

Principal's Newsletter October 2023

Principal's Update

As we conclude this dynamic first half term, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the remarkable activities that have filled our school days since our return in September.

From the engaging careers events for our Year 11 pupils, the invaluable sexual health and relationships workshops, to the launch of our first ever SMART day, and the inspiring and engaging lessons taking place each day, it has been a period of rich learning and meaningful connections in school.



During October we have celebrated Black History Month, weaving the rich tapestry of Black contributions into all aspects of our curriculum. It is through understanding the past that we shape a more inclusive and brighter future. We will continue to draw inspiration from the extraordinary achievements of our ancestors.

On World Mental Health Day, our school was awash with the vibrant colour of yellow, symbolising hope and support. Together, we raised awareness about the vital importance of good mental health and took the opportunity to contribute to a cause that resonates deeply with us all. The funds raised for Young Minds will undoubtedly make a difference.

The enthusiasm and involvement of our pupils have been truly inspiring, and the dedication of our staff has made these events possible. Together, we have created an environment where growth and learning thrive and our values are at the core of everything.

As we look ahead to the next half term, I am filled with excitement for the opportunities it will bring. There are more activities, more learning experiences, and more chances to come together as a community. Please do follow us on Facebook or Twitter so you can celebrate with us on the many fantastic achievements of our pupils.

Finally, I am delighted to extend an invitation to our upcoming Parent Forum Coffee Morning, a warm and welcoming space designed exclusively for you. The purpose of the forum is to provide a flexible meeting system which enables parents to consult on, discuss and represent the views of parents in areas of school development which are of interest to the wider parent body, in particular: Encourage parents to express their views; Support the partnership between Parents and school & School and the community; Support the school in fund raising events; and to be an integral part of the school community

Date: Thursday 17th November Time: 9.15am

This gathering serves as an opportunity to strengthen the School-Home Partnership. A strong collaboration between school and home is key to a child's success. We'll explore ways to strengthen this partnership.

Thank you for your continued support and participation. I am confident that, with your collaboration, we will make the second half term even more extraordinary.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break.

Mr Galbraith
Principal

Open Evening



Our Open Evening was a huge success!

We had an amazing evening as we welcomed so many local families to show case our wonderful school. From an historic crime scene to a busy press room and our stunning art gallery, the Academy was a hive of activity. We received fantastic feedback about our amazing pupils who were a credit to the school, showing the perfect example of what it means to be part of the Fulwood community. Again, we would like to thank all parents and pupils for your continued support.



Rewards

Good attendance sets the foundation for a successful academic future. It ensures that pupils don't miss out on vital lessons, opportunities for social interaction, and the chance to build lasting relationships with their peers and teachers. Regular attendance fosters discipline, responsibility, development of strong work ethics and invaluable life skills.

To motivate our pupils to maintain and improve their attendance and recognise their efforts, we've focused part of rewards system this half-term around attendance. At the end of this half term, pupils who achieved 97% plus attendance and less than three negative points were invited to attend the 'In School' Cinema.

Rewarding pupils for their excellent effort and progress in class motivates them to strive for continuous improvement and success. To celebrate these efforts, we also had year group reward assemblies where certificates were given to pupils for excellent effort and progress in all subjects.

Well done to all pupils involved!

Subject Showcase – Science

Year 7 SMART Learning "Race for the Line: Unleashing the Power of Forces"

In the captivating project 'Race for the line' Pupils worked in teams to learn about the forces exerted on cars and used this knowledge to design and plan the most aerodynamic car possible.

This unique opportunity inspires our Year 7 pupils to explore engineering as a potential career path. By providing a hands-on experience in designing and building model cars, the project introduces students to fundamental principles of engineering (such as aerodynamics, material selection, and structural integrity) and demonstrates the real-world application of STEM concepts.

We are looking forward to our race day and hope to be fast enough to make the national finals!



Maths

Sparx Maths, an innovative and engaging online platform, has recently showcased a resounding victory at Fulwood Academy, where 145,577 questions have been answered correctly, and 69 pupils have significantly improved their multiplication tables this year. It is a testament to the collective efforts of parents, teachers, and pupils, as they embody the principles of "We Care, We Challenge, We Commit."

The remarkable achievement of 145,577 correctly answered questions on Sparx Maths is not just a number; it highlights the pupils' dedication and hard work. Our pupils have embraced the challenges posed by the Sparx Maths program, and their success reflects their passion for learning.



SPARKS English

This term, pupils in KS3 have logged onto the Sparx Reader platform to trial the new reading support platform. Sparx not only helps identify their current reading ages but also tailors a reading experience to their individual needs.

After the reading test, Sparx Reader thoughtfully selects four books for each pupil based on their reading age and preferences. The approach places the power of choice in the hands of the pupils. They get to decide which of the four books they'd like to read, fostering a sense of ownership and engagement in their learning.

The books are carefully selected to be both engaging and challenging, aimed at stretching your child's reading abilities and expanding their vocabulary. Our goal is to help them make remarkable progress in their reading skills and deepen their understanding of language.

To ensure that pupils are actively absorbing the content, they are encouraged to take short quizzes based on what they have read. These quizzes not only serve as a comprehension check but also allow pupils to earn their Sparx Reader Points (SRP). It's a motivating and rewarding way to measure their progress and celebrate their achievements.

We have witnessed a remarkable level of enthusiasm and engagement from our pupils regarding this new homework approach. It's incredible to see so many of our young readers taking on the challenge and striving to improve their reading abilities.

As an English department, we are immensely proud of the dedication and effort our pupils are putting into their reading. We're delighted to report that we already have numerous 'gold readers' emerging, reflecting their commitment to their homework.

Form Time Reading:

Every week, pupils in Years 7-10 participate in reading with their forms. What's particularly exciting is the diversity of texts our pupils are exploring during this time. These books not only support their learning in their 'Personal Development' sessions but also help instill the fundamental values that underpin British society. These sessions encourage pupils to engage in meaningful conversations and discussions with their peers within their form groups. This exchange of ideas and experiences is instrumental in shaping our pupils into well-rounded members of our school community.

By fostering a love for reading and encouraging thoughtful discussions, we aim to empower our pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in both their academic and personal lives.

SMART Day

Fulwood Academy celebrated its annual SMART Day on Wednesday 4th October, engaging each year group in diverse educational activities designed to foster growth and development beyond the traditional classroom setting.

Year 7: "Race for the Line - Unleashing the Power of Forces" pupils were immersed in the world of physics and engineering, delving into the forces that impact vehicles. They worked collaboratively, channelling their newfound knowledge to craft the most aerodynamic cars for an upcoming race.

Year 8: Healthy Active Lifestyle Day. Year 8 pupils embraced an active lifestyle, engaging in spirited football, netball, and dodgeball competitions amongst tutor groups. Burrows emerged victorious, showcasing exceptional teamwork and sporting prowess.

Year 9: Financial Maths and Fiscal Responsibility. Year 9 pupils gained valuable insights into financial literacy and responsibility, with a representative from NatWest bank guiding them through sessions on debt, credit, debit, fraud awareness and smart money management.

Year 10: Personal Development & Essential Life Skills. Year 10 pupils delved into a range of personal development sessions, focusing on vital life skills beyond academics. They explored topics including knife crime and societal impact, internet safety, mental health awareness, online counselling through Kooth, and sexual health education addressing consent and contraception.

Year 11: Preparing for the Future. Year 11 pupils were given a glimpse into life after school, engaging with representatives from 16 different companies who provided invaluable advice on career paths and life choices. Sessions equipped pupils with knowledge for creating personal statements and guidance on college applications.

Fulwood Academy is immensely proud of the enthusiastic participation and dedication displayed by both pupils and staff during this annual SMART Day event. The activities offered invaluable opportunities for growth, fostering a holistic approach to education that goes beyond traditional learning boundaries. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to empower our pupils and prepare them for bright futures beyond the classroom.



Black History Month

During the month of October, each department has been celebrating the resilience, rich contributions and achievements of Black individuals throughout history.

Our GCSE French pupils have been learning about the novelist and playwright, Alexandre Dumas. African Romans have been the focus in History with a study of the powerful legacy of the Black leaders who broke barriers and blazed trails. In Art, pupils have been studying the inspirational artist, Lois Mailou Jones and have created some vibrant and striking artwork. Our Geographers studied the Ugandan Climate Activist, Vanessa Nakate, who spearheaded the campaign to save Congo's rainforest. In PE lessons, pupils have studied the impact of black athletes in the world of sport, highlighting strength in unity. Maths have created an eye-catching display as a permanent reminder of the fantastic achievements of a variety of mathematicians from all ethnicities.



Trustees Update

I recently visited the Academy and it was evident from the calm and respectful climate that permeates the school that Fulwood continues to go from strength to strength. Pupils in classes were on task, engaged and willing to explain what they were doing and why they were doing it. Although, I'm unsure that the letters being written to the Principal, as part of a literacy lesson on persuasive writing, will be sufficiently well argued to have an impact on the school uniform policy! We'll see.

This half term has seen several successful initiatives that have had a positive impact on our young people's education. These include the curriculum around Black History Month to help deepen the understanding of the contribution made by black individuals and of the wider culture; fund raising for Young Minds UK on World Mental Health Day; and the "Race for the Line" design project. I'm sure that these aspects will feature in greater depth in other parts of this newsletter. As a member of staff commented: "There's been no sitting back since the inspection in June..." The foot remains hard down on the pedal".

All staff at the school have the highest expectations of the pupils, both their behaviour and their academic outcomes. This is a result of the high-quality leadership that exists at all levels within the school. Senior leaders have a range of strengths, attributes and abilities that complement each other: what they have in common is that they are all authentic leaders. Authentic leadership is a type of management style in which people act in a real, genuine, and sincere way that is true to who they are as individuals. Authentic leaders are those who are true to themselves and the principles that guide them. Although they may be in charge, their principles ultimately govern them, and people ultimately matter. I'm sure that parents, pupils, and others connected to the school can see this reflected in how the school operates and in their day-to-day dealings with school leaders.

It's important that pupils too are offered real opportunities to develop their leadership potential through roles such as members of the school council, prefects, well-being ambassadors and anti-bullying ambassadors. As the Ofsted report stated, "Pupils relish the opportunities that they have to take on responsibilities at the school."

As trustees, we are deeply proud of everything that Fulwood Academy has achieved over the past year or so. There is a great deal to celebrate whether that be the recent Ofsted inspection judgement, pupil outcomes or the dedication and commitment of all the staff at Fulwood.

Finally, on behalf of the trustees, I wanted to thank all parents and carers for your continued support of the school.

Mike Snelson Vice Chair, Dunstone Education Trust.

MacMillian Coffee Morning

Our value of 'We Care' was very much in evidence as we welcomed parents and carers to our MacMillian Coffee morning on Friday 30th September. Delicious cakes and tasty treats were prepared in Food Technology, and our super prefects helped to serve on the day. Thank you to everyone involved for helping us raise a brilliant **£275** for such an amazing cause!



Attendance

Congratulations to 640 pupils who have 100% attendance this half term. Well Done!

A polite reminder to all parents/carers that school starts at 08:35am, please ensure your child arrives on time. We closely monitor attendance and identify pupils who are at risk of persistent absenteeism. The Attendance team are available if you are concerned about your child's attendance and would like some support from us.

Safeguarding

Online Safety at Fulwood Academy

With the latest updates from the government's 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document, there comes a greater focus on Filtering and Monitoring of IT systems, which is an important part of safeguarding pupils and staff from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

You will be pleased to know that here at Fulwood Academy, Filtering and Monitoring was already high on our agenda and these practices are already embedded. Here, we are able to filter out potentially harmful content straight away, without this impacting on genuine learning opportunities – so the vast majority of harmful content is blocked.

We also use SENSO – Student Safety Monitoring Software – which monitors devices and indicates online safety concerns to the relevant staff who then deal with any inappropriate language or safeguarding concerns on a case-by-case basis, using our behaviour and safeguarding policies as a guide.

Assessments Update:

- W/C 9th – 20th Oct – Year 7 & 8
- W/C 30th Oct – 10th Nov – Year 9 / 10
- W/C 6th Nov – Mock GCSE's – Year 11

Autumn Term Important Dates

- 30th Oct – Return to School
- 1st Nov – YR 11 Photo Day
- 2nd Nov – YR 10 Blackpool Grand Theatre Trip
- 13th Nov – Anti Bullying Week (week commencing)
- 29th Nov – Mock Results Day
- 30th Nov – GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening
- 5th Dec – Senior Citizen's Christmas Party
- 7th Dec – YR 11 Parents Evening
- 7th Dec – History Trip to France
- 13th Dec – Christmas Celebration Concert (Music Dept)
- 19th Dec – Rewards Trip
- 22 Dec – Finish for Christmas

European Day of Languages

On the 26th of September pupils and staff celebrated European Day of Languages by taking part in a 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' themed quiz in our weekly Values session. At lunchtime, pupils were able to sample food from different parts of Europe in the canteen. We would like to thank Emma, Catering Manager, for rising to the challenge of creating this tasty cuisine for us to enjoy. In the afternoon, several of our pupils from different European countries such as Italy and Poland enjoyed hosting a whole school Teams assembly where they introduced themselves in their own language and shared a fun fact with everyone about their home country. Many pupils from different year groups across the school have since remarked on how much they enjoyed this assembly because they were able to learn about different cultures and traditions. Once again, our pupils continue to make us proud!

Useful Numbers & Information

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

Secondary School Application

Year 6 parents!

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2024 - apply for their place at Fulwood Academy now!

www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools (Closing date 31 October 2023)

For guidance and eligibility for school transport see: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/>.