [Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)

Childline - Get help and advice about a wide range of issues, call us on **0800 1111**, talk to a counsellor online

Shout offers confidential crisis support 24/7. Text SHOUT to **8525**



Trustee Update

Digital and Artificial Intelligence

The Dunstone Education Trust has developed a comprehensive strategic and growth plan to enhance the opportunities available for schools looking to join the Trust. Drawing inspiration from our sponsor, Sir Charles Dunstone, we aim to leverage our expertise in digital innovation and AI technology to support and transform our education offer.

AI Technology is here to stay and can assist us in accelerating pupils' progress and reducing teachers' workload. **The Department for Education** recognises this stating:

'If used safely, effectively and with the right infrastructure in place, AI can ensure that every child and young person, regardless of their background, is able to achieve at school or college and develop the knowledge and skills they need for life.'

The Trust has taken a number of steps to put the right infrastructure in place and ensure the safety of our pupils. These steps include:

1. Setting Up a Digital Working Group

We have set up a Digital Working Forum which will drive the development of a digital strategy for the Dunstone Education Trust. This will include both digital developments in EdTech and in artificial intelligence and machine learning. In the medium and longer term the group will monitor, evaluate and share best practice in the application of digital across the Trust and beyond. The group is chaired by John Sibbald, an experienced specialist digital leader with a successful track record. The Forum includes three members of the Fulwood staff which will ensure the work of the Forum is embedded in at Fulwood.

2. Appointment of a Trustee with AI Expertise

During my participation in a Chairs' Development Programme, Chairs were advised to appoint someone with expertise in AI to the board. Fortunately, through our partnership with TalkTalk, we were able to identify the ideal candidate in Phil Magill, who generously agreed to join the Trust. Phil brings a wealth of experience, which has already provided fantastic insight which will benefit our pupils.

These initiatives, alongside our existing digital programs—such as Girls in Tech and the Artificial Intelligence project—highlight the Dunstone Trust's commitment to leveraging digital and AI technologies to equip our pupils with the skills and knowledge essential for thriving in an increasingly fast-paced world.

3. Fulwood is already championing the application of digital and AI in a series of curriculum enrichment activities with key industry partners. The Digital Forum will be meeting with PXC to map curriculum requirements with industry opportunities providing live, authentic briefs that bring subjects to life. Strategic pilots in the application of AI to curriculum planning and quality assurance have also been initiated and will form part of staff training and professional development in the near future.

Joan Dean
Chair, Dunstone Education Trust

