



Fulford School

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14th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful summer break.

It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to Fulford last week and to see the school come alive again with energy, enthusiasm and purpose. The start of a new academic year always brings a sense of possibility, and I have been particularly impressed by the positive way students have returned to school, embracing our expectations and engaging fully in lessons and wider school life.

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all students and families who are joining the Fulford community for the first time this year. We are delighted that you have chosen Fulford and look forward to working closely with you over the coming years.

The opening days of term have been exceptionally positive. Across the school, students have settled quickly into routines, demonstrated excellent attitudes to learning and represented our values with pride. The calm and purposeful atmosphere around the site has been noted by staff and visitors alike, and I would like to thank students and families for their support in ensuring such a successful start.

Alongside this letter you will find the first edition of our Fulford Update, which will continue to be shared fortnightly throughout the year. This newsletter provides key dates, important information and opportunities for students and families to become involved in school life.

You will also find a copy of our annual key dates calendar, which I hope will help families plan for the year ahead.

Please note that the Year 6 Open Evening will be taking place on Tuesday 29th September. 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 29th.

Please also note that Wednesday 30th September is a teacher training day (INSET) and school will be closed to all students.

Celebrating Success

As we begin a new academic year, it is also important to reflect on the achievements of students who completed their studies with us this summer.

We were incredibly proud of the outcomes achieved by our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Their success was the result of consistent hard work, determination and perseverance over many years. Equally important was the character they demonstrated throughout their time at Fulford: showing kindness, resilience and a commitment to supporting one another.

We are excited to follow their next steps, whether in sixth form, university, apprenticeships, employment or training, and we wish them every success for the future.

Attendance Matters

One of the most important factors in a student's success is regular attendance at school. Every lesson counts, and the learning, experiences and relationships built each day cannot always be replicated when students are absent.

Good attendance not only supports academic achievement but also helps students develop routines, confidence, friendships and a sense of belonging within the school community. While occasional illness is unavoidable, we ask families to prioritise attendance wherever possible and to avoid arranging holidays during term time.

We understand that there are sometimes genuine barriers to attendance. If your child is finding it difficult to attend school regularly, please contact us as early as possible. Our attendance team, Heads of Year and pastoral staff are committed to working in partnership with families to identify concerns, provide support and help students overcome any challenges they may be facing.

By working together, we can ensure every student benefits from the opportunities available to them and has the best chance of success.

Key Contacts

Please find below the key pastoral and school contacts for this academic year. Maintaining strong communication between home and school remains one of our priorities, and we encourage parents and carers to get in touch whenever help or advice is needed.

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 Walker	walkerm@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 8	Head of Year	Mr Hayden	haydena@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 8	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Brown	brownb@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 9	Head of Year	Ms Bargewell	bargewelle@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 9	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Smith	smithm@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 10	Head of Year	Mr Lacy	lacys@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 10	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Rae	raea@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 11	Head of Year	Mr Bonsels	bonselsj@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 11	Assistant Head of Year	Ms Wood	woode@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 12	Head of Year	Mr Gray	graym@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 12	Learning and Wellbeing Worker	Miss Fewster	fewsterm@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 13	Head of Year	Mrs Jenner	jennerk@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 13	Learning and Wellbeing Worker	Mrs Stuart	stuarta@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 would like to remind all parents and carers about the importance of using our school site safely and considerately, particularly during the busy periods at the start and end of the day.

The school car park is primarily used by school buses and taxis transporting students to and from school. To ensure the safety of all members of our community and to minimise congestion, we ask that parents and carers avoid using the car park before 3.30pm unless specific arrangements have been agreed due to medical or accessibility needs.

If you believe an exception is required, please contact your child's Head of Year in advance.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. The relationship between home and school is vital, and we greatly value the role that parents and carers play in helping our young people thrive.

I wish all our students and families a successful, enjoyable and rewarding year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Russell Harris
Headteacher