



Fulford School

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8th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have had a restful and enjoyable summer. It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to Fulford for the start of the new academic year.

A special welcome to the many new students joining us — we're delighted to have you as part of our school community.

The first week has been full of energy and optimism, with students settling in quickly and engaging positively with their learning. It's always inspiring to see how quickly they adapt and begin to thrive.

Alongside this letter you will find the first Fulford Updates. We will continue to create this fortnightly to share key dates, upcoming events and other opportunities.

Please note that the Year 6 Open Evening will be taking place on Wednesday 8th October. To help prepare for the event, school will be closing to students at 2:20pm that day. School buses and taxis will be scheduled to pick up at 2:20pm on the 8th.

Please also note that Thursday 9th October is a teacher training day (INSET) and school will be closed to all students.

A safeguarding newsletter for parents will also accompany the Fulford Update for the start of a new academic year.

Communication

Over the summer, we transitioned to a new management information system. This change will bring long-term benefits to the school, improving how we manage data and communicate with families.

However, I recognise that the transition has caused some short-term disruption — including issues with ParentPay, Class Charts, and access to timetables before the start of term.

I want to sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this has caused. Communication is a cornerstone of our partnership with families, and we are working hard to resolve these issues swiftly. I'm confident that the improvements will soon be felt and will support us in delivering an even better experience for students and parents alike.

A New Chapter: Joining the Yorkshire Learning Trust (YLT)

This term marks an exciting new chapter for Fulford as we officially become part of the **Yorkshire Learning Trust**. This partnership opens fantastic opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and shared learning across schools.

Being part of YLT will allow us to both support and learn from other schools, strengthening our provision and expanding opportunities for everyone in our school community. It's a significant step forward, and I'm confident it will bring lasting benefits.

I am genuinely excited about what this means for our students, staff, and wider community — and I look forward to the months ahead as we begin to build strong links and contribute to the development of the Trust.

Celebrating Student Success

We are incredibly proud of our outgoing Year 11 and Year 13 students, whose achievements in the summer examinations were truly exceptional. Their results reflect not only their academic ability, but also their resilience, determination, and commitment to personal growth.

Beyond the grades, what stood out most was the character they showed — supporting one another, overcoming challenges, and embracing the values we hold dear at Fulford. These students leave us not only with qualifications, but with the confidence and skills to make a meaningful impact in the world.

We are excited to see what they go on to achieve in the next stages of their journeys — whether in further education, apprenticeships, employment, or other ventures. We know they will continue to make us proud, and we look forward to hearing about their successes in the years to come.

Key Contacts

We continue to prioritise clear and open communication. Below is a list of key contacts for this academic year.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the relevant staff member if you have any questions or concerns.

Year Group	Role	Name	Email Address
Year 7	Head of Year	Mr Gatenby	gatenbyp@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 7	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Brown	brownb@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 8	Head of Year	Ms Bargewell	bargewelle@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 8	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Haythorne	haythornei@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 9	Head of Year	Mr Lacy	lacys@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 9	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Rae	raea@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 10	Head of Year	Mr Bonsels	bonselsj@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 10	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Wood	woode@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 11	Head of Year	Mr Hayden	haydena@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 11	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Walker	walkerm@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 12	Head of Year	Mrs Jenner	jennerk@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 12	Learning and Wellbeing Worker	Mrs Stuart	stuarta@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 13	Head of Year	Mr Gray	graym@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 13	Learning and Wellbeing Worker	Miss Fewster	fewsterm@fulford.york.sch.uk

Role	Name	Email Address
Headteacher	Russell Harris	headteacher@fulford.york.sch.uk
Assistant Head - Community	Stephen Bailey	baileys@fulford.york.sch.uk
General enquiries	Main Office	office@fulford.york.sch.uk
Safeguarding	Safeguarding	safeguarding@fulford.york.sch.uk
SEND enquires	SEND Department	send@fulford.york.sch.uk
Student attendance	Year 7 – Year 11	attendance@fulford.york.sch.uk
Sixth Form attendance	Year 12 – Year 13	sixthformattendance@fulford.york.sch.uk
Catering Manager	Amanda Gunn	gunna@fulford.york.sch.uk

School Car Park Reminder

I'd like to remind all parents and carers about the importance of safe and considerate use of the school car park, especially during busy times at the start and end of the day.

The car park is primarily used by school buses and taxis, which need clear and safe access to transport students. Additional traffic during peak times can cause congestion and raise safety concerns.

To help us maintain a safe environment, we kindly ask that parents and carers **avoid using the car park before 3:30pm**, unless prior arrangements have been made for medical or accessibility reasons. If you feel an exception is needed, please contact your child's Head of Year.

We appreciate your cooperation and continued support in helping us keep our site safe and well-managed for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. If there is anything you would like to discuss, please do get in touch.

Wishing you and your children a successful and rewarding year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Russell Harris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Russell Harris
Headteacher