





FULFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS 2025

Headteacher's Welcome



Honesty Empathy Ambition Respect Tolerance

As we come to the end of the first, and longest term of the year, it's wonderful to reflect on all that has been achieved.

Our students have worked incredibly hard, performed superbly in and around school, and embraced the many opportunities available to them. Seeing their ambition and enthusiasm has been inspiring.

We encourage every student to continue making the most of all that Fulford offers, helping them to enjoy school life, thrive, and learn successfully.

Thank you for your unwavering support throughout this busy term.

Wishing you and your families a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January for another exciting chapter together.

"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing, but of reflection"

Winston Churchill

NEWSLETTER - CHRISTMAS 2025





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SPOTLIGHT ON... SUPPORTING CHARITIES





On Wednesday 10th December, we held a festive non uniform day.

Staff and students donated a phenomenal amount of food items for the York Foodbank, we raised £450 in cash for SASH, the Youth Homeless Charity and £250 for the British Red Cross Gaza Crisis Appeal.

Events took place throughout the day and lots of fun was had by all.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated food or money, we have been totally overwhelmed by your generosity!

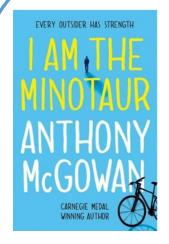




foodbank

Mr P Gatenby





In form time we have been reading 'I am a minotaur' by Anthony McGowan.

This deals with issues around bullying in schools and how the central character overcomes this. It has really helped to form discussions with students on empathy, respect and tolerance.

Our next book is called 'Song of the River' by Gill Lewis.

Also, in form time, we have been learning ways to help deal with stress and looking at stress buckets. Strategies for coping with stress summary is detailed here:

- Stress is a valuable tool that helps us to perform and do what matters.
- Learning to rest and replenish after a period of stress is important.
- We need stress for a fun and challenging life, but too much and the benefits are lost.

If any student is feeling concerned about any of the topics discussed in form they can speak to their tutor, Miss Brown, Mr Gatenby or they can use the 'Reach Out' button on the school website.







On Wednesday 10th December, we enjoyed a festive themed non uniform day. Here is a photo of Mollie Xu from Year 7 in her Christmas jumper.

Merry Christmas from the Year 7 team!





The focus for Year 7 this year is on kindness and respect.

We have taken part in several form activities around kindness and shared what we have tried to do together.

This has been celebrated in assemblies and through HEART award positives.

We have taken part in a challenge for December to spread some Christmas joy.

This advent of kindness has culminated in some good deeds completed by all students. This was celebrated at the Year 7 Graduation Evening held on the 15^{th} December when 150 x families joined us to celebrate the end of term together and share some festive fun.

Complete your homework the day it is set	Share a book that you have enjoyed with your friends	Make a playlist of your favourite songs for a friend	Lend some equipment to someone
Spend some time with family	Volunteer to wash up	Give someone a compliment	Help someone when they are stuck
Help tidy a tray in the canteen	Pick up litter in school	Tidy your room	Make your own biscuits for presents

Say a kind word to someone to make their day	Share a snack with someone who doesn't have one	Forgive someone if they say something unkind to you	Make a bookmark for a friend
Donate to charity	Help someone if they are feeling down	Hold the door open for someone	Share a smile
Do some mindful meditation	Help a teacher by handing out books/worksheets/folders	Give your friend a hug	Make your own Christmas Cards

Miss E Bargewell



YEAR 8

Year 8 have shown real resilience this half term and finished the term strong, having accrued over 25,000 positives this half term taking our year group total this term over 60,000 positives!

FORM TIME

During this half term, our form time pledge has focused on supporting pupils' personal physical and emotional wellbeing.

Students have explored a range of strategies designed to help them understand and manage their emotions effectively. This has included developing self-confidence, practising gratitude, and learning practical techniques such as journaling to reflect on their thoughts and feelings.



These sessions have provided valuable opportunities for pupils to build resilience and develop healthy habits that support their overall wellbeing.

From the beginning of December, Friday form times have been dedicated to working towards our community projects.

Pupils have spent time considering how they can give back to the school community, including creating thank you cards for staff.

These sessions have become a highlight of the week, encouraging creativity, kindness, and a strong sense of community.

CELEBRATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



I would like to extend a special shout-out to our Year 8 pupils who performed live music during this week's rewards assembly.

Congratulations to Leo T, Henry A, Henry D, and Cameron for their fantastic performances, which were greatly enjoyed by staff and students alike.

Mr S Lacy



WELL DONE YEAR 9

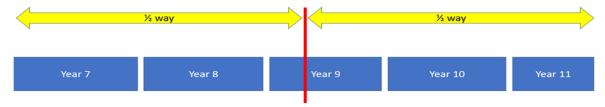


Year 9 continue to have a great year amassing 18,683 positives so far in the half term, bringing the total to almost 50,000 since September! We've also just completed a report cycle and the vast majority of the year have been graded good or excellent against the behaviour, effort & homework criteria.

In assembly, we recently looked at how well we had done this year with positives, but then focussed on the cause of some of the negatives.

We looked in particular at respecting each others personal space and about how, as we mature, we become more emotionally intelligent and aware of the need to respect others personal space.

YEAR 9 - HALF WAY THROUGH!



We discussed how Year 9 now have more experience and understanding of school and how this is an ideal opportunity to reflect and make changes if they are needed.

What's gone well? What's not gone so well? What can I improve?

MAKING CHANGES (MOVING FORWARD)

If you're happy with how things are going - fantastic! - keep it up

If you're not, this is the perfect time to change! Small steps make a big difference:

- Do homework on time
- Asking for help when stuck
- Try a new activity
- Set a goal for the term
- Not getting negatives for uniform
- Be on time for every lesson

Have a great Christmas Year 9 & think carefully about those new year's resolutions!

Mr J Bonsels







This half term has been a particularly impressive one for our Year 10 students, who have demonstrated dedication, maturity and a positive attitude across all areas of school life.

As they continue their GCSE journey, it has been wonderful to see them rising to challenges, supporting one another and embracing opportunities beyond the classroom.

One of the highlights of the half term was the Winter Concert, which showcased an array of fabulous performances from Year 10 students. Whether performing as part of an

ensemble or stepping forward for solo pieces, students displayed confidence, talent and commitment.

The standard of performance was exceptionally high and reflected the hard work put in during rehearsals. The concert was a true celebration of creativity and teamwork, and Year 10 should be very proud of the contribution they made to such a memorable evening.

In form time, Year 10 students also took part in an important and meaningful pledge focused on inclusivity and diversity. Through discussion and reflection, students explored the importance of respect, understanding and celebrating differences within our school community.

This initiative culminated in a powerful activity where students were encouraged to speak with someone they had not previously interacted with within the year group. By taking the time to learn about each other as individuals, students demonstrated empathy, openness and a willingness to build stronger connections.

This experience was a positive reminder of the value of kindness and inclusion in everyday school life.



Beyond the classroom, a group of Year 10 students have been involved in sports leadership, working with younger pupils from local primary schools.

These students showed excellent leadership skills, enthusiasm and responsibility as they supported and guided the younger children.

Their conduct was exemplary and they

acted as fantastic role models, representing the school with pride while developing valuable skills that will benefit them both now and in the future.

Overall, this half term has been a fantastic one for Year 10.

Their dedication, hard work and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed, and they should be commended for the way they have approached both academic and wider school opportunities.

We look forward to seeing them continue to build on this success as we move into the next half term

Mr A Hayden



As we approach the end of the longest term there is the realisation that Year 11 are nearly half way through their final school year.

This half-term was really defined by the Trial Exams your children sat straight after the holidays. The reports should be with you now and they give us a really good benchmark as to how they will get on in the summer.



As always, some students will be disappointed, but can use this as motivation to improve for the summer, whereas others will be obviously delighted that their efforts have paid off.

It is always hard to watch students make their way into the exam hall knowing you can't help them and that they are now on their own. We have also had exams in Food technology and Art.

Although, these are still formal exams it does give me the opportunity to walk round and see the work they are producing.

I am always utterly blown away by the talent the students have in Art and I know I am utterly incapable of producing the pieces of art they create.

We also have had trial Food Technology practical exams. Again, it is great to be able to go in and see the students at work. The food they produced was superb, although after four consecutive days of sampling I don't want to see another sausage plait for a while!

To finish, we have also had GCSE MFL oral exams and this week we also have students giving their final FPQ presentations as part of the full course GCSE RE qualification.

My thanks to all the parents, staff and students who have put a huge amount of time and effort into the preparations for these.



The event that has been keeping all of Y11 gripped for the last month has been "Y11 Form Tutor Traitors". For each of the last four weeks we have had a "murder" and a "banishment".

All voted upon by the students in their individual forms. They have been able to find a shield that has been hidden around school, and also save them by being the first form to solve a puzzle in form timer each week as well.

All tutors have been strange "tasks" to perform in form time as well, adding to the level of suspicion. The event will culminate in the live final in assembly on Friday.

Mr A Hayden







Friday 5th December saw all Year 11 students go off timetable for the Key Stage 5 Taster Day.

This was an exciting opportunity for students who spent the day at Fulford Sixth Form, York College or Askham Bryan.

The students attended subject specific lessons that they are considering studying next year. Feedback from staff was overwhelmingly positive and the day was a real success.

A copy of the Fulford Sixth Form prospectus, can be found here:

https://sixthform.fulford.york.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ Fulford Sixth Form 2025 EProspectus v6.pdf

The deadline for Sixth Form applications, is Thursday 5th February 2026.

Year 11 PROM - Tuesday 30th June 2026



We have also been pleased to announce the date of the Prom. This will take place on **TUESDAY 30**th **JUNE** at Hazelwood Castle.

We have much larger Year 11 than previous year groups and so we needed to find a larger venue than previous ones.

It is a stunning place to have our final Leavers' event, and one where we can make some really happy memories together. We will send further information out in due course, but we did want to get the date out as families look to book summer holidays.



Coming up in the new year, we have Year 11 Parents Evening. This is an online parents evening, so please do check ClassCharts and your email for booking information. The students also have the opportunity to go on "taster days" at alternative Sixth Form institutions.

I wrote to you earlier in the year about these and I hope all those who tried to book sessions at York College were successful in doing so.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year and we look forward to welcoming your children back in January.

It's going to be a very quick year up until the start of the exams in May!

SIXTH FORM

Mrs K Davies



Year 11 Taster Day

Although it feels like Y12 have only just started, we are already beginning the transition for the students joining us next year. Earlier in December, Y11 students from Fulford got to experience the sixth form for a day by joining in KS5 lessons and enjoying the common room as part of their social space.

This is such a crucial step in the journey into post 16 and students were overwhelmingly positive about their experience with many indicating that the experience had helped them pick their subject choices for next year.









Students will continue to be offered further support, with all Year 11 taking part in a one-to-one interview with a Senior Member of Leadership team when they will be discussing their next steps. The final deadline for all Fulford Sixth Form applications is 5th February.

Ice Skating

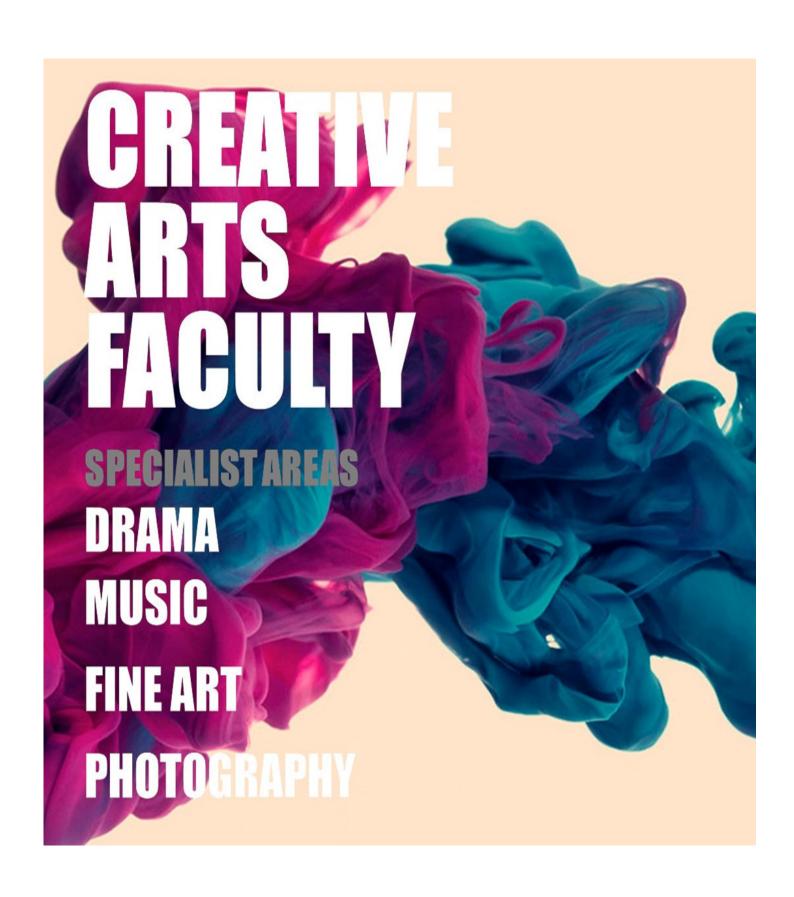
This term to get into the festive spirit, we took Fulford Sixth Form ice skating at Yorkshire Wonderland. Both Year 12 and Year 13 came along and it was great to see the bonding, at times literally as they supported each other on the slippery ice.

With over 170 students on the ice, there was an amazing variety of skill and talent!





CREATIVE ARTS FACULTY



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

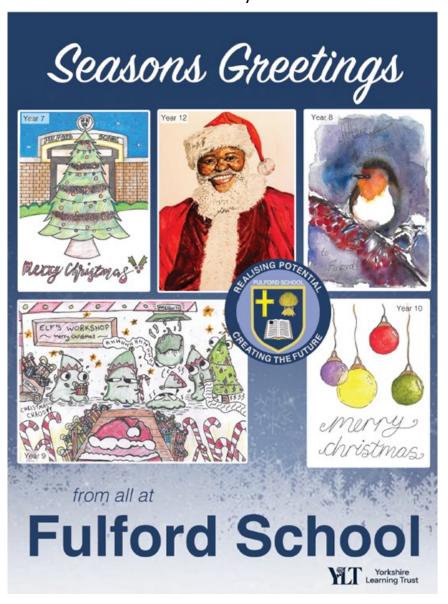
Mr T Rigg



Design a Christmas Card Competition

In December, we held a competition for students to design the school Christmas card.

The winning design is shown below and will be used as the official Fulford School Christmas Card and will be sent out to the local community.



Congratulations to the following students who's designs were chosen:

Year 7 – Lily Ross (Fulford Christmas Tree)

Year 9 – Adam Kahil (Elf's workshop)

Year 12 – Bert Obi (Father Christmas)

Year 8 – Yeseniia Honcharova (Robin)

Year 10 – Grace Baggaley (Baubles)

MUSIC

Mrs H Fletcher



WINTER CONCERT



On Wednesday 10th December, the annual Winter Concert took place in the school hall on Christmas Jumper Day.

Over 80 students from all year groups were involved in the concert which featured the choir, swing band, orchestra, a class performance by the Year 10 GCSE music group, and lots of talented soloists and student bands.











MUSIC

Mrs H Fletcher



WINTER CONCERT

























ART

Mr T Rigg



Head Teacher's Gallery

Every half term, artwork from each year group is chosen for display in the Head Teacher's Gallery.

The selected pieces are exhibited outside of the Head Teacher's office.



Congratulations to the following artists:

Year 7	Susana Hidalgo Chavez	Year 8	Noah Stipetic
Year 9	Mritsna Magar	Year 10	Isla Smith

Year 11 Neve McDonagh Year 12 Fernlea Fletcher

Year 13 Mariam Cookson

ART

Mr T RIGG



SIXTH FORM ARTWORK



Erica Scott



Abbie Colbeck



Bella Reid



Joe Conlon



Emma Gilmore

ART

Mr T RIGG



YEAR 11 ARTWORK



Charlotte Macpherson



Harrison Colley



Abbie Dwyer



Mia Lockwood

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Mr A Kennedy

Merry Christmas from across Europe



French



Ukrainian



German



Italian



Polish



Swedish









Dutch

HISTORY

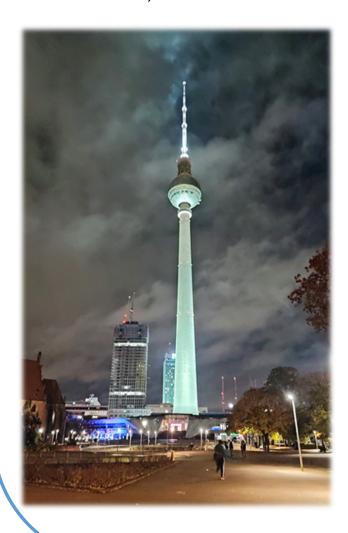
Ms T Bowen



Year 11 Berlin Cold War History Trip



In October, 50 x Year 11s went to Berlin for an intensive Cold War Revision Tour.



We visited:

- Berlin Wall
- The East Side Gallery
- The Cold War Bunker
- The Reichstag
- The Wannsee Conference Centre
- The 'Bridge of Spies'
- The 1936 Olympic Stadium
- The DDR Museum
- Hitler's Bunker (now a car park)
- ◆ The Holocaust Memorial
- The Soviet Memorial at Treptower Park
- The Stasi Prison Museum
- The Berlin Airlift Museum
- The TV Tower

HISTORY

Ms T Bowen



Year 11 Berlin Cold War History Trip

We certainly all got our steps in as well as travelling on the Berlin U Bahn.

Big thanks to "Rocket Crockatt" who was our tour guide extraordinaire and to all the staff that gave up their time to support this brilliant trip.







RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Mr Nesbitt

Religious Studies Trip to London



From 28th to 30th November, our Year 9 students embarked on an enriching journey to London to explore the diversity of religious traditions and cultures.

This unique experience allowed students to deepen their understanding of faith in practice and appreciate the vibrant religious landscape of the capital.

During the trip, students visited a remarkable range of places of worship, including

St Paul's Cathedral, the Hare Krishna Centre, St Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Baitul Futuh Mosque, Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, and the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church for Sunday service.

Each visit offered an opportunity to learn about the beliefs, rituals, and histories that shape these communities.







RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Mr Nesbitt

Religious Studies Trip to London



Beyond the religious sites, the itinerary included a River Thames cruise and a guided tour of London's central business district, where students discovered historical religious landmarks such as the birthplace of St Thomas à Becket and the origins of the Good Samaritan organisation.

Our students represented Fulford School with wonderful politeness and respect, engaging thoughtfully with guides and hosts at every location.

Their curiosity and willingness to ask insightful questions made the experience even more meaningful. Staff and venue hosts alike commented on how courteous and enthusiastic the group was throughout the trip.

The trip was a fantastic way to bring classroom learning to life, fostering curiosity, respect, and dialogue among our students.

A huge thank you to all staff and students who made this experience so memorable!









SCIENCE

Mr S Lynn



FORENSICS DAY



December the 9th unfolded with a chilling scene for our Forensics and Criminology students, who arrived to confront a **grisly and blood-soaked** (mock) crime scene.

The first attending officer, Mr. Lynn, grimly confirmed that a middle-aged male had been found **lifeless** in room G12.

Undeterred, our **fearless trainee investigators** stepped into their hazmat suits, transforming the quiet corridor into a hive of forensic activity.

They swiftly sealed off the area with strict cordons—no one crossed that threshold (not even Mr. Rosie) without signing in and submitting to procedure.

What followed was a relentless and meticulous operation. **More than 90 pieces of evidence** were recovered, examined, and logged with unwavering precision - a testament to the students' dedication and professionalism.





The case, of course, is far from closed. The investigation continues......

SCIENCE

Mr S Lynn

SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

On Friday 5th December we were delighted to welcome Year 11 to experience a Science Sixth Form taster day!

With Mr. West in **Chemistry** – the students were introduced to isomerism. They used Tollen's reagent to distinguish between two isomers: propanal and propanone.



Propanal, an aldehyde, produced a shiny silver mirror when warmed, while propanone, a ketone, showed no reaction — demonstrating how simple chemical tests can reveal important structural differences between molecules.



With Dr. Williams in **Biology** – students were investigating the afterimage in the eye by looking at images and timing how long the image was 'seen' by the retina afterwards.

They used their data to carry out a Spearman's Rank statistical test to see if there was a correlation between the length of time they stared at the image for and duration of the after image.

With Miss Murrell and Mr. Borwell in Physics – pupils used conservation of energy law and the period of a pendulum to work out values for acceleration of freefall on Earth, due to gravity.

They then investigated the relationship between length of a pendulum and time period.



We look forward to welcoming these young scientists to our A-Level courses next year!

COMPUTING

Mr P Dring

Well done to all the students that took part in the Cyber Switchup cyber security competition and a huge congratulations to Leonidas Cook and Morgan McKenzie who finished in the top 1.5% nationally and are pictured here at the finals and awards ceremony at the University of Hull on 25th November.







Thank you and well done to every team that took part in the Y8 girls CyberFirst competition did exceptionally well this year,

especially the Fearless Trailblazers, scoring over 1500 points.

National scores and competition winners haven't been announced yet but you can all be proud of your achievements for taking part.

On 8th December a small group of Year 8s from STEM club represented Fulford at a robotics scrimmage event at



Egglescliffe School, taking on 6th form teams in a robotic obstacle course that was half robot wars and half basketball.

We look forward to the finals of both the First Lego League and First Robotics competitions in March.



If you're looking for a festive computing challenge you should try the <u>Cyber Advent</u> <u>Calendar from DressCode</u> as a great way to have fun and test your logic and computing skills.

COMPUTING

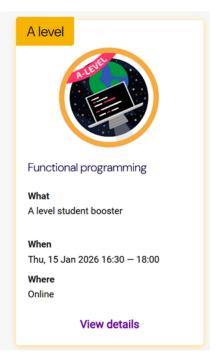
Mr P Dring

We've had some excellent initial entries for the <u>Isaac Computer Science Internet of Everything competition</u>. It's not too late for students in Y9, 10 or 11 to submit their entry. The deadline is 31st Jan 2026: do get in touch with Mr Dring or Mr Walsh if you need any help putting together your video entry.

It's also worth a reminder that we have partnered with other leading schools through the Isaac Computer Science platform to run weekly KS4 and KS5 online revision sessions which GCSE or A Level students can attend instead of completing their homework. They're free to attend and are a great way to boost your revision in key topics. <u>Dates for the spring and summer term are available here</u>.









We're delighted to win an award from the UK Electronics Skills Foundation for running STEM Club, Game Dev Club and Robotics Intervention and we are really grateful to the volunteers from the Physics and

Engineering Outreach team at the University of York who have helped to run STEM club and Dr Liu from the Distributed and Real Time and Distributed Systems research group at the University of York who has inspired and supported the robotics intervention students.

COMPUTING

Mr P Dring

It's been fascinating to debate Australia's social media ban for under 16s with students and the UK's Online Safety Act.

Over the holidays it may be well worth revisiting the conversation between students and parents about screen time, mental health and safe use of tech and also reaching out to your friends who aren't on social media or don't have smartphones to include them in any festive plans.



The resources and videos on https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/protect-your-child/ are really helpful for parents wanting support managing screen time and keeping children safe online.

Instructions for accessing school email and a reminder of how to reset forgotten passwords are on the <u>Remote Access Information page of the VLE</u> (it's worth asking an adult to write a note in your planner before any homework is due if you leave it to the last minute to ask for a new password).

You can find out more about the Computing department here: <u>fulford.york.sch.uk/</u> <u>computing</u>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mr S Bailey



Independent School-State School Partnership

The first lecture in the Year 7 - 8 series took place last week, hosted by Sophie Jewett from York Cocoa Works and was titled "From the Cocoa Bar to the Chocolate Bar: How can Enterprise Tackle Social Issues?"

With many Fulford students attending, it was a fantastic evening where the students were full of curiosity and all thoroughly enjoyed their miniature chocolate tasting.

Details of the second lecture which takes place in February will be shared in the new year.

Alongside the above, we have a variety of Fulford students benefitting from enriching opportunities for expanded study of German, Astronomy, Latin and Maths.

It is wonderful to see these children grasping opportunities for new learning!



U16 England Bridge team!

Alongside the 50+ clubs that run at Fulford, we are the only school in Yorkshire to have a thriving Bridge community.

Huge congratulations to Bertie Mittra, Year 9 who has been selected to play for the Under 16 England team in the EBL (European Bridge League) Online Teams event.

Only 4 pairs of players have been chosen to play for England so this is a remarkable achievement.

Fulford Transition Graduation Evening

On Monday evening we celebrated the successful graduation of our new Year 7s to Fulford. The response was exceptional and we were thrilled to welcome around 500 people, including children, parents/carers, grandparents, siblings etc!

The evening consisted of a Christmas themed treasure hunt and quiz, together with words of praise for our new cohort from Mr Gatenby (Head of Year 7).

It was great to see families sharing life at school together.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mr S Bailey

FESTIVE JUMPER SWAP SHOP



As part of our ongoing assembly series, students considered 'Buy nothing day.' As part of our response to this Mrs Baroni set up an incredibly popular swap shop of Christmas Jumpers.

We received a huge number of donations, so everyone who wanted one could wear a new (to them!) jumper on our school Christmas jumper day.

COMMUNITY NEWS



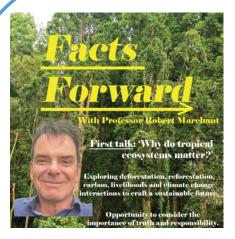
This term we held our inaugural Fulford Community Talk. We aim to provide families an enriching opportunity to learn about important themes from experts (e.g. social, environmental etc.).

Our first talk was very well attended and delivered by professor Rob Marchant with the title 'Rainforests: why do tropical ecosystems matter?'

We will look to host further talks in the new year!

ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Mr R Hearn



On a chilly evening, over 70 Fulford families braved the weather to attend the first of a new series of after-school talks, commencing with 'Why do tropical ecosystems matter,' by Professor Robert Marchant.

Further talks will be announced in the new year with themes covering environment, the importance of truth and social action.

School grounds survey with the Green Corridors team from St Nicks Environment Centre.

In early December, students representing the Environment Group, walked the school site to learn about opportunities to enhance our biodiversity and create a more pleasant natural environment.



This work will develop next term as the group seek fundraising ideas to begin to source a variety of flowers and shrubs to make Fulford School and more pleasant and biodiversity friendly site.

If you have a child keen on being involved with this project you can email Mr Hearn with their name to: hearnr@fulford.york.sch.uk







ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Mr G Hennigan

We've Achieved BREEAM Excellent!

I am delighted to share some fantastic news: the recent Kahlo Block extension project has achieved a BREEAM Excellent rating, with a score of 73.2%!

BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) is the leading sustainability assessment for buildings in the UK.

Achieving an Excellent rating means our new extension meets rigorous standards for energy efficiency, environmental impact, and wellbeing.

This accomplishment reflects our commitment to creating a learning environment that is not only modern and functional but also environmentally responsible.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this possible.

Together, we're creating a greener future for our school community.





EXTRA CURRICULAR: FOOTBALL PHOTO





Under 15 Girls







Year 7 Boys Year 8 Boys Year 7 Boys





U14 Girls

U12 & U13 Girls



EXTRA CURRICULAR PE



Year 7 Boys Rugby



Under 14's Hockey







Year 7 Girls Rugby

