

NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 1 2026

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.

We have had a busy half term, with our pupils engaging in some exciting and hands on activities inside and outside of the classroom. 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 took time to commemorate **Holocaust Memorial Day**, reflecting on the importance of remembrance and understanding. We were honoured to welcome Judith Rhodes back to the Academy, 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.

The **Girls in Tech** project enjoyed a valuable day visiting **Talk Talk PXC**, a day which enabled the group to hear inspirational talks from industry leaders and access real world advice to help them with their app creation.

We're delighted to share some fantastic news about our work on attendance. Our approach has been recognised by the **Department for Education (DfE)**, and we've had the privilege of speaking at a national conference as well as delivering a webinar to share our practice more widely. None of this would be possible without your support, our work on attendance is most effective when schools and families work together. Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring your child is in school every day and ready to learn.

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

Basket Ball

Congratulations to our U14 & U16 boys basketball teams who had great success at Moor Park this half term.

Both teams played very competitively and came out victorious. Well done



Football

Our football teams continue to grow in popularity week by week. We have seen up to 70 boys and girls attending the sessions on Monday at the after school club.

What an unbelievable turnout, really contributing to the physical, social, and emotional development of our pupils



U12 Cross Country Championships

A huge congratulations to our Y7 pupil who competed in this year's cross country championships at Witton Park, with a very impressive top 30 finish.

Well Done!

Year 7 & 8 Indoor Athletics

Congratulations, to all our year 7 & 8 athletes who represented Fulwood Academy in this year's indoor athletics competition 2026 held at Broughton High School.

The pupils competed in a number of track and field events during the day demonstrating exceptional desire, commitment and work ethic in all events. A special mention to the Year 7 boys who finished 2nd overall. Well Done everyone!!



GIRLS IN TEC#!



The Girls in Tech group recently visited **PXC** and **TALK TALK** for the official launch of this years project.

The visit was an inspiring and hands-on experience centered on mentorship, innovation and AI.

The day featured an engaging AI talk from PXC experts, meaningful conversations with mentors about careers in tech, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the space. It was definitely a trip that sparked curiosity, connection, and confidence

PXC

TalkTalk
For Everyone

AI Champions



Our Year 9 AI Champions enjoyed an incredible two-day experience in London, combining cultural highlights with an inspiring insight into the world of journalism and AI.

Pupils explored some of London's most iconic attractions, including Madame Tussauds, the London Sea Life Centre, and the London Eye.

The pupils were invited to News UK, where they worked alongside industry professionals exploring not only cutting-edge AI, but also the wide range of careers within journalism. Pupils learned about different pathways into the media industry, with special attention given to apprenticeships and graduate routes, and heard directly from inspiring role models who shared their own journeys into journalism.

We are incredibly grateful to News UK for sponsoring this project and for their continued support in providing such meaningful, real-world experiences for our pupils. Opportunities like this are invaluable in inspiring the next generation and opening doors to future careers.

News UK

Boys in Design

As **Dunstone Education Trust** continues to expand, we are committed to creating spaces that support our growth, innovation, and long-term vision. The current Caretakers Lodge building is no longer fit for purpose due to significant disrepair and will be safely demolished by professional contractors.

To replace it, we are planning the construction of a new, modern facility—and we have developed a project with 20 year 8 and year 9 boys to play a central role in its design. This is an exciting opportunity to leave a lasting legacy and incorporates furniture design, budgeting, marketing, landscape design and communication.



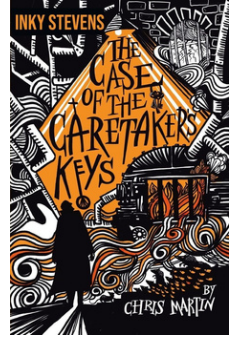
READING



We are delighted to be working alongside St Catherine's Hospice shops to bring new titles to our library. We would like to publicly pass on a huge "Thank you" to the lovely staff at the Fulwood shop for the amazing donations.

Also a big "Thank you" to author Chris Martin for the inspirational talk on his brilliant new book 'The Case of the Lightning Striker'.

Yr9 pupils certainly enjoyed this interactive session.

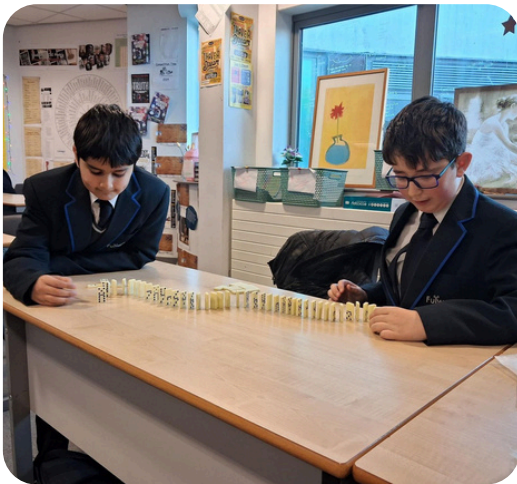


GAMES CLUB

The games club has kicked off in style again in 2026. We have battles and duels over uno flip, chess, dominoes, The Mind and Frustration.

The pupils continue to enjoy the competition but always have fun and laughter!

If you would like to join us we meet in EN4 on Tuesday's after school.



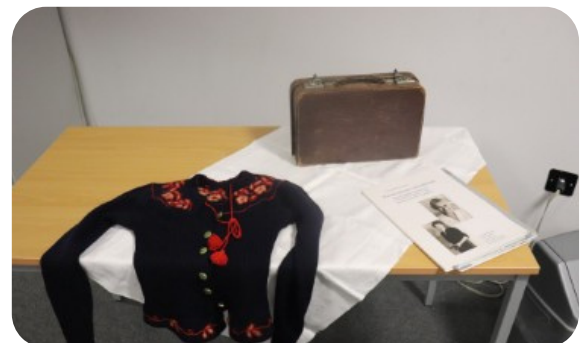
Everyone is welcome.



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.



FEBRUARY HALF TERM INTERVENTIONS

Morning Sessions – 10am to 12pm

Lunch – 12pm to 12.30pm (Pupils to bring lunch, refreshments will be provided in the library)

Afternoon Session – 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Date	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
Mon 16th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art & Design All Day AR1 • Photography All Day AR2 • Music AM only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art & Design All Day AR1 • Photography All Day AR2
Tue 17th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama Practical - All Day Hall • Health & Fitness - All Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama Practical - All Day Hall • Health & Fitness - All Day
Wed 18th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography - GG3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths
Thu 19th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple Chemistry • Combined Chemistry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple Biology • Combined Biology
Fri 20th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish Higher Tier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish for Foundation & Higher pupils

Reminders

GCSE Assessment Dates - Thursday 7th May 2026 to Wednesday 17th June

<https://www.gcsepod.com>

Upcoming Dates

Monday 23rd Feb - Return to school

Thursday 26th Feb - Year 9 Parents Evening

Tuesday 3rd March - Careers Fair

Thursday 5th March - Year 9 Vaccinations

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Thursday 19th March - Year 10 Parents Evening

Friday 27th March - Break up for Easter Holidays





INFORMATION

Attendance

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Attendance Banding - Regular attendance is crucial for academic success, as every lesson builds on the last. Every day in school counts — even short-term absences can have a long-term impact on a child’s education. Missing school can lead to gaps in learning, making it harder for students to keep up with their peers.

Attendance	Days Absent	Attendance	Days Absent	Attendance	Days Absent	Attendance	Days Absent	Attendance	Days Absent
100%	0	90%	19	80%	38	70%	57	60%	76
99%	2	89%	21	79%	40	69%	59	59%	78
98%	4	88%	23	78%	42	68%	61	58%	80
97%	6	87%	25	77%	44	67%	63	57%	82
96%	8	86%	27	76%	46	66%	65	56%	84
95%	10	85%	28	75%	48	65%	66	55%	85
94%	11	84%	30	74%	49	64%	68	54%	87
93%	13	83%	32	73%	51	63%	70	53%	89
92%	15	82%	34	72%	53	62%	72	52%	91
91%	17	81%	36	71%	55	61%	74	51%	93

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.

Pupils who walk away from catch-up sessions will be given a detention on a Friday after school.

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

PE Extra Curricular Time Table

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fixtures
Badminton Club All Years (32 spaces) 3.05pm-4.05pm LTU	Basketball Club Years 7 and 8 3.05pm-4.05pm CMA / MHO	Football Club Years 7, 8 and 9 CMA / MHO	Basketball Years 9 and 10 3.05pm-4.05pm CMA / MHO	Boys Football Basketball
Football Club Years 7, 8 and 9 CMA / MHO	Football Club Year 10 3.05pm-4.05pm LJO	Girls Netball Club All Years 3.05pm-4.05pm KBY / LTU		Girls Netball Football
Girls Football Club Years 7, 8 and 9 3.05pm-4.05pm KBY				



Understanding Teenage Relationship Abuse & Coercive Control

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and supporting young people, we want to share important information about teenage relationships.

Most Teens begin exploring romantic relationships during their time at Secondary school. At their best, relationships can support confidence, friendship and personal growth. However, some young people may experience behaviours that are controlling, coercive or emotionally harmful — even when they don't look like traditional 'violence'. It's important to recognise that abuse doesn't have to be physical; it can include pressure, coercion, monitoring, jealousy, emotional manipulation and more.

Signs to watch for

Behaviour that may indicate an unhealthy dynamic includes:




- Excessive checking of phone/messages and location
- Pressure to spend all their time together
- Jealousy or criticism about friends or family
- Questions that invalidate feelings (“you're too sensitive”)

These are common hallmarks of controlling and coercive behaviours in relationships.

How You Can Support Your Teen

Here are some excellent resources tailored to parents and carers:

Understanding Relationships

-  [Act On It Now – Parents & Carers Resources](#) — guidance on talking to your teen and spotting problems.
-  [The Children's Society – Teenage Relationship Abuse Advice](#) — clear explanations of abusive dynamics.
-  [National Centre for Domestic Violence – Teenage Dating Abuse Advice for Parents](#) — practical insight into abuse and why teens sometimes stay silent.

Additional Support

You may also find helpful information and support from:

- School Safeguarding Team — for immediate concerns
- Local domestic abuse services
- NHS guidance on recognising harmful behaviours in relationships

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

We've had a busy and exciting start to the year at Dunstone Education Trust, with several new commercial partnerships joining us. We are delighted to be working with Conservatory Outlet Group, Spencer Clarke Group, Vernacare and ICT Direct Group, all of whom are helping to provide innovative, engaging and highly beneficial opportunities for our pupils.

Last week, we were extremely grateful to receive a generous donation of 30 Chromebooks from our commercial partner ICT Direct. A huge thank you to David Foulks, Sales Account Manager, for his continued support and for working with the Trust to help us in our mission to combat digital inequity.

Conservatory Outlet Group are supporting our Boys in Design project, which aims to develop pupils' skills in project management, design, finance, research and team building. The winning team will even see their building brought to life! In addition, Conservatory Outlet Group have very generously provided club seats for several football matches at Preston North End and Manchester City. This truly is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our pupils.

We delighted to welcome Greg Kane to the Academy's Governing Board. Greg brings invaluable industry experience, a strong understanding of employer engagement and a clear commitment to working with the local community. His expertise and connections will be a real asset to the Board and the wider Academy, and we are pleased to have him on board.



Looking ahead, preparations are underway for the Trust's biggest event of the year, The Dunstone Digital AI Conference, taking place on **Monday 29th June 2026**. We look forward to welcoming Teachers and Leaders from local schools to showcase the progressive and innovative work taking place at Fulwood Academy.

Joan Dean
Chair, Dunstone Education Trust

