FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2026

The MILLTHORPE muse

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

A very warm welcome to all our new students and families. It is wonderful to officially welcome you to Millthorpe. To our returning students, welcome back! We hope you have all had a fantastic summer and are ready to make the most of everything school has to offer, both in the classroom and beyond.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have everyone back in school this week. I have been so impressed by how well our new Year 7 students have settled in. They are adapting to school life remarkably quickly. A huge thank you must also go to our fantastic Student Leaders, who have been on hand throughout the week offering support, giving directions, and chatting with our new students to help them feel at home.

Last month, we welcomed our former Year 11 students back into school to collect their GCSE results. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them and delighted that we celebrated our best GCSE results to date. You can read more about their achievements and see some photographs here . If any of our former Year 11 students still need assistance with their next steps, please remember that we are always here to help.

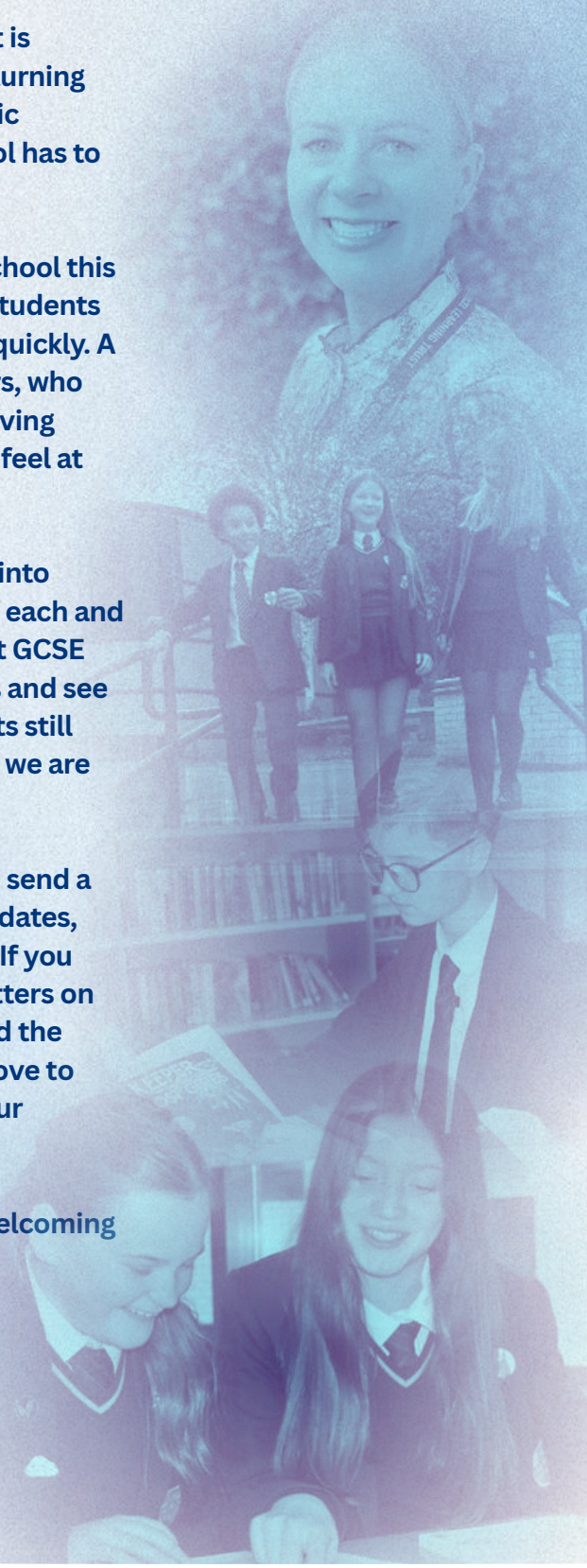
As many of you will already know, every Friday afternoon we send a weekly email to all parents and carers, packed with news, updates, announcements, and achievements from across the school. If you ever miss an edition, you can catch up with previous newsletters on our website. You may also have noticed that we've revamped the email with a new look and more streamlined content. We'd love to know what you think of the changes so we'll be asking for your feedback in a few weeks time.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday for a B Week.

With best wishes,

Kavina Rothenburg

Principal



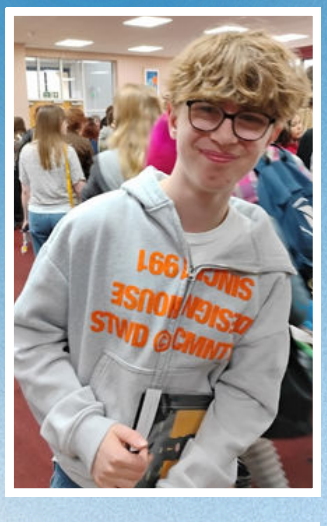
WELCOME ABOARD

Welcome to the new colleagues who started with us this week:
Miss Leggatt, English
Miss Ford, Drama
Ms Buzasi, Pastoral
Ms Guise, Cover and Admin
Ms Bowerfield, Reprographics

CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 11

Many congratulations to our outgoing Year 11 students for their incredible achievements in this summer's GCSEs - a real testament to all their hard work and resilience. We wish them all the very best in the next stage of their adventure!








DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 17 September:
SEND Information Evening
Thursday 24 September:
Year 11 Information Evening
Wednesday 30 September:
Whole school trip to Flamingo Land/Yorkshire Wildlife Park

ENRICHMENT – TERM ONE

At the end of every school day, from 2.45-3.30pm, we offer a wide range of high-quality enrichment activities to allow students to develop as individuals, stay healthy, support their academic progress and make their school experience more memorable and enjoyable.

Although attendance at enrichment activities is not compulsory, we hope that most students will access a range of activities across the week.

Breakfast Club will also run everyday from 8.10-8.40am in the canteen which can be accessed via the Canopy. All students are invited to access this provision.

To find out what is on offer during the Autumn Term 2026, please take a look below. Activities are listed by day of the week. https://millthorpeschool.co.uk/clubs-and-activities/

Please note that students have completed the sign up to Enrichment clubs during Form Time. Enrichment will start on 21st September 2026. Next week, Students and families will receive a message via Class Charts informing them of the clubs they have signed up to and instructions about attendance.

CLASS CHARTS – ATTENDANCE NOW VISIBLE

We are pleased to let parents know that Class Charts now shows your child's attendance, making it even easier for you to keep up to date with how regularly they are attending school.

As parents will be aware, we really want to see every student in school, every day. Being here consistently helps students build those important connections with their teachers and friends, supports great academic progress and ensures they can take full advantage of the outstanding enrichment opportunities available at Millthorpe.

For nearly all students, our shared ambition should be 95% attendance or above. We recognise, however, that some students face significant barriers to attending school regularly. If this applies to your child, please contact our Attendance Team so that we can work with you to explore bespoke support.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support of our attendance message. We genuinely love seeing our students walk through the gates at 8.35am or before each day, ready for another great day at Millthorpe.

IS YOUR CHILD A YOUNG CARER?

Nationally, one in five school-aged students are a Young Carer but at Millthorpe, we are only aware of a relatively small number of Young Carers.

A Young Carer is someone under 18 who provides support to a family member who is ill, disabled, has a mental health condition, a significant learning need or misuses drugs or alcohol. They do an amazing job, and deserve our help and support. So if you think that your child(ren) might be a Young Carer, please let us know.

Signs that your child may be a young carer include:

- Doing lots of household chores for adults who cannot manage it themselves.
- Providing emotional support.
- Doing the food shopping or arranging to pay bills.
- Providing personal care such as washing and dressing or helping someone to get up and out of bed.
- Collecting prescriptions and giving medication.

This can take its toll, and we want to help. Mr Baybutt is now the Young Carers Lead and you can contact him via youngcarers@millthorpe.elt.org.uk.

Please reach out to let us know and we can then work together to ensure that your child is supported both in school and at home. We have excellent links with York Carers Centre and offer a range of support in school too. All of this will be done in collaboration with you and your child. All you have to do is send an initial email or if easier, call the school office on 01904 686400.

ONLINE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Remember that you can access a range of information to support both students and their parents/carers via our online support app called Padlet,

Padlet signposts the user to a range of websites and resources, providing support and advice relating to mental health, exam stress, online safety, self care, managing emotions, young carers, family support and more.

You can visit the Padlets by scanning the QR codes here.

Millthorpe School

Padlet

scan this code for support for students

Millthorpe School

Padlet

scan this code for support for parents

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LESSONS

We have a fabulous team of experienced instrumental teachers who come into school on a weekly basis to deliver high-quality, one-to-one lessons on a wide range of instruments including:

- Guitar (including electric/acoustic/classical/bass)
- Piano
- Woodwind (flute/clarinet/saxophone)
- Brass (trumpet/cornet/trombone/euphonium/french horn)
- Strings (violin/viola/cello/double bass)
- Drum-kit
- Voice
- Organ

Lessons take place during the school day and are usually on a rotation basis to avoid pupils missing the same class lessons two weeks in a row. If you are interested in having a chat with one of the instrumental teachers to see if this an opportunity you'd like to be involved in, please complete this form: www.tinyurl.com/instrumentlessonsatmillthorpe

NUTS AND ALLERGIES

We have several students and staff in school with serious nut allergies and may have more who are currently undiagnosed and as such we are a nut-free school. Some people have reactions that are so extreme that they may experience symptoms even if a packet of nuts is opened near to them and accidental contact can cause severe symptoms.

Please can parents/carers be mindful of this when they are putting together snacks and packed lunches? We recognise that many students really enjoy nuts as a snack, but can we politely request that they are not brought into school in support of the students and staff that suffer from this sometimes extreme and potentially dangerous food allergy. We also ask that students refrain from sharing food they have brought in to limit the risk of accidental exposure to nut products.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

FANTASY FOOTBALL

For those who play FPL (Fantasy Premier League), make sure you have yourself added to the Millthorpe mini-leagues for the 2026-27 season.

The Millthorpe Masters mini-league is open to any current Millthorpe student or staff member. The code for this year is: 2nckcg

If you were previously in the Millthorpe Alumni group, you should have already been added. For those wishing to join a league competing with current and former students and staff, the code is: 0u5hft

There is also an FPL mini-league for those who attend FPL enrichment with Mr Sloan on Thursdays in PC3. The code will be shared during Enrichment.

Who will walk away with the trophy and honour of calling themselves Millthorpe champion for 2027?



TOGETHER FOR BETTER ATTENDANCE

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Every day in school. Every opportunity in life.



Thank you for supporting school attendance in York.

In 2025/26 we've made real progress together – through the hard work and commitment of children, young people, families, schools and partners across the city.

ATTENDANCE IS MEASURED IN THREE WAYS:

OVERALL ABSENCE
The total percentage of possible sessions missed.

PERSISTENT ABSENCE
Below 90% attendance –
19 days (or more) missed in a school year.

SEVERE ABSENCE
Below 50% attendance –
95 days (or more) missed in a school year.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR PROGRESS

Last year we saw:

- **Persistent Absence** in primary and secondary York schools improved to better than national and regional comparisons, and better than identified similar local areas in the country.
- **Primary Absence** improved to over 95% and returned to almost in line with levels before the pandemic.
- **Primary Severe Absence** improved to be in line with national and regional comparisons.

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Strong school attendance helps children and young people:

- ACHIEVE ACADEMICALLY
- ACCESS SUPPORT
- ENJOY OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN AND BEYOND SCHOOL

We know not everyone in our city is managing regular, secure attendance and that when children and young people miss school, they miss out.

This is particularly the case for some students with EHCPs and/or who are eligible for Free School Meals.

HOW WE SUPPORT FAMILIES

Our whole system, including schools, work with a **Support First** approach when attendance concerns arise to explore barriers with any family struggling.
Actions may include:

- Support meetings
- School based interventions and assessments
- Gaining support from relevant services
- Considering short term adaptations within the school day

WORKING TOGETHER MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

School leaders will make every endeavour to work in partnership with families.

We ask you to engage with your school team so we can take a joined up 'team' approach – we know this is what makes the difference.

On rare occasions, where parents and carers do not engage with the support being offered and all attempts to improve this have been exhausted, we have a **legal duty** to consider formal responses. This includes legal and social care led interventions, but **support will always be on offer** even after such processes begin.

Please look to work in partnership with your school team, as we expect from them too.

THANK YOU! LET'S MAKE 2026/27 A YEAR OF ATTENDANCE

Everyone working together so no one is left behind on our improvement journey.

LOOK OUT FOR:

Support sessions at **SEND Central**
SEND CENTRAL – York SEND Local Offer

Our new School Attendance Webpage – launching soon with resources for families, wider professionals and education settings

Is my child too ill for school? – NHS

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

TOGETHER, WE ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE