

South York  
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

# FULFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER 2020

## Headteacher's Welcome



**Honesty**

**Empathy**

**Ambition**

**Respect**

**Tolerance**

Our return to school during the Autumn term stands as a testament to the words of Helen Keller; we certainly achieve more when we are together. I am very grateful to all our incredible staff, our amazing students and our supportive families for the way we have all come together to navigate through this new normal. It has been hard, but our spirit is not dampened. We remain optimistic about the future for our students and we continue to be ambitious with our teaching and learning in school, despite the restrictions we have to work within. We are making adaptations in response to feedback from students, staff and families alike to enhance the way our school is run. Our HEART values remain as consistent as ever, with empathy for each other being at the foremost of our minds at the moment.

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*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

*Helen Keller*

# YEAR 7

Mr J Bonsels



*“...Year 7 students have quickly found their feet...”*

The new Year 7 students have quickly found their feet and settled in seamlessly to Fulford School. Students have embraced the new array of subjects they've had the opportunity to study and shown really high levels of engagement in their lessons. I've been proud of the way they've adapted to all the new challenges they've faced and this has been reflected in the huge number of positives handed out so far.



Resilience has been key to this success in allowing students to tackle their CATS tests, get used to the new school routines and manage the increase in homework. The new uniform has been worn with pride with students looking smart and ready to learn.

Miss Southall, the Year 7 Progress Leader, has been leading a number of excellent form time sessions on the importance of recording and completing homework. This has been to support primary to secondary transition relating to independent learning and has linked in to the form competition to be the group that achieved the highest number of positives.

A huge congratulations to Susannah Hunt who is the Student of the Month for September for 'going above and beyond in Music performances' and will receive an Amazon gift voucher.

The runner up was Sam Thurlow for 'absolutely fabulous science transition work'.



**Harriet (7HD)** The work in lessons is challenging so you learn a lot.

**Cameron (7SGA)** There are more friends to hang around with at playtime and a lot more space to chill out.

**Elsie (7SN)** The teachers are very knowledgeable and informative.

**Eddie (7CU)** Everyone in Y7 has been very welcoming and friendly.

**Kizzie (7SH)** The canteen is great. My favourite is the pasta and chips.

**Daniel (7NI)** The teachers are really friendly and welcoming. They explain the lesson materials very well and you always feel welcome around school.

**Freya (7BA)** I like having different teachers for subjects because I feel like I am learning lots.

**Aiko (7AK)** You can do a wider range of subjects so you get more opportunities to pursue your interests.

**Adrijus (7CBO)** Everyone has been nice and friendly around school.

**Erin (7AJO)** I was really nervous about Fulford, but my friends and family helped me through.

# YEAR 8

Mr P Gatenby



## *“They have coped admirably...”*

It has been a fantastic two months so far for Year 8. They have coped admirably with remaining in the Year 8 pod rooms and staying within the bubble. I am particularly happy with how we are respecting the health and well-being of each other and wear masks inside the buildings. The behaviour and care of our students is wonderful to see and the empathy shown for each other has grown over the last few weeks.

The praise and accolades gained so far are a just reward for the effort and hard work we are seeing in every lesson. The year 8s are leading the way with positives on Class Charts with the highest total out of all the year groups. The positive approach in lessons is shared by all and our recent drive to encourage others to succeed is having a great effect in lessons and seeing some great outcomes.



Congratulations go to Zach Hemlin for winning his golf tournament at St Andrews and to the current top ten students for positives; Evie Hudson, Ellie Rowson, Bea Mulholland, Oliver Dodson, Eva Van Kalsbeek-Baxter, Ella Taylor, Abigail Venton, Samson Frusher, Dylan Weatherill and Flo Anderson.

I am looking forward to our continued success throughout the year. We are in this journey together and we can make it our best year yet.

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We have recently had our first Student of the Month awards presentation during form time. There were a total of 20 nominations from members of staff for September's award, which is a great way to start the year! After a random draw, the winner for September was Samson Frusher (8RWA) who received a £10 Amazon voucher. Our runner up was Lily Goodman (8PW) who received a one month early lunch pass to the canteen for her and two friends.

Hopefully we will continue to flourish and get even more Student of the Month nominations for the October draw! Keep up the good work Year 8.

Ellie Sweet, Year 8 Progress Leader

# YEAR 9

Mr S Lacy



***"...mature and sensible..."***

The year 9s have had a busy but fantastic start to the year. Pupils have received over of 8000 positives on ClassCharts which is hugely impressive. Ms Rae has been hard at work supporting members of our bubble and making sure everybody has been in to lessons on time. The vast majority of the year group have displayed a superb attitude towards their learning and the purposeful attitude in classrooms has been clear to see. We have been really impressed by the mature and sensible behaviour seen around our pod, especially during wet break times and in our fire drill practice.



Mr Lynn has kept the year group on its toes by challenging students to complete a weekly Progress Focus Quiz. Attached to these there has been a weekly progress tip to improve performance through marginal gains. Some examples have included:

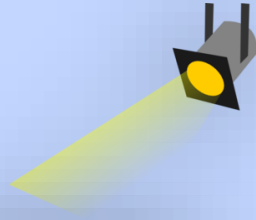
- **Avoid the morning rush by packing your bags the night before...**
- **Drawing graphs: use a sharp pencil, ruler and plot accurately. Remember to label the axis with units too.**

We awarded the first Student of the Month award. There was a total of 13 nominations from members of staff. Congratulations go to Beth Hunter (9LB/ER) for receiving a £10 Amazon voucher and our September runner up Gabriel Suthers (9PK) for receiving a one-month early lunch pass.

Congratulations also go to Claire Marsden who is now a member of the National Youth French Horn Ensemble as well as having been a member of the National Children's Orchestra's U11s from 2018. She was inspired to start playing the French Horn at age 9 when she heard a performance of Stravinsky's Firebird. Many of the NCO's recent performances have had to be online as opposed to live – have a look on YouTube!



# SPOTLIGHT ON...YEAR 10



Each half term, we will be shining the spotlight on an aspect of our school.

Mr Copeland, Head of Year 10, answered some questions about his year group.



**Q: What skills have you seen your year group exhibiting over the last six weeks?**

A: They have shown incredible resilience. They were starting to make headway in Year 9 when the school closures happened. To come back as young adults, in Key Stage 4, given the current situation is really tough and they have really proven themselves to be very strong.

**Q: What has impressed you?**

A: They are doing really well in form time. There is a great programme of activities in form time where previous learning is revisited and students are able to catch up on any areas they have missed. The independence and focus they are showing in this is really impressive. Their form tutors are so happy with them. They know the drill and just get on with it, showing true ambition to improve their knowledge.

**Q: Are there any stand out achievements you want to mention?**

A: We are all really proud of Cherry Marley who has been selected to play golf for England. What an achievement!



**Q: What advice do you have for your year group?**

A: Focus, maintain the resilience you are showing and be honest with yourselves.

**Q: What do you want to thank your year group for?**

A: Thank you for making such a tremendous start to Year 10 and not letting the current situation get the better of you.

# YEAR 11

Miss F Chapman



## “...eagerness to do well...”

In keeping with the Year 11s' brilliant collective character, they have restarted school life with a real maturity and eagerness to do well despite the uncertainty some may feel about the year ahead. The G block feels like a calm, supportive and productive place to be. To make full use of their time in school, regular form periods have been dedicated to Private and Group



Study so students can focus on specific topics they feel need prioritising. Their desire to do well being reflected in how conscientiously they have worked in this time.

Other highlights have been the number of Student of the Month nominations within the year group (Millie Tindall and Jacob Wilson were this month's winners!) and the overdue return of watching the boys' daily (very competitive) lunchtime football match on the field! Finally, a well done to Maddie Stewart, James Cook, Finley Barrett-Carter and Amber Collins who spoke so well in the School's Virtual Open Evening video.



# SIXTH FORM

Mrs K Davies



***“...great community spirit ...”***

The new academic year has been defined by lots of firsts. We welcomed to the Sixth Form nearly 160 new Y12 students and four new form tutors: Miss Smith, Miss Greene, Mr Nixon and Miss Garland. In addition, the Sixth Form Leadership team acquired new Heads of Year (Mr Gray and Mrs Jenner) and the Director of Sixth Form, Mrs Davies. Finally, for all of us the school experience has been new – from the day’s structure to the Covid adaptations there has been lots to get to grips with and the Sixth Form have done a tremendous job. Well done all.

Our Y12 had a great start to the Sixth Form with a jam-packed Induction Day that focused on integration, bonding and friendly competition. There were some impressive competitors including Benjy Tyack with his hula hooping and Sam Bristow for the longest plank! Since then, Y12 have been working hard at getting into the routines, focusing on study as well as becoming familiar with the VESPA model.



# SIXTH FORM

## CONTINUED

Y13 have launched themselves into the busy term, submitting their Y12 exams and engaging with the UCAS process. Over 50 students have now applied through UCAS, choosing Ox-bridge, medicine or veterinary science. The remaining students will receive further support through a 2-hour workshop with their form tutor over the next few weeks.



And we cannot forget about the wider contributions our students have made this term. From joining in the Enrichment programme to taking part in fundraising event, there has been a great community sprit in the Common Room.

The Pyjama Friday in aid of Young Minds was a great success as was Wear It Pink to raise awareness of Breast Cancer and the Halloween Party on the last day of term.

Phew!



# EXTRA CURRICULAR

To mark Black History Month, our school book club have been reading books by authors telling stories from the BIPOC perspective.



We value every child in school and we have been looking at representation around our school building through the eyes of every child. It is important that students see themselves reflected in the role models and aspirational images surrounding them. If they can't see it, they can't be it.



# FAREWELL MR JOHNSON



**Mr Johnson is leaving Fulford School to take up a Headship at Norton College. He will be much missed.**

***“...a pleasure and a privilege...”***

I joined Fulford School in September 2006. Back then, there was no Sports Hall at the school; instead, students had to walk to the university to use the facilities there. There was no N block and the H block was half its current size. The canteen was small and dilapidated. There was no email system and the school’s value-added outcomes in public examinations were broadly in line with national averages. How things have changed since then!

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have been part of Fulford’s leadership team during a period where the school has improved and grown in so many ways. I have loved working alongside such fabulous students, such supportive parents and such talented staff. I am particularly proud of the way in which we have driven such a significant improvement in students’ academic outcomes over the past decade.

Without this baseline of strength, the growth of the school and the improvements to the facilities would simply not have been possible. Really importantly, we have done all of this without narrowing the curriculum or compromising upon our core values. I live in York and I regularly see former students in passing. It always fills me with pride to see what well-qualified, well-rounded and thoroughly decent young adults they have become.

The past fourteen years seem to have flown by and I am going to miss everything about Fulford School enormously. It is the most wonderfully inclusive and progressive school; I often say to visitors that it’s like someone has sprinkled stardust on top of it. The school is now in a position of great strength and I look forward to seeing it grow and improve even further over the coming years. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks and my very best wishes for the future to everyone with whom I have worked over the past fourteen years.