

# York High School Profile

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## York High School

Cornlands Road  
York, North Yorkshire, YO24 3WZ  
Telephone: 01904 555500  
<http://www.yorkhighschool.co.uk>

Local Authority:	York
Age range:	11-16
Number of pupils:	896
Head teacher:	David Ellis
Chair of governors:	Councillor Andrew Waller

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## What have been our successes this year?

Our school opened in September 2007 temporarily housed on the Dijon Avenue site. One third of our school was destroyed by a fire in October 2008. Our greatest achievement to date has been to successfully deal with that crisis and move successfully to our new site at Cornlands Road from January 2009. Staff, pupils and the community have pulled together to ensure that our students have not been disadvantaged by the upheaval.

In summer 2008 we received our first ever GCSE results reflected the best performance at 5A\* - C for young people in this area. Our Year 10 students have been involved in the new Diplomas in Engineering and Society Health and Development. A recent monitoring visit highlighted the excellence in delivery of the course.

We are currently supporting 12 young people who are raising funds to visit our partner school in Tanzania in July. They are working incredibly hard to achieve their goal and they will have an amazing experience including climbing Mount Neru and visiting the Serengeti.

In February we raised over £1000 during 'Red for Heart' day. The opening of our new school was marked by a term long KS3 curriculum transformation project with a performance in front of the Lord Mayor and Olympic medallist Gail Emms.

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## What are we trying to improve?

At the start of our new school we face many challenges but the areas we are currently working to improve are

- GCSE results overall but particularly in English and PE and we are very optimistic about progress in the summer of 2009
- The involvement of our students in the development of our school, particularly through our School Council (MYHS)
- Our curriculum to better meet the needs of our pupils, especially at key stage 3 where we will be introducing a new curriculum from September 2009.
- The quality of teaching and learning so that all of our lessons are at least good
- Links with our community so that parents and carers feel part of our new school and so that we can make a difference for everyone in our community, not just our own pupils.
- The behaviour of some of our pupils through a new behaviour policy which applies sanctions fairly but also rewards the majority of our pupils who do the right thing.
- The attendance of some of our pupils who miss too much of their learning.
- Our facilities. Even though we have a new school we still want to provide a better environment for our young people particularly for sport and social activities.
- The quality and uptake of school meals

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## How have our results changed over time?

We will be able to complete this section effectively after our second set of results in the summer of 2009.

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## **How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?**

The Inclusion Faculty has a large team of enthusiastic and committed staff aiming to ensure all pupils at York High School fulfil their potential and fully participate in the school curriculum and community. This team is focussed on young people who have a wide range of learning needs.

In addition we also seek to get the best from our most able pupils. One of our teachers in an AST for Gifted and Talented work and we are part of the very successful Independent State School Partnership which has involved our most talented pupils in projects with other young people across the city.

In curriculum time pupils are set on their ability in that subject for most lessons allowing teachers to plan and teach their lessons at a level which is most appropriate for that class.

We work closely with our partner primary schools to ensure that we have the best available information about pupils joining York High so that we can best meet their needs from day one in our school. We are particularly pleased that our new building is fully accessible for all of pupils and staff who are wheelchair users.

We are committed to personalising our curriculum to engage our pupils and to allow them to succeed.

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## **How do we make sure all pupils attend their lessons and behave well?**

York High School is an inclusive comprehensive school and this means that we have a wide range of pupils in terms of abilities, backgrounds and needs. For all of our pupils we have high expectations in terms of their achievement, progress and behaviour. We also recognise that they do not always meet up to our expectations. To that end we have a system of rewards and sanctions designed to encourage young people to do their best and to provide consequences when they don't.

We have a strong pastoral team supported by Year Leaders, Behaviour Managers and attendance staff who all work closely with pupils and their families to support them in achieving their very best. When there are longer term behavioural issues parents are always informed and if necessary we use sanctions of detentions, seclusion and if necessary exclusion. All absence is followed on a daily basis using a text system which informs parents of their child's absence and allows a response.

As part of our provision we also have a Behaviour Support Unit where about 8 -10 young people have longer term placements in an environment, with specialist staff, designed to encourage modification in their attitudes to school.

## **What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?**

The main way we listen to our pupils is through our School Council which we call MYHS. As we have just moved to our new site MYHS have been involved in choosing furniture for social and dining spaces and they have been closely involved in the improvement in quality and take up of our school meals. as a result of these discussions we have purchased lots of picnic tables for the outdoor area and are continuing to look at the purchase of additional seating and games equipment.

The design of the toilets in the new school was the result of close consultation with pupils and the appointment of new staff always involves the use of a pupil panel interview.

Our behaviour policy was created after consultation with all stakeholders including pupils who particularly wanted to see more rewarding for good behaviour and achievement. As a result a new 'stamps' system was introduced with thresholds for different prizes. We are in the first year of this programme and rewarding for effort and attendance is now a regular feature of our work.

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## **How are we working with parents and the community?**

York High School is a Sports College at the Heart of the Community. This reflects our vision to be a school where the whole community feel welcome and that the buildings and site are available to the whole community throughout the year. We are fortunate to have a fantastic Sports Centre with climbing wall, all weather pitch, dance studio, fitness suite and sports hall. We believe that by engaging our community with our school we can raise the aspirations of the whole community. A recent family learning day was attended by over 150 pupils and parents.

Parents receive termly reports on their child's progress and as well as the annual parents evening they are encouraged to contact the school with any concerns. we have a parent's forum which meets termly to discuss the progress of the school and at all parent's evening we ask for the completion of a survey which provides valuable feedback on our work. In all surveys over 90% of parents indicate they are happy or very happy with their child's education at York High School.

We have a comprehensive and developing website as well as half termly newsletters which are posted to home addresses so that we can ensure good communication.

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## **What activities and options are available to pupils?**

Details of extra curricular activities are accessible from our school website [www.yorkhighschool.co.uk](http://www.yorkhighschool.co.uk).

We have a developing programme of overseas visits which in 2008/9 include

- Year 7 residential visit to North Yorks Moors Centre for 3 days for all pupils.
- Year 8 visit to Disneyland Paris
- Year 9 ski trip to Italy
- Year 10 visit to a school in Holland with return visit from the school.
- Hosting of pupils from Keane High School, USA
- Year 10/11 visit for 12 pupils to our partner school in Korogwe, Tanzania.
- Year 11 visit to the First World War battlefields.

Our KS4 curriculum offers the usual range of GCSE subjects including separate sciences for the most able. We offer German, French and Spanish at GCSE but the uptake is less than 20% of pupils. We are one of the leading schools in York for the development of the new diploma courses. We currently host Engineering and Society Health and Development at level 2. From September our pupils will also be involved in other diploma courses across the city.

For the less academic we have a work based learning programme at KS4 for about 15% of our cohort which involves links with Askham Bryan and York College and a one day work placement.

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## **How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well-supported?**

We have a wide range of adults who can support young people during their time at the school. Each pupil has a form tutor and Year Leader who are the key colleagues in their pastoral care. Beyond that we have Key Stage Leaders and a Deputy Head with overall responsibility for care and guidance. This core team will use Education Social Workers, Counsellors and other health professional to support them as required. We have excellent relationships with the local authority who provide specialist support for a whole range of pupil needs.

We encourage young people to come with their concerns and we listen carefully to what pupils say. We have a strong and experienced Child Protection Team and all staff and other adults who come in to contact with our students are fully vetted.

Uptake of school meals is increasing, encouraged by our new cafe and canteen and with support from the School Food Trust. Since moving to our new site we have managed to keep all pupils on site at lunchtime. About 13% of our pupils qualify for free school meals and so lunchtime eating is very important to us.

All pupils have 2 hours of core PE, we have installed CCTV throughout the school and new toilet blocks have been designed with pupils to reduce bullying.

## What do our pupils do after year 11?

Our first Year 11 left York High in 2008. Their destinations are explained below.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Education</b>	175	72.0%	85	69.7%	90	74.4%
College	171		83		88	
6th Form	4		2		2	
Other	0		0		0	
<b>Employment with Training</b>	24	9.8%	14	11.5%	10	8.3%
Advanced MA	2		2		0	
Foundation MA	6		2		4	
Other	1		1		0	
NVQ2	5		5		0	
Locally Recognised	10		4		6	
<b>Employment without training</b>	2	0.9%	1	0.8%	1	0.8%
<b>Part-Time Employment</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Part-Time Education</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Work Based Learning</b>	7	2.8%	4	3.3%	3	2.5%

<b>Voluntary Work</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>NEET</b>	29	12.0%	14	11.5%	15	12.4%
Available to the Labour Market	26		13		13	
Not Available to the Labour Market	3		1		2	
<b>No Response</b>	2	0.9%	1	0.8%	1	0.8%
<b>Refused to Participate</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Moved Away</b>	4	1.6%	3	2.4%	1	0.8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

These figures can only be a snapshot and are correct as of January 2009.

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## What have we done in response to Ofsted?

We are awaiting our first Ofsted Inspection.

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## More Information

If you would like more information about school policies, including our policies on special educational needs and disability, admissions, finance, school food and our complaints procedure, please contact us:

By telephone 01904 555500

Our website <http://www.yorkhighschool.co.uk>