

# MAY HALF TERM NEWSLETTER 2026



Welcome to the May half term newsletter.

I am delighted to share that Fulwood Academy has been awarded the **CyberFirst Silver Award** by the National Cyber Security Centre. This prestigious recognition is given to schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to delivering excellence in cyber-security education. I would like to thank Mr Hughes for his contributions to helping us achieve this award.



Our summer term is now in full swing, and I'm so pleased to share how well our pupils have started this final part of the year. Year 11 have begun their GCSE exams with real maturity and determination. They're working incredibly hard, and it's wonderful to see them approach this important time with such focus. They're setting a fantastic example for the rest of the school and truly showing what **We Commit** looks like in action.

We have also been celebrating the achievements of our AI Champions, who recently travelled to NewsUK in London to deliver their final AI presentations. Their creativity, teamwork and confidence in such a professional environment made us extremely proud. They showed just how much young people can achieve when they **challenge** themselves and support one another.

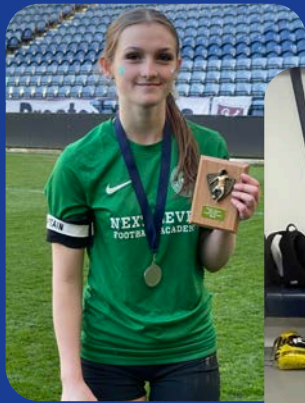
Our pupils have been shining in sport too! A huge congratulations to the Year 7 Boys' football team for winning the Preston Schools Cup at Deepdale. We're equally proud of our Under-16 Girls' team, who fought their way to the finals with real skill, determination, and team spirit.

This half term we have been welcoming the pupils who will be joining us in Year 7 in September. Each Wednesday we have hosted them in school as part of our transition programme. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to get involved remind us why these sessions are so important. We're really looking forward to getting to know them and their families even better over the coming weeks.

Finally I'd like to take a moment to thank our fantastic staff, our supportive parents and of course our pupils, whose energy and commitment make such a difference every day. Please do keep an eye on our website and social media pages, where we'll be sharing updates on events, important information and more of our pupils' achievements.

Have a restful half term.

**Mr Galbraith**  
Principal



**We are incredibly proud of the Under 16 girls following the cup final at Deepdale.**

Although the result finished 3-1, to our competitors, the girls gave everything from start to finish and represented the team brilliantly. Their effort, attitude, teamwork and determination throughout the match were outstanding, and they should all be proud of themselves for reaching the final and competing so well on a big occasion.

A special mention goes to the Player of the Match, chosen by the organisers after an excellent performance in goal.

A huge thank you as well to all the staff, parents, families and supporters who came along and encouraged the team.

**Well done girls!**

## Champions!

**Congratulations to the Year 7 Boys football team!!**

They were crowned Champions in the Preston Schools Cup.

The boys battled from the first whistle and, keeping a clean sheet, won the game 3 - 0!

We could not be prouder of the boys who displayed exceptional attitude and behaviour throughout the whole season.

**Well done!**



## PE - Extra-Curricular Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fixtures
Girls Football Club 3.05pm-4.00pm	Striking & Fielding Club 3.05pm-4.00pm	Before School Multi sports club (7.45-8.25)	Meeting Night	Boys Cricket
Boys Football Club 3.05-4.00pm	Rounders Fixtures TBC	Athletics Club 3.05-4.00pm		Girls Rounders
Rounders Club 3.05pm-4.00pm		Rounders Club 3.05pm-4.00pm		



## Book Besties Are Back !



We are enjoying diving in to our brand new read... and WOW 'The Dark Lady' by AKALA has already got us hooked! It has everything - a pickpocket with an unbelievable gift, a prisoner of extraordinary value and an orphan haunted by dreams of the mysterious Dark Lady!

Set in a gritty, grimy London where survival isn't guaranteed, Henry's journey is already intense, magical, and full of twists. Trust us, you won't want to put this one down! Expect: Magic Danger Mystery Emotion We're completely obsessed already! Want to join the fun? Come along to Book Besties every Friday after school in EN4 — everyone is welcome! Bring your friends, bring your curiosity, and get ready to fall into your next favourite story

**SPARK YOUR CURIOSITY:**  
**YEAR 7 SCIENCE CLUB**  
Experiments every week!







↓ **Tuesdays**  
3:10pm - 3:50pm

📍 **Room Sc7**

👤 **Teacher:**  
Mrs Asiaw-Lodge

Highlights from Science Club - pupils have stepped into the shoes of two of history's greatest scientists. First, they explored the curious technique of mirror writing, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci, carefully writing their notes backwards and using mirrors to reveal their hidden messages. They then moved on to investigate light, following in the footsteps of Isaac Newton. Using prisms, pupils split white light into a spectrum of colours, observing how light refracts and separates. It was a hands-on session full of discovery, linking science, history, and creativity in an engaging way. As always, it is fantastic to see pupils choosing to give up their own time to take part, showing real enthusiasm for science beyond the classroom. Pupils work brilliantly together, supporting each other with activities and sharing ideas throughout the sessions.

## 🎉 Celebrating 25 Years of Dedication! 🎉

Everyone at Fulwood Academy would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Bolton for an incredible 25 years of service. From working on the reception desk as the friendly voice answering calls and welcoming visitors, to supporting the school through admin, and now in reprographics helping keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes—her hard work has made a real difference every single day. Always positive, cheerful, and ready to help, she's been a valued part of the Fulwood community for so many years. Thank you for your dedication, your kindness and everything you've done over the past 25 years. We truly appreciate you!



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



### We were proud to take action for Mental Health Awareness Week.

Pupils took part in a range of activities designed to encourage open conversations, reduce stress and promote positive wellbeing. Throughout the week, pupils engaged in Lancashire Mind workshops, created breathing beads, made their own worry pebbles, visited our 'Take What you Need' wall and took part in our popular 'Shred Your Stress' activity.

It was fantastic to see so many young people getting involved, supporting one another and taking positive action for their mental health.

A huge thank you to Miss Drummond, the Student Wellbeing Ambassadors and Lancashire Minds for helping to make the week such a success.



# PROJECTS - AI CHAMPIONS



## Congratulations to Our Year 9 AI Champions

After months of dedication and hard work, our Year 9 pupils travelled to News UK in London on Monday 27th April to present their innovative AI projects to an executive board including Sarah Gello (Chief People Officer), Richard Wiles (SVP Technology, Data & AI), and our academy sponsor, Sir Charles Dunstone. The presentations were delivered in a style very similar to Dragon's Den, with pupils pitching their ideas, demonstrating their products, and answering challenging questions from the panel.

Throughout the project, pupils developed a wide range of valuable skills including public speaking, building AI agents, website creation and using AI prompting techniques to generate code for functioning educational games. Pupils were supported throughout the programme through both in-person and online sessions with experts from News UK, alongside specialist public speaking training delivered by Talk The Talk. Their confidence, creativity and teamwork were truly outstanding.

The winning team impressed the judges with their project, **Prompt Pilot AI**, designed to teach users how to write effective AI prompts while also helping to reduce environmental impact. As a reward for their achievement, the team received brand-new laptops, generously sponsored by NEWS UK.

In addition, three pupils received special recognition for their exceptional contributions and were awarded:  
£50 Amazon vouchers.

The runner-up team also received Amazon gift cards for their imaginative project,  
Behaviour Reflection Coach (XYRA).

We are incredibly proud of all the pupils involved and would like to extend a huge thank you to News UK for their continued support of our AI Champions programme and for inspiring the next generation of innovators.



# PROJECTS - AI CHAMPIONS



## Year 8 AI Champions

The AI Academy project provided by IN4 Group as an after school 6 week session introduced pupils to the world of artificial intelligence and machine learning through a series of practical, creative and interactive sessions. Pupils explored how AI systems work by experimenting with tools such as Quick, Draw!, AutoDraw, AI Duet and image generators, learning that machine learning works by recognising patterns in data and making predictions. They also developed an understanding of generative AI and prompt design by creating detailed prompts and competing in image-generation challenges.

As the project progressed, pupils moved from simply using AI tools to building and training their own machine learning models. Using Machine Learning for Kids and Scratch, they created image classification systems, collected and labelled training data, tested model accuracy, and improved predictions through iteration. Pupils then linked their models into Scratch projects, including a golf game controlled by AI, helping them understand how machine learning can be applied in games and interactive applications.

In the final stages of the project, pupils designed and customised their own AI-powered Scratch projects, working independently or collaboratively to create original outcomes. They developed important skills including computational thinking, creativity, communication, debugging, teamwork, and data literacy.

The project concluded with a showcase event where pupils presented and demonstrated their completed projects, explaining how their machine learning models worked and reflecting on how their understanding of AI had developed throughout the programme.

**The winner won a £50 Amazon voucher sponsored by NEWS UK for overall performance across all session.**

All of our year 8 pupils can look forward to AI Champions and Girls in Tech programmes offered from September.



## HALF TERM INTERVENTIONS

Date	Morning Session 10am - 12pm	Afternoon Session 12.30pm - 2.30pm
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History: Medicine &amp; Elizabethan England</li> <li>Foundation Biology Paper 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English - Paper 2 Section A</li> </ul>
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Paper 2 Section B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geography Paper 2 Revision</li> </ul>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maths Higher &amp; Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospitality &amp; Catering Unit 1</li> </ul>
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish Higher - Word workshop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish Higher translation workshop</li> </ul>
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English &amp; Maths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English &amp; Maths</li> </ul>

### Exams & Emotional Wellbeing

A small amount of stress around exams is normal. However, some young people may feel overwhelmed.

#### Signs your child may need extra support:

- Difficulty sleeping
- Panic or high anxiety
- Feeling hopeless or overly negative

#### How you can help:

- Encourage regular breaks and good sleep routines
- Focus on effort, not just outcomes
- Remind them that their wellbeing matters more than results

If you are concerned, please do get in touch with us.



# INFORMATION

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



### HOLIDAYS & DFE GUIDELINES

At our school, we are committed to supporting excellent attendance for all students. Please note the DFE guidelines regarding holidays during term time.



#### HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

The Department for Education (DFE) does not authorise holidays during term time.

Taking your child on holiday during term time can have a significant impact on their education, including missed learning and assessments.



#### DFE GUIDELINES

Headteachers may not grant leave of absence for holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Unauthorised holidays may result in a Penalty Notice (fine) being issued.



Thank you for supporting your child's education and helping us promote excellent attendance.

### Monkhouse Uniform

**15% Off All Orders** – Limited Time Only!  
Starting Monday 18th May, we're offering a 15% discount on all uniform orders, a perfect opportunity for parents to get ahead on back-to-school shopping and save big.

But don't wait – this offer won't be around for long!

**Offer Ends: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

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Promo starts Monday 18th May for a limited time only, enjoy **15% off everything!**

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28 School Days in a Row  
and you have a chance of receiving a  
**£25 Amazon voucher**

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£25  
a

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# HALF TERM CHALLENGE

## DESIGN COMPETITION!

We need some colourful artwork for our new food waste vehicles!  
Open to Primary and Secondary school aged children.

# WIN!

Amazon Fire HD  
Tablet,  
£50 Hobbycraft  
voucher,  
Bug Hotel & more!



**Preston City Council is excited to announce a new competition for local Primary and Secondary school aged children to help design the artwork for the side of our new food waste collection vehicles.**

We would be very grateful if your school could help us share this opportunity with pupils and families. The competition is a great chance for children to get creative while also learning about the importance of food waste recycling and protecting the environment.

The winning design will be displayed on our new food waste vehicles travelling around Preston, giving children the opportunity to see their artwork out in the community. The winner will also receive an Amazon Fire HD Tablet, a £50 Hobbycraft voucher, a bug hotel and a trophy. **The closing date for entries is 31st May.**

Please could click on the link below for competition details and terms and conditions.

[Competition to design artwork for new food waste vehicles](#)  
[Preston City Council](#)

Thank you for your support in helping us engage young people in recycling and environmental awareness.

[Click here for Terms and Conditions](#)



## Safeguarding

As we move into the summer term, young people often experience a mix of excitement, pressure and increased independence. This can be a positive time—but it can also bring challenges that impact their wellbeing and safety.

### When Pressure Builds

This time of year can feel intense for many students—not just because of exams, but also friendships, social media and expectations. Sometimes, this pressure shows up in ways that can be misunderstood.

#### You might notice:

- Changes in mood or behaviour
- Becoming more withdrawn or irritable
- Avoiding school or activities they usually enjoy
- Increased conflict at home

**These behaviours are often a sign that a young person is struggling, rather than simply “being difficult”.**

#### What helps?

- Keep communication open (even short conversations matter)
- Listen without rushing to fix or judge
- Reassure them that they are supported, no matter what.

### Supporting Your Child at Home

- Notice small changes early
- Keep conversations going, even if responses are brief
- Stay calm and curious if something doesn't feel right
- Encourage them to talk to a trusted adult

### Safeguarding Support

If you have any concerns about your child or another young person, please contact the school's safeguarding team.

**You can also access support through the following services:**

## USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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 [ww.Kooth.com](http://ww.Kooth.com)

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

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

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

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# Trustee Update

News UK

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We are incredibly proud of our continued partnership with **News UK**, whose generous support has once again elevated the AI Champions project for the Year 9 pupils. This collaboration has become a standout example of what can be achieved when industry and education work hand in hand to inspire the next generation of innovators.

The final AI presentation day was a tremendous success. Our pupils showcased complex, creative, and technically impressive ideas which was testament not only to their hard effort but also to the invaluable guidance provided by Mr Hughes and the News UK team.

Partnerships like this strengthen our school community and open doors for our young people, giving them real-world insight into the rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence and digital innovation. We are really looking forward to seeing what next years group have to offer.

Looking ahead, the Dunstone Education Trust is delighted to be hosting its first Digital AI Conference on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June at Fulwood Academy. The event will bring together school leaders from across the district to showcase innovative uses of AI within schools and to share best practice. It marks an exciting step in our mission to champion digital excellence and ensure our pupils are equipped for a rapidly evolving world.

Joan Dean  
Chair, Dunstone Education Trust



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