

FOUNTAINS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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FOUNTAINS HIGH



Attendance Spotlight

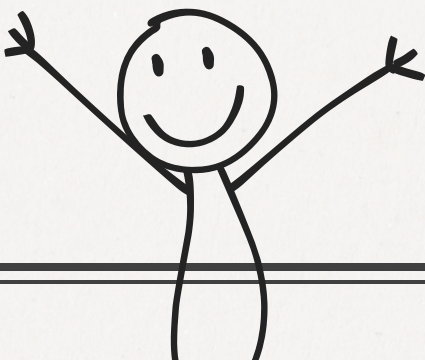
CHRIS MULVENNEY
ENGAGEMENT AND ATTENDANCE OFFICER

We've been delighted to see so many students making a strong start to the academic year through regular attendance and engagement in school.

A special congratulations to Turing House, who currently have the highest attendance across school, and K6, our highest-attending form group. Well done to all students and staff!

Thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support. If you are experiencing any difficulties that may affect your child's attendance, please get in touch with Chris Mulvenney, our Attendance and Engagement Officer.

We're here to work with families and provide support wherever we can.



EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER UPDATE

GARETH ALLEN

As we come to the end of Autumn Term 1, I would like to thank our students, families, governors and staff for helping to make such a positive start to the new academic year.

It has been wonderful to see students settle back into school routines with enthusiasm and confidence, particularly our new high school students who have made an excellent start to life at Fountains.

Throughout the term, students have embraced a wide range of learning opportunities both in and beyond the classroom. We are especially proud of the excellent attendance shown by so many of our students and the way they continue to demonstrate our values of Kind Hearts, Wise Minds and Brave Souls every day.

This term has also seen further developments across our curriculum, alongside valuable community and preparation for adulthood opportunities that help students build confidence, independence and skills for the future.

Thank you to our dedicated staff team for their hard work and commitment, and to our families for their continued support and partnership.

We wish all our students and families a restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another successful half term.





KEY STAGE 3

KS3 students have had a successful start to the year, with Year 7 pupils settling in exceptionally well and quickly becoming an important part of the Fountains community.

Lunchtime clubs remain popular, with students enjoying activities including sport, games club, signing choir, dance, reading for pleasure and creative writing. Students also did a fantastic job running our Macmillan Coffee Morning, helping to make the event a great success.

We're looking forward to our KS3 social on 5th November, featuring a pizza making and games session, and parent lunches for Mosaic and Nexus students beginning in November.

We are also excited to announce that the KS3 residential will take place from 10th-12th March, with further details to follow.



KEY STAGE 4

Some of our KS4 students recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to the New Vic Theatre to watch a production of Romeo and Juliet. Having studied the play in English lessons, students were able to see Shakespeare's work brought to life on stage, helping to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the text.

The trip was a valuable learning experience and will support those students who will continue studying Romeo and Juliet as part of their GCSE English course in Year 11. Students represented the school brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

KS4 options students have also been busy designing exciting plans for our additional forest school area. Their ideas include vegetable patches, crazy paving and other features to enhance the outdoor space. We are looking forward to seeing their designs come to life and watching the area develop over the coming months.



POTTING SHED

Exciting developments are underway as our greenhouse site in Stapenhill is being transformed into a brand-new facility, due to open in Easter 2027.

In the meantime, students have been busy working in the community at Newton Road Parks, Winhill Allotments and Branston Clays Lane Park, developing valuable skills and making a positive impact on their local area.



COFFEE BEAN

The Coffee Bean Café has had a fantastic start to the year, with learners continuing to develop their independence, confidence and practical skills while serving customers.

Through café activities and special events, students have enjoyed valuable opportunities to apply their skills in real-life situations, demonstrating excellent teamwork, professionalism and dedication throughout the first half of the autumn term.

The Coffee Bean Café is located at Stretton Bowls Club, Bitham Lane. The café is open Tuesday - Thursday during term time - why not come along!





SCHOOL COUNCIL

We have held two successful polling days giving students the opportunity to vote for their School and college representatives!

A total of 45 representatives were elected and attended their first School Council meeting, where they shared ideas and feedback on a range of topics, including future trips, activities and improvements to the school environment. Representatives have also chosen to join the School Council, Eco Committee or E-Safety Committee, enabling them to contribute to areas that match their interests and strengths. We look forward to seeing these groups make a positive contribution to school life throughout the year.



SUSTAINABILITY

Students have been helping to develop a new Forest School sustainability area, with plans for vegetable patches, composting and recycling spaces. The project is helping students learn about growing food, reducing waste and caring for the environment through hands-on activities. We are looking forward to seeing the area come to life.

Our Eco Committee representatives have now been elected, and we look forward to their first meeting, where students will begin sharing ideas to make our school even more environmentally friendly.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Learners in Kaleidoscope have made a wonderful start to the year and we have been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 pupils, who have settled brilliantly into high school life and are already building positive relationships with staff and peers.

Students have enjoyed a range of activities including sensory science experiments, messy maths, cooking, communication activities, life skills lessons and rebound therapy. A particular favourite has been creating cornflour slime during science sessions!

Our Kaleidoscope Post-16 students have also been working hard in the community, including volunteering at to Scropton Horse Centre where students have supported with filling hay nets and caring for the horses. We are incredibly proud of all our students and the positive start they have made to the new school year.



POST 16

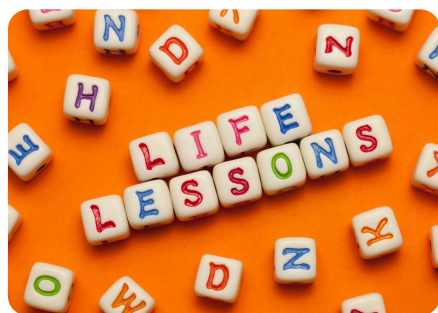
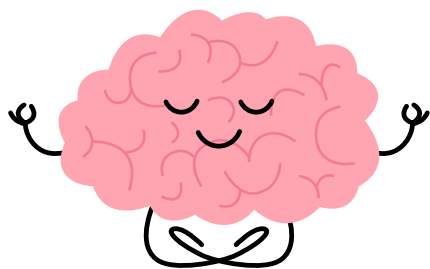
Our Post-16 provision at Burton and South Derbyshire College (BSDC) has begun the academic year positively, with Year 12 students making a successful transition from the Fountains High School site and settling confidently into their new learning environment.

A highlight this term was the Post-16 Extended School Social, which included a visit to Ten Pin Bowling in Derby. The event provided a great opportunity for learners to enjoy time with their peers and develop their social skills and confidence.

Some students also enjoyed a visit to Parliament as part of their learning about British Values and SMSC, helping to bring classroom learning to life.

We are incredibly proud of the strong start our Post-16 students have made this year.





CURRICULUM UPDATES

This year, Fountains High School is introducing the Life Lessons programme as our PSHE and RSHE curriculum for learners on the Nexus and Mosaic pathways.

The curriculum is designed to help young people develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to stay safe, build positive relationships, maintain their wellbeing and prepare for adulthood. It supports our school values of Kind Hearts, Wise Minds and Brave Souls

Find Out More

Parents and carers can view further information about our PSHE and RSHE curriculum, including curriculum content and policies, on our website:

[Fountains High School PSHE/ RSHE](#)

You can also access parent and carer guidance directly from Life Lessons:

[Life Lessons - Guidance for Parents](#)

Have Your Say

As part of our consultation process, we would welcome your feedback. Please complete our short survey to let us know whether you would be interested in attending an after-school information session and to share any comments or questions:

[PSHE/ RSHE Information Sharing Event Feedback](#)



For any questions, please contact the school via enquiries@fountains-high.staffs.sch.uk and mark your message for the PSHE Lead.

Making a Difference Through Student Voice!

A big thank you to Khadija for making a real difference through student voice!

Last year, Khadija shared how difficult the heatwave was for students in classrooms without air conditioning and asked for these concerns to be raised with the Local Governing Committee. She followed this up again in October to check on progress.

Thank you to Khadija speaking up and sharing her views, air conditioning will now be installed ready for next summer, helping to make our school more comfortable for everyone. Well done, Khadija!



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WHOLE SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS!

The first half of the autumn term has been busy and rewarding, with a range of events bringing our school community together.

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning was a wonderful success, with students, families and staff helping to raise money for a fantastic cause while enjoying time together as a school community.

We were also delighted to host our Reading Together Event, welcoming parents and carers into school to share books and stories with their children. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying reading together and promoting a love of literacy across the school.

Our Fountains Signing Choir also enjoyed a memorable visit to Dovebourne Care Home, where students shared songs and Makaton signing with residents, creating lots of smiles along the way.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent Progress Evening. The event provided an important opportunity to discuss student progress, celebrate achievements and strengthen the partnership between home and school. We would value your feedback on the event via the feedback form below.

Parental Questionnaire

To round off the half term, students took part in our Children in Need House Fundraiser, competing in a fun 25 Challenge. The event encouraged teamwork, resilience and plenty of house spirit, all while raising money for an important charity.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our school events this term!
We look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate together throughout the year.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 2nd November - Inset Day (school closed to students)

Tuesday 3rd November - Students Return

Thursday 5th November - KS3 Social

Friday 6th November - KS3 Parent/Carer Lunch

Monday 9th November - Kaleidoscope Diwali Celebration Day

Monday 9th November - Presentation Evening

Friday 13th November - Children in Need 🐼

Monday 16th November - Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 16th November - Odd Sock Day

Friday 20th November - KS4 Social

Tuesday 1st - Friday 4th December - Post-16 Paris Trip 🇫🇷

Friday 4th December - KS3 Parent/Carer Lunch

Friday 4th December - Whole School Wear Anything Day - Fundraiser for Christmas Fayre

Friday 6th December - Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 15th December - Pantomime Trip (Derby)

Wednesday 16th December - Christmas Dinner

Thursday 17th December - Carol Service

Friday 18th December - Christmas Celebrations/ Break up for the Christmas Holidays 🦌🦌🦌

Monday 4th January - Students Return



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REMINDERS

SCHOOL MENU

School dinners are available daily and cost £2.70. Our Bonfire Night themed dinner for students will take place on 5th November and Christmas Dinner will take place 16th December. Please view our website for more details

[School Menu](#)

You may also be eligible for Free School Meals. Please check using the Staffordshire online checker: [Staffordshire Free School Meals](#)

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform plays an important role in promoting a sense of pride and belonging within our school community. As we move into the colder months, we would like to remind families to ensure students come to school with a suitable coat and sensible footwear appropriate for the weather conditions.

Please view our website for more information and supplier information [Fountains High School Uniform](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

To help us communicate effectively and ensure we can contact you quickly in an emergency, please take a moment to check that the school has your most up-to-date contact information. If your address, telephone number, email address, or emergency contact details have changed, please update on Arbor as soon as possible. It is essential that we have more than one point of contact. For any support with this please contact the school office.



ONLINE SAFETY

Children often spend more time online during school holidays. Taking an interest in their online activity can help keep them safe.

Top tips for parents:

- Check privacy settings on apps and social media.
- Encourage children to only connect with people they know.
- Remind them not to share personal information online.
- Talk regularly about their online experiences.
- Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if something worries them.

Useful links for parents

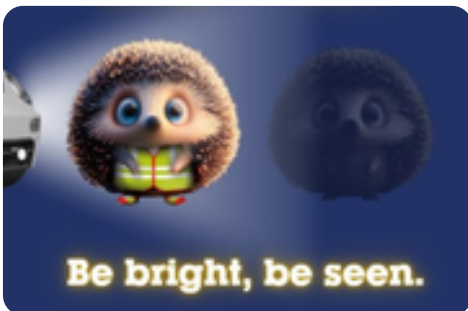
[UK Safer Internet - Parents and Carers](#)

[NSPCC Online Safety - Keeping Child Safe Online](#)

[Internet Matters - Information, Advice and Support](#)

SUPPORT FROM THE FASST TEAM

The Family and Student Support Team (FASST) offers support to children, young people and families with areas such as attendance, emotional wellbeing, parenting support and accessing wider services. If you feel your family would benefit from additional support contact the FASST Team directly by visiting the FASST Team website [FASST Team](#)



BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

As the days become shorter and darker, we encourage all students to take extra care when out and about in the community. Whether travelling on local authority transport, walking, cycling, or spending time outdoors, being visible can help keep everyone safe. Simple steps such as wearing bright or reflective clothing, using lights on bicycles and staying alert around roads can make a big difference. Stay safe this autumn and winter - Be Bright, Be Seen!



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