

## Principal's Newsletter

### July 2023

### Principal's Update,

As we reach the end of another remarkable academic year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible accomplishments and memorable moments we have experienced together this year. It is with great joy that I reflect on the collective efforts, resilience, and dedication that have made this year truly amazing.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our pupils. Their commitment to learning, growth, and community has been truly exceptional. Despite the challenges we faced, they've persevered with determination and adaptability, demonstrating an unwavering spirit that inspires us all. Each one of you has contributed to the vibrant tapestry of our school, and I am grateful to witness their achievements and personal growth throughout the year.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to our outstanding staff. Your tireless efforts, passion for education, and unwavering support have created an environment where our pupils can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Your dedication and commitment to our pupil's success are truly commendable, and rightly so, was reflected in our **June 2023 inspection when OFSTED graded us as a GOOD school**, I am honoured to work alongside such a remarkable team.

To our parents and carers, your partnership and unwavering support have been invaluable. Your trust in Fulwood's commitment to your child's education have played an integral role in our collective success. Your involvement, encouragement, and collaboration have helped nurture a strong sense of community, enabling us to create an inclusive and nurturing learning environment.

Looking back at this year, we have witnessed extraordinary achievements in academics, arts, sports, and community service. Our pupils have excelled in various disciplines, pushing boundaries, and embracing new opportunities. They have showcased their talents, creativity, and leadership, making us immensely proud.

As we bid farewell to our Class of 2023, we celebrate their accomplishments and eagerly anticipate the bright futures that await them. Their growth and achievements serve as a testament to the transformative power of education, and we have no doubt that they will continue to thrive and make a positive impact on the world.

As we embark on a well-deserved summer break, let us carry the memories of this remarkable year with us. May it serve as a reminder of our collective strength, the bonds we have formed, and the limitless potential within each and every one of us.

Thank you for making this year truly amazing. I wish you all a rejuvenating and joyful summer, and I eagerly look forward to welcoming the pupils back for another incredible year ahead on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

With warm regards,

Mr A Galbraith  
Principal



## PE Update

It has been a fantastic year of sporting events and activities at Fulwood. All pupils have been provided with the opportunity to take part in a range of extra-curricular activities including football, netball, badminton, table tennis, basketball, athletics and rounders and pupil participation rates have been at a record high.

There has also been an abundance of sporting fixtures, including girls' and boys' football, netball, rugby, basketball, badminton and rounders being played across the year and we are extremely proud of all our pupils who have shown a high level of commitment to both training and representing the Academy outside of school time.

This year a group of our Year 7 SEND pupils took part in the annual pan-football tournament, all of the pupils displayed great levels of effort and determination and as a result achieved second place overall in the tournament. More recently the PE Department took a group of pupils to represent Fulwood Academy at the annual Preston City Sports event, which was held at Witton Park in Blackburn. There were some top-quality performances displayed by our pupils throughout the day and every pupil tried their personal best.

As part of our aim to maintain important and valuable relationships with the local primary schools, on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June we hosted our annual Sir Charles Dunstone Football Cup at Fulwood Academy. There were 12 Primary Schools in attendance and all participants thoroughly enjoyed the football, food and comradery. Our Fulwood team of Young Sports Leaders assisted in officiating and scoring on the day. The pupil leaders have also helped support several primary school sporting events throughout the year and have shown incredible leadership, communication and organisational skills.

We look forward to restarting our sporting journey again from September. We continue to offer our pupils a wide range of sporting experiences both within the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities and we encourage all pupils to get involved and maintain high levels of participation.



## Sports Day

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July the PE department hosted our annual sports festival and all pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 were invited to take part, representing their form in variety of different sporting activities. The pupils conducted themselves in an extremely positive manner demonstrating our core values 'we care' 'we commit' and 'we challenge' throughout the day. It was a fantastic opportunity for the PE department to observe the pupils expressing and enjoying themselves in a competitive and high-spirited environment. To finish, all pupils were invited to take part in a race for life charity event. All participants made a donation to cancer research, and we are delighted to say that we raised £124 for an extremely worthy cause. Well done to all the pupils who took part and a big thank you to all the staff who helped to support the day.



## Shine Media

On the 4<sup>th</sup> July the Shine Media team were invited to attend **The Shine School Media Awards**, the most prestigious school media award in the UK!

Fulwood's multimedia magazine '**Shaping the Future**', the latest magazine edition, won the 'Rising Star' award at the ceremony. Shine Media's editor Maddison Leeming, Editor in Chief Rayhan Patel and feature writer Mark Crawshaw travelled to Stationers Hall in London to receive the award on behalf of all the talented Year 11 who contributed to this outstanding magazine which also featured their first ever Podcasts.



At the Award Winners' Lunch, pupils were presented with their winning certificate and given a glossy copy of the winner's book in which their edition is commended by the Chair of Shine School Media Awards. Pupils also had the opportunity to meet leading figures from the world of journalism as well as listen to inspirational presentations from both Sajeeda Merali – Chief Executive Officer, PPA and Katie Vanneck -Smith, CEO Hearst U.K .

Well done to the Shine Media team for their commitment resilience and professionalism on this project: Maddison Leeming, Rayhan Patel, Mark Crawshaw, Ayo Oyelami, Lexie Parker. Commendation to the contributors of this winning edition – Mark Crawshaw, Zak Patel, Skye Thistleton, K.K Tangiatrong, Maddison Leeming, Hanar Mohammed, Scott Carlisle, Umar Bashir.

## Modern Foreign Languages

This half term we have been focusing in all year groups on developing writing skills and we are delighted with the progress made by so many pupils in this area.

Understanding the grammar to be able to write well in a foreign language invariably helps to improve our understanding of our own language, which will always be an essential skill, even long after leaving school.

Over summer, we wish for pupils to keep up with regular vocabulary learning to ensure that they come back ready to learn in September, having not lost any confidence.

There is a Memrise group for all year groups that teachers monitor to see and reward progress. The link is on ClassCharts or speak to an MFL teacher. Bonnes vacances à tous!

## Global

The Summer term spotlight has been on Geography, with our Year 10 pupils spending two days in Morecambe taking part in fieldwork. Beach gradients were measured and erosion prevention methods studied and, with the Eden of the North due to be built in Morecambe, pupils also conducted urban regeneration studies along the prom and even had time to sample the local fish and chips! Looking ahead the cross-curricular trip to France and Belgium for the Lille Christmas Market and World War One Belgium War graves has been launched and, from September, Fulwood will have its own weather station assembled and run by KS3 Humanities pupils.

## Attendance

This academic year over 250 pupils have achieved 97%-100% attendance. Well done! Keep up the great work.

**Update for Parents and Carers:** The Government have now changed their statutory guidance. After the summer break morning registers will now close **30 minutes** after school starting, as a result, any pupils who arrive after 9.00am will get an **unauthorised** mark. Please note that **10 unauthorised absence marks** could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice or legal proceedings.

## Year 7 and 8 Trip to Winmarleigh

This half term 80 of our Year 7 and 8 pupils spent three days at the Winmarleigh Hall PGL Centre. From testing their survival skills by building outdoor shelters, to pushing past fears to climb to great heights, to working together to build rafts and then working together again to make sure their staff leader ended up in the water, great fun was had. Pupils took part in a variety of activities developing their team work, resilience and confidence. For some of our pupils, this was the first experience of staying away from home and the excitement could be felt every minute of the day and very much into each night! The staff at Winmarleigh commented on our pupils respectful behaviour, excellent manners and willingness to get involved and it was wonderful to see each pupil take part in these experiences to the very best of their ability.



## Trips and Events Highlights

It's been such an exciting term for careers as well as trips and events at Fulwood Academy! Pupils in all year groups have experienced an array of exciting opportunities. Year 7 and 8 pupils attended Winmarleigh outdoor adventures where they had chance to develop their teamworking and communication skills.

Year 9 pupils have attended workshops with Preston College and the RAF to inform them of the variety of career opportunities that are available.

Year 10 have had a jam-packed term consisting of taster days to Runshaw College, Cardinal Newman and Preston College, giving an insight into College Life and the courses that are available to them. Yr10 pupils also attended Work Experience at a variety of different placements across a number of local industries. The feedback we have received from the employers has been very positive.

## Music & Performing Arts

What a busy year in the Music department! Lots of our Key Stage 3 pupils have had their first Music lesson for a long time and we have been working hard on building the foundations of musical knowledge, developing this through instrumental skills and music technology. Our Curriculum next year builds on this foundation, and I am already excited to return in September to make some more noise!

All pupils have had access to the instrumental lessons on offer by Lancashire Music Service, and those that have taken them are making fantastic progress. We currently offer guitar, keyboard and drum lessons, and there is scope to offer more! Our pupils have also had other opportunities in our singing group and keyboard club to develop their music theory, learn about sound recording in a studio, and also learn the ukulele in our extra-curricular clubs.

Our Musical performances have been very well received. We started with our contribution to St Walburge's Preston Schools Christmas Carol Concert, singing for Finney House, spreading 'Christmas cheer' with the residents, and finishing off the term with our Celebration of Christmas event and assemblies. This Summer Term we held our first annual Arts Talent Festival. This was a event for all the Arts: Music, Drama, Dance, Art, Textiles, Photography, Creative Writing, Poetry, Public Speaking, and a very tasty Bake Off! Our Arts Talent Celebration was well attended, with a fantastic exhibition of the Arts and Creative Writing, and outstanding performances from our very talented children. We can confidently report that the audience were delighted, I hope some of our younger audience members were inspired to start on their own exploration of the Arts. A fantastic year for Fulwood – Well Done!



## Girls In Tech

During the last half term, the Girls in Tech Programme, designed to inspire and guide year 9 pupils towards careers in technology, accomplished several remarkable milestones during its completion. The programme, supported by TalkTalk mentors, witnessed the participants diligently finalising their pitches for an innovative app. The mentors played a pivotal role in providing valuable insights and guidance, ensuring that the girls' ideas were refined and ready for the ultimate showcase.

The culmination of their hard work was to pitch their app to none other than Sir Charles Dunstone, a renowned figure in the tech industry and owner of TalkTalk. The anticipation and excitement were palpable as each team presented their unique vision, demonstrating both technical proficiency and creative problem-solving skills. The experience of showcasing their work to such an esteemed industry leader was a testament to the incredible growth and confidence achieved throughout the programme.

Following the intense pitching session, the winners of the competition were rewarded with a memorable opportunity—an exclusive meal with Sir Charles Dunstone himself. This remarkable encounter provided an invaluable chance for the aspiring technologists to engage in meaningful conversations, gaining further insights and inspiration from a world leader in tech.

To commemorate the successful completion of the Girls in Tech Programme, a graduation ceremony was held, honouring the achievements and efforts of all the participants. The ceremony acted as a platform for pupils to reflect on their journey, celebrate their individual and collective accomplishments, and recognise the newfound passion they've developed for technology. The joy and pride emanating from the graduates, mentors, and the entire school community was infectious, leaving a lasting impression and inspiring future cohorts to follow in their footsteps.

The Girls in Tech programme has provided the girls with invaluable experiences, connections, and memories that will undoubtedly shape their futures in this dynamic field and given them the confidence to pursue careers in technology.

As the Girls in Tech leaders, we want to say a huge thank you to the TalkTalk team for their time in inspiring, challenging and supporting pupils, and the efforts from all the businesses pupils have had the opportunity to visit, as well as parents and carers and to the girls who have done themselves and Fulwood proud.

**Miss Patel and Miss Isaji**  
*Girls in Tech leaders*



## Food Tech

This term the pupils have excelled in their cooking abilities and skills. Year 10 have completed a mock Hospitality and Catering practical examination. All the pupils produced delicious food and they presented each dish beautifully with care and precision. KS3 pupils took part in the arts festival Bake off, Dominic Johnson came first place with the beach scenery, Layla Rose Renaghan and Emily Jones came second with a colourful fantasy theme and Jennifer Dema and Aleecia Perolli came third with a beautiful painted decoration of fantasy.

Each term the pupils are challenged with new recipes and each one has risen to the challenge. Well done everyone!



## Maths

**1,140,082**

questions answered correctly in Sparx Maths so far this year

Students in your school have completed

**11,655 hours**

of personalised learning on Sparx Maths this year!

**366 students**

have already improved at their times tables this year. Great job!

[Download the report](#)

### Sparx Club

Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 3pm to 4pm to help pupils with Sparx.

## English

As we approach the end of another academic year, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our pupils in the English department. It has been a year filled with remarkable growth, inspiring attitudes towards learning, and a deep appreciation for the power of literature.

Our pupils have truly embraced the world of words, diving into the pages of classic novels and plays such as "Animal Farm", "Oliver Twist", "Macbeth", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Tempest", and "An Inspector Calls". These texts have not only expanded their literary horizons but have also sparked meaningful discussions and critical thinking.

We are thrilled to announce that the curriculum for the next academic year will be even more challenging and exciting. Our department has carefully crafted a curriculum that will push our pupils to new heights, encouraging them to think critically, analyse deeply, and engage with literature in profound ways.

As the summer holidays approach, we hope that our pupils will take the time to rest and rejuvenate with their families. We encourage our pupils to continue reading and exploring the world of literature during this time, as a gateway to endless possibilities.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the parents and guardians for their support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back in September, ready to embark on another incredible journey of learning and growth. Wishing you all a restful and joyful summer break.

**The English Department**

## Year 11 Summary

As we say farewell to our Year 11 pupils, we are full of pride in what they have achieved and sadness to see them go. This year the class of 2023 were seen off in style with an end of year celebration assembly, featuring subject achievement awards, farewell messages and speeches and a standing ovation from the whole school, as the pupils walked out of the building.

The Year 11 leavers' Prom was a fantastic evening and a great opportunity for both pupils and staff to celebrate and commemorate their last 5 years studying at Fulwood Academy. We wish all our pupils the best of luck for the future and hope they go on to follow their dreams and aspirations.



## Rewards

It has been a year filled with numerous accomplishments, rewards, and celebrations, all thanks to the remarkable efforts and dedication of our pupils. To acknowledge their hard work and positive conduct, we have, throughout the year, organised a series of rewarding activities and events. Our pupils had a fantastic time during their trips to the bowling alley and the cinema this academic year. Our final reward activity will be a day filled with excitement at Blackpool Pleasure Beach along with a cinema experience.

In addition to these, we have also held a number of reward assemblies and celebrations. These assemblies are an occasion to recognise and commend pupils for their exceptional achievements in various subjects, as well as their consistent effort and dedication to their studies. It is truly heartening to witness the positive impact that these acknowledgments have on our pupils' motivation and self-esteem.

As we approach the end of this academic year, we look forward to more milestones and achievements next year. We remain committed to providing a well-rounded education that not only nurtures academic growth but also recognises and rewards positive behaviour, attendance, and achievements.

## Autumn Term Important Dates

- 24<sup>th</sup> August – GCSE Exam Results Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> September – New Term Starts
- 14<sup>th</sup> September – Yr11 Parent GCSE Information Eve
- 27<sup>th</sup> September – Open Evening
- 5<sup>th</sup> October – YR 7 Parents Eve
- 20<sup>th</sup> October – Break up for Half Term

## 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

**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 85258



## Trust Update

Well Done Fulwood!

You will all know by now that Fulwood Academy, has achieved a remarkable and historic milestone: it has been judged GOOD by Ofsted. This achievement is all the more impressive, considering that for the past fourteen years Fulwood has consistently received Requires Improvement or Inadequate ratings by Ofsted.

As the Chair of the trust, I cannot express enough how immensely proud I am of Mr Galbraith, our principal, the Senior Leadership Team, dedicated staff and our exceptional pupils. Sir Charles, our sponsor shares in this immense delight.

The recently published Ofsted report includes several quotes which we are very proud of. Let me highlight a few of them:

- *"Pupils are calm, polite and benefit from the positive relationships that they have with staff."*
- *"Leaders have developed an ambitious curriculum."*
- *"In the main, teachers use their strong subject knowledge effectively to design activities that help pupils to learn well."*
- *"Leaders have established an inclusive culture at the school, where every pupil is valued."*
- *"Trust leaders have a clear and ambitious vision for the school. They hold school leaders to account for the quality of education and carry out their statutory duties effectively."*

The positive judgement has had an energising impact on the overall atmosphere at the academy. The sense of pride and joy among both staff and pupils is palpable. On the day the news was announced, students left the building brimming with confidence and a sense of accomplishment. Many staff members were overwhelmed with joy, some even shedding tears of happiness. Mr Chagas, who has loyally served the school for thirteen years, told me he was going to take a photograph of the banner announcing that, 'Fulwood is a Good School,' to send to his friends!

We must acknowledge how far we have come. Evolving from a school facing significant challenges to one that now embodies resounding success. With an exceptional team in place, driven by ambition, professionalism and unwavering commitment, the future looks very promising.

We will not allow this achievement to make us complacent. Fulwood Academy will continue to strive for excellence, building on this success to reach even greater heights. We remain dedicated to providing an outstanding education and nurturing environment where every pupil can thrive.

Together let us embrace this fantastic achievement as a recognition of the collective efforts and determination of entire Fulwood Academy community

Joan Dean

Chair, Dunstone Education Trust





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