

Summer Term 2025 Headteacher's Report to the Governing Body

SUMMARY FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I mentioned in my last report the sudden death of Ewan Farrow, year 9. The coroner has now confirmed the cause of death to be accidental, which, whilst tragic, means the family now has closure. To remember Ewan and commemorate the life of this much loved member of our school family, we have dedicated this year's D2D (Docks to Disney) in memory of Ewan and will be fundraising for 2 charities close to our hearts, both of which support young people. As always, governors and their families are welcome to attend this event, which is held at the control tower on Preston Docks.



DOCKS TO DISNEY 2025

Saturday 28th June 8am-6pm

In memory of Ewan who was a shining soul who could brighten even the dulllest days with his smile and spirit - his warmth will be deeply missed but never forgotten.



ADMISSIONS

The school remains at or over published admission numbers (PAN) in years 7,8,9. In year 10 there are currently 6 places (although please remember the PAN for this year is 190). 173 offers have been made to year 6 pupils for a September start.

We continue to have in year admissions and leavers, which are summarised below.

Total number of pupils currently on roll = 874

Deaf Support = 14

ASD unit = 8

Number who have joined the school - in year admissions:

Autumn Half Term 1 2024 = 16

Autumn Half Term 2 2024 = 9

Spring Half Term 1 2025 = 14

Spring half term 2 = 7

Summer half term 1 = 7

SUMMARY FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Number who have left - in year leavers:

Autumn Half Term 1 2024 = 11

Autumn Half Term 2 2024 = 14

Spring Half Term 1 2025 = 1

Spring half term 2 = 13

Summer half term 1 = 4

Elective home education

Total academic year to date (13th June) = 20

Total returning from EHE = 2

Total leaving for EHE – Returning from EHE – leaving for EHE again = 1

ATTENDANCE

- At the end of May half term overall attendance is 93.2%. This is 2.4% better attendance than last year. This is also 1.9% better than the national average attendance figure and is 2.6% above the figure for school in similar contexts.
- Current attendance places us in the top 20-30% of secondary schools nationally.
- KS4 attendance in Spring term has been recognised by FFT due to it being in the top 25% of secondary schools nationally and top 10% of schools in similar circumstances.
- Absence has reduced from 9.2% last year to 6.8% this year
- FSM6 attendance is significantly above national average across all year groups (3.2% higher overall)
- SEND attendance at both support and EHCP level is significantly above the national average (4.5% higher for SEND support and 6.4% higher for children with an EHCP)
- Persistent absence rates continue to fall, with 19.4% of our cohort PA compared to 31.3% last year.
- There have been 20 Elective Home Education withdrawals so far in this academic year with 2 of these students returning.

Credit for this very positive upturn in attendance must be given to Sarah Connon, who has approached this new area of responsibility with relentless tenacity.

SAFEGUARDING

School has a strong culture of safeguarding. All staff are confident in managing safeguarding concerns and receive weekly safeguarding briefings in addition to the annual level 1 and 2 training in September.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) AND CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CLA)

A review of our SEND provision has been commissioned in the summer term so I will report on this in the Autumn Term Headteacher report.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) AND CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CLA)

Number of pupils on the SEN register = 176 (20.1%) –61 girls and 115 boys.

- **Number of EHCPs** = 48 (5.4%) National average is 4.8%
- **Number on SEN support** = 128 (14.6%) National average is 13.6%

Number of CLA: 8

BEHAVIOURAL REPORTS – SUSPENSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

- There have been 4 permanent exclusions this academic year. At the time of writing a 5th permanent exclusion has been issued, which will carry over now to the next academic year to allow for the legal timelines for parental appeal. So the total for the academic year 2024/25 is 5.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND STANDARDS

National outcomes show that students make expected progress evidenced by the progress 8 figure for the past three years. Student progress varies across subjects; students' outcomes in history, French and science over the past three years demonstrate outstanding progress whereas the basics headline measures, and especially progress and attainment in maths, are an area to strengthen.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our final fire evacuation and lockdown drills will take place in the final 4 weeks of the academic year. They are no notice and so will provide us with a much more accurate picture of how prepared we are in an emergency. I will report on these practice drills in the Autumn term.

Staffing information – starters since the last report (April 2025 – June 2025)

Name	Role in school	Additional responsibilities/notes
Natalie Smith	Head of year 11	Started 2.6.25 assumes role 1.9.25
Ricardo North	Cover Supervisor	Started 2.6.25, previous TA2
Jon Watterson	DT Teacher	3D Art, starts 1.9.25
Clare Thompson	Teacher of the Deaf	Starts 1.9.25

Staffing information – starters since the last report (April 2025 – June 2025)

Name	Role in school	Additional responsibilities/notes
Stephanie Hodgkinson	DT Teacher	Food & Nutrition, starts 1.9.25
Natasha Atkinson	English Teacher	Starts 1.9.25 ECT
Harry Catlow	Science Teacher	Starts 1.9.25 ECT, current trainee
Katie Johnson	TA	Recruited vi agency
Laura Gavaghan	TA	Recruited via agency
Callum Calvert	Cover supervisor	Starts 1.9.25, current apprentice
James O'Connor	Pupil support & Mentor	Made permanent from 1.9.25
Tracey Peacock	Head of Year 8	Start 1.9.25, current FLO

STAFFING INFORMATION - LEAVERS SINCE THE LAST REPORT (APRIL 2025 – JUNE 2025)

NAME	ROLE IN SCHOOL	REASON FOR LEAVING
Jen Price	Teacher of the Deaf	31.8.25, change to peri role
David Koerten	Business Support Officer	31.8.25, training to be a tiler
Lisa Leach	Head of Year 10	31.8.25, retirement
Hannah Bithell	Cover Supervisor	31.8.25, starting teacher training
Lauren Bell	DT Teacher	31.8.25 Resignation, temp contract
Lauren Barrett	DT Teacher Apprentice	31.7.25 Resignation, temp contract
Eve Pearson	PE Teacher	31.8.25 Resignation, temp contract sick leave cover
Kirsten Brooke	PE Teacher	31.8.25 Resignation, temp contract maternity cover
Andrew Bebbington	Pupil support & Mentor	31.8.25, end of temp contract

STAFFING INFORMATION – MATERNITY LEAVE

NAME	ROLE IN SCHOOL	REASON FOR LEAVING
Bethany Smith	Teacher of PE	04/11/2024

OTHER STAFFING UPDATES

- Gareth Lee (Head of Department Maths) will be on Shared parental leave from 01.09.25 until 31.12.2025. Mr Fern will take up the role of head of maths and Miss Hird will take on second in maths for this period.
- Andrew Bebbington started his phased return following cancer treatment but is currently absent from work due to ill health
- Emma Dunlop completed her phased return successfully.

APPLICATIONS FOR FLEXIBLE WORKING

- Mrs Bernice Marshall cover supervisor has asked for a reduction from 1.0 to 0.9 to allow for care of elderly dependant.
- Mr Bill Martin Librarian has asked for a reduction from 1.0 to 0.8 as a phase into retirement.
- Mrs Julie Evans safeguarding officer has asked for a reduction from 1.0 to 0.8 to allow for care of dependant.

All applications have been granted subject to governors' approval and will result in a small budget saving with no disruption to provision for students.

PARENTAL COMPLAINTS

I have received 2 formal complaints from parents since my last report, both of which I have addressed to their satisfaction. Both complaints stemmed from an unhappiness with the school's rigorous approach to monitoring attendance. Further explanation served to help parents understand the importance of attendance and the legal parameters within which school must operate.

I must note that "informal" complaints from parents (i.e. complaints that are not submitted through the formal complaints procedure) continue to be at times burdensome and focus on parental challenges to school rules and expectations that they escalate to the headteacher in the hope decisions made by senior colleagues upholding standards will be over-ruled. Generally speaking, we manage to resolve these amicably, but we do have a small number of parents who turn up to school unannounced and present as aggressive and abusive. We do everything possible to de-escalate this behaviour, but it is unpleasant for staff who are involved.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

The SIP for the academic year 2025/26 is attached to this report, and you will see that we have focused on 4 key themes, further developed into 5 improvement areas. These 4

APPLICATIONS FOR FLEXIBLE WORKING

themes are:

Be here

Behave

Be involved

Be ambitious

They have been developed into the following improvement areas:

Mission Statement: All our students are capable of making good or outstanding progress (SPI 0.25+) and we strive together to achieve this	
Priority 1 Be ambitious	Ambition – all stakeholders believe that students can succeed and achieve our mission statement
Priority 2 Be here	Attendance – Students recognise the value of high attendance and punctuality to school and lessons
Priority 3 Behave	Behaviour and attitudes – students demonstrate PROUD in their behaviour. They behave with high levels of respect, have positive attitudes to learning and are committed to their education.
Priority 4 Be engaged	Teaching and learning - All teaching is responsive and adaptive to the individual needs of students. Teachers understand what excellent teaching is because they engage with research and embrace professional development.
Priority 5 Be ambitious	Assessment and feedback – students flourish as a result of rigorous formative and summative assessment, personalised support and regular focused feedback.

I am confident that this simplified, yet sharpened focus will support us as we make the next step up in our improvement journey.

FUTURE PROOFING

The staffing structure for September will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

The move of music provision to the Inspire building and the library into the main school will take place over the summer.

Plans are currently being considered for the new toilets and changing facilities by the 3G pitch which will not only improve facilities for our students, but for lettings too.

The school calendar is under construction and has a sharper focus on CPD for all staff in addition to a comprehensive year 11 revision programme.