

TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 - AUGUST 2026

Welcome to the Fulwood Academy newsletter dedicated to supporting the transition of the Class of 2031!



Dear Year 7 Pupils and Families,

With just two weeks to go until the start of the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to Fulwood Academy.

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, bringing with it new opportunities, new friendships and exciting experiences. While it is completely natural to feel a mixture of excitement and nerves, I hope you are looking forward to becoming part of our school community.

Over the past few months, we have enjoyed getting to know many of you through our Transition Programme, after-school sessions, Transition Day and Summer School. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, confidence and kindness that our new Year 7 pupils have already shown. We are incredibly excited to welcome you back in September as the newest members of the Fulwood family.

At Fulwood Academy, we are committed to ensuring that every student feels safe, supported and inspired to achieve their very best. Your teachers, Form Tutor, Head of Year and our wider staff team are all here to help you settle in quickly and make the most of every opportunity available to you.

Parents and Carers play a vital role in supporting their child's education, and we value the strong partnership we build with our families. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the coming years as your child grows in confidence, develops new skills and achieves their ambitions.

This newsletter contains key information to help you prepare for September, including details about communication, enrichment opportunities and the exciting start we have planned for our new Year 7 students. Please take a few moments to read through it together.

To our new Year 7 Pupils: enjoy the remainder of your summer holiday, spend time with your family and friends, and come to school ready to embrace every opportunity. We cannot wait to see the contribution you will make to our school community over the next five years.

On behalf of everyone at Fulwood Academy, thank you for choosing our school. We look forward to welcoming you on your first day and wish you every success as you begin this exciting new chapter.

Best wishes,

Mr Galbraith
Principal
Fulwood Academy



YOUR FIRST DAY IN YEAR 7

WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2026



ARRIVE BY
8.30AM
AT THE LATEST



Enter through the
STUDENT ENTRANCE.
You will register in the same
way as you did on Transition Day.



PLEASE NOTE:
Year 8 to 11 students
do not start until
10.00AM



YEAR GROUP ASSEMBLY

We will begin the day together
in a Year 7 assembly.



TIME WITH YOUR FORM TUTOR

You will spend time with your form tutor
and form group. You will receive your
Transition Fortnight timetable which shows
what you will be doing in your first two
weeks at Fulwood Academy.



TRANSITION FORTNIGHT

Your first two weeks include a programme
of sessions designed to help you learn
about your new school and ensure you
have all the tools you need to be successful
learners at Fulwood Academy.



TESTS IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

You will complete **NGRT Reading Tests**
and **CAT Tests**.

- ✓ These tests are not something you can
revise for or prepare for.
- ✓ They simply help us to gain a better
understanding of you before subject
learning begins.



GUIDED EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

For at least the first few days, you will be
guided to each lesson by a member of staff.

WHAT YOU NEED



Come in **FULL UNIFORM**
and bring all of your equipment.
You will not need PE kit on Day 1.



Bring all essential equipment,
including pens, pencil, ruler,
calculator and a pencil case.



Don't forget your
REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE.



NEED HELP?

If you're unsure where you need to be
at any point, just ask a member of staff
– we are here to help!

At the end of the day, if you are unsure
how to get to your bus, **ask a member
of staff** who is on duty **by the buses**
and they will be happy to help.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS



Space in our car park
is limited.
To keep everyone
safe, please consider
parking away from
school.



We encourage
parents to park
responsibly
and walk up
to school.



Students can be
supported in finding
the correct bus at
the end of the day.



If you need help,
please speak to a
member of staff
on duty by the
buses – they will
be happy to help.

Starting secondary school is a big step towards independence. Suddenly, there are different lessons, different teachers, homework deadlines, PE days and equipment to remember.

Your child will not get everything right straight away – and we don't expect them to.

One of the best ways you can support them is by helping them establish good routines at home. The aim isn't to organise everything for them, but to gradually teach them how to organise themselves.

Get into a good night time routine

Secondary school days are busy, particularly during the first few weeks.

Encourage a consistent bedtime routine that gives your child enough time to wind down and get a good night's sleep.

Try to keep phones and other devices away from the bed overnight where possible. A good night's sleep makes a huge difference to concentration, organisation and readiness to learn the following day.

Pack the bag the night before

Mornings are much easier when the thinking has already been done!

Each evening, encourage your child to:

- check what lessons they have the following day;
- pack the books and equipment they need;
- make sure any completed homework is ready;
- refill or prepare their water bottle; and
- put their school bag somewhere ready to pick up in the morning.

At first, you might do this with your child. As the weeks go on, encourage them to take more responsibility for doing it themselves.



Get uniform ready

Encourage your child to put out their full school uniform before they go to bed.

This is a small habit, but it avoids the 8am search for a missing tie, shoe or blazer!

If they have PE the following day, make checking and packing their complete PE kit part of the same routine.

Check ClassCharts together

ClassCharts should become part of your family's school routine.

Parents and carers should regularly check ClassCharts to monitor:

- homework and deadlines;
- positive behaviour points;
- any negative behaviour logs;
- announcements from school; and
- your child's timetable.

We recommend checking ClassCharts with your child, particularly during the first few weeks.

Rather than simply telling them what they need to do, ask:

“What homework have you got?”

“When is it due?”

“What do you need tomorrow?”

This helps your child learn to take responsibility for their own organisation while knowing that you are there to support them.





Check the basics

A quick equipment check once or twice a week can prevent lots of problems.

Does your child still have working pens? A pencil? Ruler? Calculator? Pencil case?

Things inevitably get lost, lent out or run out during a busy school week, so encourage your child to notice when something needs replacing and tell you before they have nothing left!



Make mornings predictable

Work backwards from the time your child needs to leave home and establish a realistic morning routine.

Build in enough time for getting dressed, breakfast, brushing teeth, collecting their belongings and travelling to school without rushing.

During the summer, it can also be helpful to practise the journey to school so your child knows how long it really takes.



Help with homework – without doing it for them

Your role isn't to know all the answers!

You can make an enormous difference simply by providing a suitable place and time for homework and helping your child establish a routine for completing it.

If they're struggling, encourage them to speak to their teacher rather than avoiding the homework altogether.

One of the most useful questions you can ask is:

“What could you do next to get some help with this?”



Keep talking

The question ***“How was school?”*** quite often receives the answer ***“Fine.”***

Try more specific questions instead:

“What was the best part of today?”

“What lesson did you enjoy?”

“Who did you sit with at lunch?”

“Did anything make you laugh today?”

“Was there anything you found difficult?”

“What's happening tomorrow?”

Small, regular conversations often tell you much more than one big conversation when something has gone wrong.

Expect a few bumps along the way

There may be forgotten PE kits, misplaced pens, friendship wobbles, missed homework deadlines or mornings when everything feels overwhelming.

Learning to manage these things is part of the transition to secondary school.

Where possible, resist the temptation to immediately solve every problem for your child.

Help them think through what they can do, who they can speak to and how they might avoid the same problem next time.

**Support them, remind them and guide them
but gradually let them take the lead.**





The 10-Minute Evening Reset



A simple ten-minute routine each evening can make the following morning much easier:

1



CHECK

Look at tomorrow's timetable and ClassCharts.



2



COMPLETE

Is all homework finished or planned?



3



PACK

Pack the school bag, equipment and PE kit if needed.



4



PREPARE

Put out full school uniform and shoes.



5



RESET

Water bottle ready, alarm set, devices away and get a good night's sleep.



Start by doing it together.



Then remind them to do it.



Eventually, let them do it themselves.

That's how independence grows.

SMARTPHONES, SOCIAL MEDIA & STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

⇒ Working together to help every student thrive. ⇐

A phone can help your child stay connected and travel independently. It can also give access to content, people and situations that may not be safe. With the right tools and conversations, we can help keep them safe and support them to make positive choices.



IMPORTANT LAW CHANGE

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UNDER-16s IS CHANGING

The Government has announced plans to ban social media for children under 16, with the new arrangements expected to be implemented in **Spring 2027**.

This includes platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook, X and YouTube. Messaging apps (such as WhatsApp and Signal) are not intended to be included.



Now is a good time to review which social media accounts your child uses and start the process of reducing or removing access where appropriate.



PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT. SO IS SAFEGUARDING.

As children get older, they deserve more privacy and independence. However, while they are still children, parents and carers have a responsibility to help keep them safe.

Monitoring is not about spying – it's about understanding, guiding and protecting.



TALK OPENLY WITH YOUR CHILD

- ✓ Tell them what you monitor and why.
- ✓ Agree boundaries together.
- ✓ Encourage them to talk to you if something goes wrong online.
- ✓ Build trust, so they feel safe coming to you for help.

Your 10-Minute Smartphone Safety Check

Before September, sit down with your child and their phone.

1. CHECK THEIR APPS

Do you know what every app is and what it allows them to do?

2. SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

Use Google Family Link for compatible Google/Android devices or Apple Family Sharing and Screen Time for iPhones.

3. CHECK DOWNLOADS & SPENDING

Make sure new apps and purchases require parental involvement or approval.

4. CHECK PRIVACY

Who can see their profile, contact them and see their location?

5. CHECK SCREEN TIME

Look at how long they are actually spending on different apps – the answer may surprise both of you.

6. SET AN OVERNIGHT ROUTINE

Agree where the phone will be kept and charged overnight.

7. REVIEW SOCIAL MEDIA

With changes for under-16s expected in 2027, now is a good opportunity to consider whether your child needs the social-media accounts they currently use.

8. KEEP TALKING

Parental controls are a useful safety net. They work best alongside open conversations, clear boundaries and gradually increasing independence.





SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

– THEY'RE ALREADY ON YOUR PHONE



Parental controls are a useful safety net. They help you build healthy digital habits, keep conversations open and gradually increase independence.



ANDROID / GOOGLE



Google Family Link

Lets you supervise your child's compatible Android device and Google Account from your own phone.



See screen time

See how much time your child spends on their device and individual apps.



Set daily limits & downtime

Set time limits for apps and create bedtime/downtime schedules.



Manage apps

Approve or block apps and require approval for new downloads.



Manage content

Set content filters for Google Play, Search and YouTube.



See their location

See where your child's device is (with their permission) and get alerts when they arrive at or leave certain places.



Google Family Link is FREE.



APPLE / IPHONE



Apple Family Sharing & Screen Time

Lets you manage your child's device and Apple Account through Family Sharing and Screen Time.



See screen time

View how much time your child spends on their device and which apps they use.



Set app limits & Downtime

Decide how long apps can be used and set times when the device is restricted.



Manage communication

Control who your child can contact and communicate with.



Approve downloads & purchases

Use Ask to Buy to approve or decline eligible app downloads and purchases.



Restrict content

Set age-appropriate restrictions for apps, websites and other content.



Share location

See your child's location using Family Sharing.



Built in. No extra cost.



Top Tips

Tech works best when trust comes first.

- ✓ **Talk early and often** – agree rules together and review regularly.
- ✓ **Be consistent** – clear boundaries help them feel safe.
- ✓ **Lead by example** – model the habits you want to see.
- ✓ **Stay informed** – technology and apps change, keep learning together.
- ✓ **Build trust** – listen, support and encourage responsible choices.



With the start of Year 7 now just around the corner, we have brought together some of the questions we are most frequently asked by parents and carers at this point in the summer.

Some of this information has appeared in previous transition newsletters, but we know there is a lot to remember! Think of this as your final pit stop before September – one place to check those last-minute questions before your child begins their Fulwood journey.

WHAT TIME DOES MY CHILD ARRIVE?

Students should arrive by 8.30am. After 8.35am is considered late. We recommend establishing a morning routine before September to make those first days as smooth as possible.

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD WEAR?

Full school uniform should be worn on the first day. No PE kit is needed on Day 1. Your child will receive their Transition Fortnight timetable showing exactly when PE kit will be required.

WHERE DOES MY CHILD GO ON DAY 1?

Use the student entrance (the same as Transition Day). Sign in at the tables, then wait in the dining hall. Year 7 will then head to their first assembly together as a year group.

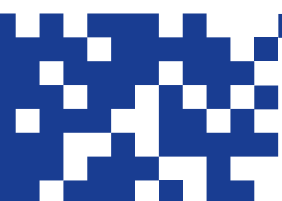
WHAT WILL THE TIMETABLE LOOK LIKE?

For the first two weeks, students follow a Transition Fortnight timetable, mostly with their form group, including CAT and NGRT Reading Tests. The full Year 7 timetable begins from Week 3 and will be viewable on ClassCharts from week beginning 14th September .

HOW WILL MY CHILD PURCHASE LUNCH?

Towards the end of the summer, the finance department will be sending home log in details for Parent Pay. This is the system we use to pay for expenses at school such as school dinners. On the first day, your child will receive their Pin Number which they will use to access their Parent Pay accounts in the dining hall to purchase items.

If your child receives Free School Meals, this will also be visible on their accounts to the canteen staff. If for any reason your child's account does not have the funds to purchase lunch they will be given a slip to allow them to get food and then the amount can be paid back the following day. No child will be stopped from receiving lunch, they will just need to see Mr Beesely, who is always on lunch duty with Year 7, and he will ensure they receive a meal.



HOW DO I MONITOR MY CHILD?

We use ClassCharts to keep parents informed. Access it via web browser or the Parents app. Login details will be sent by the end of the first week. Features include behaviour points, homework, timetable, and announcements. Download the app and check it regularly.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

Your child's form tutor is your first point of contact for general questions or concerns, their email address has been shared with you directly by Mrs Holmes. They will also be able to direct your messages to another member of our team if appropriate.

Due to teaching commitments, please allow up to 3 working days for responses from your child's Form Tutor. For urgent safeguarding matters please contact your child's Head of Year, Mr Beesley.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING?

Ensure your child has: pens, a pencil, a ruler, a calculator, and a pencil case. A refillable water bottle is also essential. We recommend packing the bag the evening before to avoid any morning rush – a great habit to establish before September!

STAY CONNECTED WITH FULWOOD

Remember: ClassCharts is your go-to tool for staying connected with school life. From homework to behaviour points and timetables, everything you need is in one place. If you have any questions before September, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at Fulwood Academy.

FINDING THEIR WAY AROUND

Students will be guided to their lessons throughout Transition Fortnight. There will be lots of staff available to help. If your child is ever unsure, they should ask any member of staff – we are all here to help.

CAT & READING TESTS

There is no need for any preparation or revision before these tests. We simply ask that students try their best on the day. The results help us make informed decisions about teaching, learning and support – they do not affect school reports.

TRAVELLING BY BUS

Staff will be on duty at the buses each day. They can help your child find the correct bus and answer any questions. If your child is ever unsure which bus to take, please encourage them to speak to a member of staff on duty.

CAR PARK DROP-OFF

Parking in the school car park is very limited. Where possible, please park away from the school site and allow your child to walk the final part of the journey. Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking in the surrounding streets.



UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT REMINDERS

Year 7 should wear their full Fulwood Academy uniform for the first day.

This includes -

- White shirt
- Navy Tie
- School Blazer
- **Grey straight leg trousers** or School Skirt with black tights
- Plain black polishable shoes - no logos or trainers
- **The school jumper is completely optional and can be worn with the blazer if you wish.**
- We allow one pair of stud earrings and a non-smart watch
- Hair should be a natural colour with no extreme hairstyles.
- Headscarfs should be either Navy blue or Black.

Once students receive their timetable they will know which days they will have PE. On PE days, students can come to school in their PE kit with their school blazer worn as well.

The only piece of PE kit which requires the school logo is the top. This can be worn with either - plain black shorts, tracksuit bottoms, joggers or thick sports leggings. Leggings should be made of one solid material and should not be flared. These items are also available with the school logo from Monkhouse if you prefer.



Equipment

A school bag suitable for carrying all belongings is a compulsory part of the equipment needed for school.

Students should ensure they also have -

- Black pens
- Green pens
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- highlighters
- Scientific calculator - available to purchase through ParentPay.
- Water bottle



School Bag (Backpack)



School Bag (Large Handbag)



Refillable Water Bottle



Pencil Case



2 Black Pens



2 Green Pens



2 Pencils



30cm Ruler



Rubber



Highlighters



Scientific Calculator

Students have access to a stationary shop before form time each morning should they need to purchase items they need.

MEET THE FORM TUTOR EVENING

An important opportunity to meet your child's form tutor and find out more about life at Fulwood Academy.



**THURSDAY
10TH SEPTEMBER**

 **5.30PM – 6.30PM**

PARENT/CARER ONLY EVENT

For space reasons, we ask that students do not attend with parent/carers where possible. Thank you.

WHAT TO EXPECT



ALL PARENT/CARERS IN THE HALL

Join us in the hall for a short welcome and introduction from Mr Beesley, Head of Year 7.



MR BEESLEY'S INTRODUCTION

A brief talk about key information for the Year 7 year ahead.



TO FORM TUTOR SESSIONS

Form tutors will invite all parent/carers from their form group to move to a classroom.



YOUR FORM TUTOR PRESENTATION & Q&A

A short presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions and raise any queries.

THIS IS A PARENT/CARER ONLY EVENT



To ensure we have enough space in classrooms, we ask that students do not attend with parent/carers if possible.

YOUR FORM TUTOR WILL TALK ABOUT:



USING CLASS CHARTS

How to access Class Charts and keep up to date with behaviour, homework, announcements and more.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

How to find information about what your child is learning and how to access resources from home.



ANY QUERIES

An opportunity to ask any questions and discuss anything that has arisen during the first few weeks.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Useful reminders and advice on how we can work together to help your child settle in and thrive.

YEAR 7 BROCKHOLES TRIP

Mr Tyson, our Enrichment Lead, has arranged for all Year 7 students to visit Brockholes Nature Reserve during the first two weeks of September.

This exciting visit provides a fantastic opportunity for students to take part in a full day of outdoor learning and team-building activities, helping them to settle into secondary school, build new friendships and experience the wide range of enrichment opportunities available at Fulwood Academy.

The cost of the visit, including coach travel and a full programme of activities at Brockholes Nature Reserve, is £10 per student. This payment will be added to your ParentPay account once your account has been set up over the summer.

Full details of the visit, along with the consent form, will be sent home with students during the first few days of the autumn term.



RIDDLE TIME

LAST MONTHS RIDDLES - DID YOU GUESS RIGHT?

RIDDLE 1: THE MORE YOU TAKE, THE MORE YOU LEAVE BEHIND. WHAT AM I? FOOTSTEPS

RIDDLE 2: I HAVE KEYS BUT NO LOCKS, SPACE BUT NO ROOM, AND YOU CAN ENTER BUT NOT GO INSIDE. WHAT AM I? A KEYBOARD

THIS MONTHS RIDDLES

RIDDLE 1: I AM ALWAYS IN FRONT OF YOU BUT CAN NEVER BE SEEN. WHAT AM I?

RIDDLE 2: A MAN SHAVES SEVERAL TIMES A DAY, YET STILL HAS A BEARD. WHO IS HE?

