



WELCOME

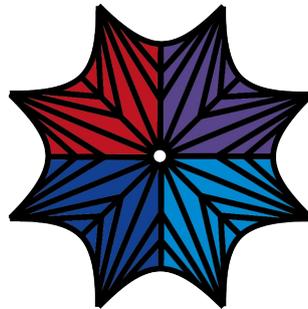
I would like to welcome you to the first South York Multi Academy Trust Newsletter.

We are a group of schools that believe close collaborative working and a shared vision enables us to best deliver the highest quality of education for our children and young people. We are committed to trying our best to do our best. We create safe, enabling environments where we expect all to do the right thing and be challenged to fulfil their potential.

In our first newsletter we will introduce you to the schools and the chair of our trustees. Each term we will share an insight into what happens in our schools and some of the roles of our school and central trust teams.

If you want to know more about the trust and the benefits it brings our pupils please do get in touch with me via your child's school.

Best wishes  
Steve Lewis  
CEO – SYMAT



**SUPPORT**  
**INSPIRE**  
**ACHIEVE**  
**FLOURISH**

## Archbishop of York Junior School

AYJS is rooted in the community of Bishopthorpe. As a junior school it teaches children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. There are currently 237 children at the school. Mr Green is the Head teacher and has worked with many families over the years. Since January, Mrs Sutton is sharing the Headship with Mr Green as he prepares for retirement. AYJS is a happy school community with strong Christian values committed to excellence for all its pupils.



AYJS joined SYMAT in November 2018. All at AYJS are delighted to have all their children back in school. Active learning is a regular feature of life at the school, whether it be demonstrating the vastness of the solar system with year 6 standing in for planets, or devising and running a Christmas craft fair. There is always a buzz of activity at AYJS.

# Dunnington

Dunnington joined SYMAT in March 2018. The school is an integral part of the village community. Mrs Hancy has been the Head teacher since 2007. The school is a welcoming and friendly school sharing its positive Christian ethos with 226 pupils and their families.



Welcoming everyone back after lockdown has been an absolute pleasure. It is great to experience the heart-warmingly, familiar 'buzz' around school once again! Children and staff have slotted straight back into the routines of the 'current' school experience, and are genuinely happy to be back together. The school have worked hard to foster a whole-school community togetherness, despite the separation of bubbles, through a range of enrichment activities including the launch of a new PSHE programme and a sponsored reading challenge, raising in excess of £2700 to spend on books for the school and class libraries. Dunnington looks forward to increasing their extra-curricular experiences, once again, as they move into the summer term.

# Escrick

Escrick CE Primary School joined SYMAT in September 2020.

164 children from Escrick and surrounding villages attend the school. The school benefits from excellent outdoor space made up of woodland, grassland and gardens. The school is looking forward to the opening of its new early years outside space.

Miss Miller is the school's Head teacher, and has been delighted to welcome pupils back into school. During lockdown the whole school community kept in touch and now everyone is back they look



forward, when circumstance allows, to joining in whole school activities like the outdoor lighting of the Christmas Tree Service. Warm smiles and a true sense of belonging permeated from the bubbles gathered near the tree. A true reflection of the shared Christian values of the school.

# Fulford School

In January 2018 Fulford School became an academy within SYMAT. Mr Lewis joined Fulford as Head teacher in September 2019 and took on the role of CEO of SYMAT in September 2020.

Fulford School has 1600 pupils including 320 in the sixth form. This year Fulford School was named Sunday Times Comprehensive School of the Decade. Fulford has a clear set of values aimed at helping all its pupils and young people to become the change that they want to see in the world. The school is heavily oversubscribed and is working with City of York Council and the Regional School Commissioner's office to expand the school so that we can continue to provide school places for children living in our catchment area.



Fulford has an excellent track records of academic success with pupils accessing apprenticeships, college and university places including Oxbridge and Russell group universities.



# Wheldrake with Thorganby



Wheldrake with Thorganby joined SYMAT in 2018 and has 209 pupils. Miss Shaw has been the Head teacher since September 2013. WwT has strong connections with its community and works to a clear set of Christian values. Diversity and inclusion are important to all at the school and WwT were delighted to have this area of their work recognised when they were celebrated as the winner of the National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN) primary provision.

Both in school and during lock down creativity is an important part of life at WwT as can be seen from the models made whilst year 3 and 4 were learning about the stone age earlier this term.



# Chair of Trustees

Ian Warman is the Chair of trustees and explains the role of the trust and his part in it.



Before explaining the role the Chair performs within the Trust Board, it's important to understand the role of the wider Board of Trustees. At a high level, the Board of Trustees are responsible for running the Trust. The Trust is the central body that all the schools are part of. The main responsibilities of the Trustees are for the following three core strategic functions:

- Setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the Trust
- Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the Trust and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the Trust and making sure its money is well spent.

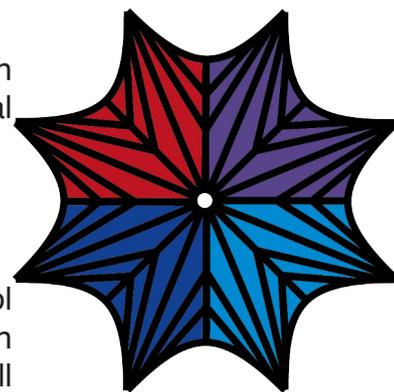
These are also the three key roles of a school governing board, but the Trustees operate at a higher level, overseeing strategy and finance across all schools in the Trust.

As the Chair, my role is to set the tone and expectations for the Board of Trustees, and to work with the Trustees, the CEO and other executive leaders in setting our strategy and ensuring we deliver upon it. The decisions the Trustees need to take aren't always easy, but the guiding principle is that we always act in the collective interest of the schools within the Trust, their students and the communities we serve. Being a Trustee, including being the Chair, is a voluntary role. It's a challenging yet rewarding position. I choose to volunteer as a Trustee as a meaningful way to give back – I was fortunate enough as a child to receive a high quality State education, which was the bedrock of the opportunities I've had in life, and I would like to help provide the same opportunity to the children and young people in our Trust.

## SYMAT Central Team

Working as part of a trust means schools access our central team that allows heads and teaching staff to concentrate on what is happening in the classroom whilst experts in their field can support the operational works that are essential to a school's success and viability.

Since the beginning of SYMAT we have secured over £3.5 million in capital improvement monies to support the improvements of our school sites, along with over £330 000 to ensure we have high quality systems in place for the smooth running of the schools. In future newsletters we will share with you the impact that our teams have on the school experience of your children



## Closing comment...

We hope you have found this brief insight into the trust interesting. We are 5 schools all working within the same values: Inclusivity, Aspiration, Responsibility and Collaboration. We know that by working together we are able to provide a better education and school experience for your children. It is our pleasure to nurture, support and challenge your children and develop ever deepening connections with our local community.