

Principal's Newsletter December 2023

Principal's Update

Dear Fulwood Families,

As we approach the festive season, I am delighted to share the incredible achievements and moments that have made this term memorable for our school community.

The spirit of giving has been alive at Fulwood. The Festive Calendar of Kindness has encouraged our pupils to spread joy, kindness, and goodwill throughout the school community, reinforcing the values that define our school ethos. It was a pleasure delivering so many beautiful baubles to local residents that had been lovingly made by our wonderful pupils, and I was so proud of all the donations for the care packages which our pupils prepared for the emergency services.

As our Year 11 pupils work towards their GCSEs, they have immersed themselves in targeted learning during our drop-down days. These sessions provide invaluable support as they prepare for their upcoming examinations, setting the stage for academic success. Interventions sessions will start again after Christmas. They run each night after school and pupils can get the late bus home which leaves school at 4pm.

Excitingly, this term marked the launch of our AI project. Pupils have embraced the opportunity to delve into the world of artificial intelligence, showcasing their curiosity and adaptability in the ever-evolving landscape of technology.

On the sports fields, our pupils have truly excelled, securing numerous victories in fixtures. Their dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship reflect the values we cherish at Fulwood. Mrs Bytqi has written a wonderful summary of the fantastic accomplishments so far this year and I wanted to say "Good Luck" to our new Yr7 boys in their final this week.

I am pleased to share that there will be no staffing changes for the upcoming spring term. Our committed and passionate team of teaching and support staff remains dedicated to providing a nurturing and enriching learning environment for our pupils.

As we celebrate these achievements, let's also revisit our school policies which help us achieve. Please be reminded of the importance of adhering to the school uniform and jewellery policy. Your support and cooperation ensures a cohesive and respectful learning environment for all.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Fulwood family, I extend warm wishes to you and your loved ones for a Merry Christmas. May this festive season be filled with joy, laughter, and moments of togetherness.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community. Here's to a restful holiday and an exciting start to the new year!

Mr A Galbraith
Principal



PE this term:

What a fantastic term it has been for Fulwood PE! We have seen tremendous progress across all groups during this term as pupils continue to experience a wide range of sporting activities as part of our broad physical education curriculum, pupils continue to be highly receptive, engaged and motivated in their learning. We have also received some wonderful feedback from pupils regarding the sense and feeling of enjoyment and self-gratification they experience as part of their PE lessons.

Our extra-curricular activities have been incredibly well attended and are a successful part of our provision. Details of both the achievements of individual teams, as well as the extra-curricular plan for next half term can be found below.

As always, we are happy to discuss anything about PE and sport with you, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have anything you want to talk about. Have a wonderful holiday season!

The PE Department

Girl's Netball



The year 7 & 8 Girls netball teams have competed against several different schools in the Preston league, they have won, drawn and lost games but have always displayed excellent teamwork skills, passion and humility. We have seen some fantastic performances from both teams and we look forward to seeing them develop as they practice more together throughout the year.

The year 9 & 10 netball teams have also been taking part in the Preston Schools league playing matches both home and away and have really improved with each game they have played.

The Year 11 team have shown determination, resilience and commitment working hard for each other. They have won and lost displaying the right team spirit. **Well done to all of the girls who have committed to the teams this year.**



Girl's Football

Congratulations to the **year 7 girl's** football team who travelled away to Corpus Christi School for three weeks of football fixtures against local schools. They scored some excellent goals and the teamwork from all the girls showed how much they have developed individually and as a team over the last few months.

The year 8 & 9 girl's teams have competed locally in the Preston school league as well as further afield in Penwortham, Chorley and Fleetwood in the Lancashire cup. The girls always show our core values when playing and it has been an absolute pleasure to watch the team grow collectively and as individuals. Our local fixtures are now finished until the next academic year. However, we still have matches to play in the Lancashire Cup, with our year 8 team still in the Under 13's County Lancashire Cup and our **year 8 & 9** combined team still in the Under 14 County Cup, look out for the fixture dates for these matches in the New Year.

Finally, a huge congratulations to the three pupils chosen to represent the Preston district! Well done Girls we are so proud of you!



PE this term:

Cross Country



Last half term we entered two teams from Year 7 into the Preston Schools Cross Country Competition. The junior boys achieved 2 "Top 10" individual finishes and the junior girls finished 7th overall.

The conditions were somewhat challenging, but all pupils displayed high levels of resilience, determination, and commitment throughout the event. A huge well done to all the pupils who took part.

Boys Football

This term has been extremely successful for our **year 7 boys** football team who remain unbeaten throughout their group fixtures, playing against: Longridge, St Cecillas, Archbishop Temple and Corpus Christi. During the nine matches the boys scored 22 goals and conceded only one! A fantastic achievement for their first experience playing competitively against other schools. The standout out performance was an 8-0 win against Longridge. Individually it was great to see two of our year 7 pupils be selected to represent Preston Schools Town Team, congratulations boys!

This term our **year 8 and 9 boys** football teams have been competing against the local Preston schools in our annual fixture programme. Our year 8 team played against Broughton, Longridge, St Cecillas and Moor Park. Our **year 9** team against Eden, St Cecillas and Moor Park in their group. It has been a successful start to the year for two of our year 8 boys, who were selected to represent Preston Schools Town Team, a fantastic achievement.

Year 10 and 11 Boys Football teams; have played several games against Broughton, Archbishop Temple, Longridge, Our Lady's, Ashton, Moor Park, Corpus, Christ the King, Eden and St Cecillas.



Young leaders in PE and Dance (Primary Schools)

During this term, a group of Year 8 and 9 pupils represented the Academy at a Primary Schools Athletic Event held at The Sir Tom Finney UCLAN Sports Centre. The role of each pupil was to demonstrate the technique of each individual running event and support with the organisation of the competition throughout the day. The pupils were outstanding, and both the staff and organisers acknowledged the care and support they showed to the pupils. Well done to all the pupils involved.



Subject Showcase – Geography

What a busy term we have had in the Geography department!

Year 7 pupils have been developing their geographical skills including working on OS maps, honing their ability to interpret symbols, contours and scale and developing their enquiry skills. The department has been impressed with the speed at which pupils grasped how to use four figure grid references to locate places.

In KS4 the department is embedding fieldwork and enquiry skills into the curriculum, and we have been delighted to see pupils collecting and presenting data to investigate a range of hypotheses. Our Year 11's have been undertaking school grounds field work, enabling them to incorporate hands-on experiences, to develop critical thinking and analytical abilities. In the new year the Geography team are planning a number of trips to explore contrasting locations and further build on these fieldwork skills.



Trips

French War Graves

A party of 42 pupils from year's 9-11 enjoyed a wonderful two nights trip to Northern France and Belgium travelling overnight on Thursday and braving a winter ferry crossing from Dover to Calais. Pupils visited the historic Christmas market at Lille, and the war graves at Tyne Cotte and Langemark. Pupils were visibly moved as they tried to absorb the Essex Farm dressing station which included the grave of 15-year-old V.J. Strudwick and the Flanders Field Poem written by Colonel Mcrae. Pupils also represented the community of Fulwood at the last post ceremony at Mennin Gate.

In contrast, our pupils also indulged at the local Belgium chocolate shop and many learned a vital life skill, that to strip and fold bedding, you first have to take the pillow and duvet out!

There was an immense feeling of pride in our pupils, when 42 tired pupils and 4 very tired staff returned late Sunday, the pupils were impeccable ambassadors for our school and community throughout the trip.



'Women in Black' – Blackpool Grand Theatre Visit

To enhance their knowledge and understanding of the Gothic genre in preparation for GCSE, Year 9 pupils were given the opportunity to experience the spine-chilling production of 'Woman in Black' at Blackpool Grand Theatre. This eerie play explores the memories of a lawyer haunted by terrifying paranormal encounters from his youth.

The pupils' behaviour was outstanding, reflecting positively on the academy as they engaged with the production. The staff, on the other hand, may need time to recover from the frightful screams echoing through the theatre during the performance!

BLOOM

This term we have developed a wonderful partnership with Bloom. Bloom is the largest free UK-wide programme for 14–18-year-olds which focuses on supporting young people's mental health resilience. Delivered in schools and colleges, Bloom equips young people with the tools and knowledge to maintain their mental health through life's transitions, both now and in the future. Both Fulwood Academy and Bloom recognises there is a growing need of support for young people, with most long-term mental health problems beginning in adolescence: 75% of mental illnesses start before a person's 18th birthday.

Evidence shows that providing good, early preventative support in the right place at the right time can help to avoid deterioration in young people's mental health and equip them for the challenges of everyday life.

All Year 10 pupils and selected Year 9 pupils have now taken part in a workshop delivered by Bloom practitioners. The workshop focused on Resilience, looking at what it is and how we can maintain it.

For advice and guidance for Parents and carers, please visit [Bloom advice for Parents/Carers](#)



AI Project

Students Embark on AI-Focused London Adventure

A group of enterprising Fulwood Academy pupils recently embarked on an immersive two-day London tour focused on artificial intelligence. The trip kicked off Tuesday morning with a train ride to London, followed by a busy day of AI-themed activities. Pupils explored London's Science Museum to learn about innovations shaping the future before enjoying a West End performance of The Lion King musical in the evening.

On Wednesday, the pupils received an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at News UK's offices and AI initiatives.

Interactive workshops gave them hands-on experience with creating responsible and ethical AI technologies. The pupils left feeling inspired about AI's potential to transform fields like education, healthcare, transportation and more. As one pupil put it, "The trip showed me how AI can help people if we develop it the right way."



Girls in Tech

Empowering Future Female Tech Leaders

Fulwood Academy is thrilled to announce an exciting new initiative - Girls in Tech - promoting tech careers for our Year 9 pupils. This unique UK program partners with Google, TalkTalk, Boohoo and more, providing real work experience and industry insights.

By participating, pupils will gain skills through app design workshops with Google and public speaking coaching from TalkTalk. Mentorship from senior women in tech, including leaders at Spotify and TalkTalk, will empower the next generation.

Girls in Tech aims to address the underrepresentation of women across the tech sector, where currently only 19% of the workforce is female. Black and Asian women make up an even smaller fraction. There also persists a considerable gender pay gap disadvantaging women.

Through this innovative program, we hope to equip pupils with new talents and an empowered perspective on opportunities in tech. Teams will apply their knowledge in an app design competition with terrific prizes! We're excited to nurture our future women leaders in partnership with this initiative.

Attendance

Firstly, and most importantly, a BIG well done and thank you to all students who have achieved over 95% attendance so far this year. Over 604 pupils have achieved 95% attendance or above and a massive 305 pupils achieved 100% attendance so far this term!! Keep up the good work.

Reminder - Each half term pupils who have **97% attendance**, no lates and no more than 3 behaviour points are invited on a reward experience in the last week of the half term.

So far, this year pupils have had a school cinema experience and in the last week of this half term those who qualified, went to the Odeon on the Christmas Rewards Trip! Last half term 155 pupils missed out on this experience as they had missed between half a day and one and a half days of school!! The competition starts again in Spring 1 with a new rewards experience.... Don't let your child miss out, make sure they attend school every day.

REWARDS

Academic excellence stands as a testament to dedication and perseverance. Within our school community, celebrating academic milestones through rewards acknowledges the hard work and commitment of our pupils. Whether it's recognising high academic achievements, perfect attendance, or improvement in grades, these accolades serve as motivation, encouraging pupils to set and surpass their goals.

During the final week of term, we will enjoy a trip to the cinema and celebration assemblies with certificates being awarded for effort, attendance and achievements. In addition, we will also send recognition letters and enjoy a hot chocolate for all those pupils with a perfect behaviour record. In total we have awarded over 80,000 positive points since October. Thank you to all pupils who have contributed positively this term.

Christmas Concert:

✨ Magical moments at our Celebration of Christmas Concert ✨

It was wonderful to see everyone come together for a spectacular celebration of our fantastic pupils showcasing their incredible talents and creativity!

From enchanting performances to heartwarming moments, it really was a night filled with joy and laughter. The choir's angelic voices filled the room, the instrumentalists transported us to magical realms and the readings of poems touched every soul.

We are extremely proud of our pupils and their dedication and passion shown. A huge well done!

Thank you to everyone who made the festive evening a truly unforgettable experience!

Senior Citizen's Christmas Party 🎄

We were thrilled to host our local care homes at our heartwarming Christmas party, filled with laughter, joy and a lot of mince pies!

It was a wonderful evening of festive music from our school choir, fantastic performances from our GCSE dance troop, a hilarious game of Bingo and a delicious afternoon tea. The evening sparkled with the spirit of Christmas, especially after a visit from the man himself!

A huge thank you to our amazing pupils and staff who made the event possible. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



Anti Bullying Week:

The 13th November saw the start of Anti-Bullying Week and a new group of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors join the team. These pupils spent the week delivering assemblies to their peers and promoting the creative competition that was run. Anti-Bullying Week is an important launch to the work we do across the school year raising awareness of the impact of bullying in all of its forms, while also working towards creating a consistently kind and respectful culture for all. The theme this year was to 'make a noise' about bullying and the pupil ambassadors certainly did this in their assemblies and will continue to use their voices and encourage others to use theirs to put a stop to bullying.



Safeguarding

At Fulwood we are dedicated to ensuring that all pupils feel safe, cared for and happy. Safeguarding the pupils is at the centre of everything we do each day.

Through regular training we ensure staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep our pupils safe. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Child Protection Officer) within Fulwood Academy provides support to staff members to carry out their safeguarding responsibilities and liaises closely with other services such as children's social care, health care services and the police. Our staff are trained to be vigilant for all kinds of safeguarding concerns, including bullying, online safety, emotional or other abuse or extremist behaviour. All staff follow our clear policies and procedures when any potential safeguarding concerns are identified.

Please find a link to the safeguarding newsletter

[Autumn Term Newsletter](#)

Assessments Update

- W/C 5th Feb - AP2 Assessments YR 7 & 8
- W/C 5th Feb – Year 11 GCSE Mocks
- W/C 19th February – Year 11 GCSE Mocks
- W/C 26th Feb – AP2 Assessments YR 9 & 10

Winter Term Important Dates

- Tuesday 9th January – Return to the Academy
- Tuesday 23rd January – SMART Day
- Thursday 1st February – Year 9 Parents Evening
- Friday 2nd February – Parent Forum
- Friday 9th February - Break up for Half Term
- Monday 19th February – Return to the Academy
- Thursday 29th February – Year 7 Parents Evening
- Thursday 7th March - World Book Day
- Friday 8th March – International Women's Day
- Thursday 28th March – Break up for Easter.

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

Extra-curricular Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Years 7-8 Boys Basketball Practice 3.05pm-4.05pm CMA	All Years Badminton and Table Tennis 3.05pm-4.05pm KBY	Years 9-10 Basketball 3.05pm-4.05pm JAU	Staff Meeting Night	Dance intervention studio/IT room (lunchtime)
Dance Intervention Studio / IT room	Girls Lancashire cup fixtures KBY/LTU	Years 7 & 8 Boys Football Practice 3.05pm-4.05pm LJO/MCA		
	Dance Intervention Studio / IT room	Girls - Non team football training Girls Lancashire cup fixtures KBY/LTU		
	Health and Fitness Intervention 8am IT2			

Trustees Update

As we approach the end of the term, it's a good time to reflect on the start to the school year, witnessing our Year 7 pupils adapting to different routines and new staff settling in. Looking ahead to the New Year allows us a moment to acknowledge our past triumphs and strategically plan for the future. A notable achievement that stands out is Fulwood's recent recognition as Good by Ofsted, a success that not only validates our efforts but also serves as the foundation for the Dunstone Education Trust to move into a growth phase.

This accomplishment has paved the way for the Trust to lay the foundations for expansion, providing an opportunity to share our values and successes more broadly. In preparing for growth, I am thrilled to share with you that, after an interview process involving Sir Charles Dunstone, the Vice Chair, and myself, Andrew Galbraith, our Principal at Fulwood, has been appointed as the Interim CEO of the Dunstone Education Trust.

In his new capacity, Mr Galbraith will devote one day per week to his role as Interim CEO, while continuing to serve as the Principal of Fulwood during the remaining time. When engaged in his new responsibilities, Fulwood will benefit from the unwavering support of his exceptional leadership team. It's worth noting that Andrew has been informally fulfilling this role since September, ensuring a seamless transition and minimal disruption to the operation of Fulwood.

The trustees and Mr Galbraith are aligned in our commitment that the continued improvement of Fulwood is our priority.

As we approach the festive season, I extend my warmest wishes to you for a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best regards,
Joan Dean

