



2023-24 Prospectus



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York High School is a happy and caring school where your child will receive a top-quality education in an encouraging and supportive environment.

A warm welcome



I look forward to meeting you all and welcoming you to York High.

Best wishes,

Rod Sims
Headteacher

Over the last five years, we have been through a period of rapid improvement. Our strong emphasis on Behaviour for Learning and high-quality teaching have taken the school from an Ofsted's grading of Inadequate to Good in all areas.

We seek to maximise the potential of all our students through character development, life skills and GCSE outcomes.

From the first contact in primary schools to long after GCSE exams, we want our students to show pride in our core values of **Resilience**, **Aspiration** and **Success**.

After working in the school for over 15 years and being a student many years ago at Westfield Primary School, I am immensely proud to be the Headteacher at York High School.

- Proud of the excellent opportunities we offer to our students through trips and clubs.
- Proud of the students who inspire and make me laugh every day.
- Proud of all the staff who go the extra mile for our students.
- Proud of the parents who are committed to the school and their child's education.
- Proud of the YHS community.



OUR CORE VALUES

Our core values are intended to equip our young people with the skills and understanding needed to thrive in the modern world. They are intrinsic to every aspect of life at York High School.

RESILIENCE

- Independence
- Overcome setbacks
- Welcome feedback
- Respect help from others
- Determination

ASPIRATION

- Aim high
- Personal pride
- Enquiring minds
- Self aware
- Positive role models

SUCCESS

- Confidence
- Communicate well
- Read critically
- Be responsive
- Be positive



PART OF THE SOUTH BANK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

York High School part of the South Bank Multi Academy Trust along with our fellow trust schools Millthorpe, Scarcroft, Woodthorpe, Carr Junior and Knavesmire. Our school is anchored strongly in our community and our aim is to make a real difference to the lives of the young people that we work with. Our school is full of hard working, caring, confident and happy students who live out our values of resilience, aspiration and success every day, in every lesson.

Transforming lives through education

York High School students achieve their personal best – supported and encouraged by our expert teams.

Transforming lives

We believe that education has the power to transform lives and at York High School, we work hard to make sure that every student achieves successful GCSE outcomes, enabling them to have aspirational goals for the future, and ensuring students can follow their chosen pathway into further education or training. We build a culture of success through our core values of **Resilience, Aspiration and Success**, and through celebrating the achievements of our students from Year 7 to Year 11. We are proud to be a truly comprehensive school, serving our community and working with our

students and families to maximise the potential of each and every individual. Our young people achieve their personal best because they are encouraged to work hard and the teaching and support staff strive to meet the needs of every individual student. This could be through the work of our Aspire programme for our most able and talented students, or the specialist skills of our staff to support a young person with special educational needs. Our measure of success is the progress a young person makes from the point they join us in their secondary career.

A smooth transition

At York High School we understand that academic success is only possible when young people feel valued, supported, happy and cared for. Our Pastoral and Inclusion teams are recognised as outstanding and will always go the extra mile for our students. We are proud of our school community which is made up from a wide range of students with a vast array of needs. We aim to provide the best support we can for our young people whatever their race, gender or ability and we welcome young people with special needs whether that be a learning need or a physical disability. **Moving on up** Our first step is ensuring a smooth transition from

primary school. For that reason, we work closely with the primary schools in the West of York Partnership. Colleagues at all levels across the schools share information and good practice and the key staff at York High School already know the students well by the time they join us in September. **Keeping in touch** The second step is ensuring that we have strong relationships with parents. York High School staff will contact home regularly and parents are always encouraged to discuss any concerns with us. As well as an individual Form Tutor and Head of House there are other key staff who can offer learning and pastoral support to students and their families should the need arise.

Empowering our students to succeed

Finally, we recognise that adolescence is a time when almost every young person will face some challenges. The relationships in our school are based on respect and understanding. Young people are allowed to make mistakes but we encourage them to learn from these experiences and to face up to the consequences. To see young people overcome adversity and make a success of their school career is the most rewarding part of the work we do. To view our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy, Disability Equality Scheme Policy and other key information about our school, please visit www.yorkhighschool.co.uk



Our school day

The pattern of the school day is as follows:

08:30	School opens to students
08:40 – 09:15	Registration Tutor activities and reading
09:15 – 10:15	Lesson 1
10:15 – 11:15	Lesson 2
11:15 – 11:35	Break
11:35 – 12:35	Lesson 3
12:35 – 13:10	Lunch
13:10 – 14:10	Lesson 4
14:10 – 15:10	Lesson 5
15:10	The school day ends

Excellence as standard

The combination of our extensive curriculum and outstanding facilities ensure students have everything they need to realise their true potential.

A robust and exciting curriculum

The curriculum at York High School encompasses our core values of **Resilience**, **Aspiration** and **Success**. Our subject teams have designed their curricular to include all aspects of the national curriculum which aim to stimulate a passion for learning

within our students as they develop the necessary skills to be successful 21st century citizens.

Our teachers are passionate subject experts who teach the students in their classes using current and engaging strategies, ensuring that students are extended and supported in equal measures.

For students who are gifted and talented there

are additional opportunities both within and beyond the curriculum. This includes the chance to be part of a city-wide Independent State Schools Partnership (ISSP) gifted and talented programme.

For students with special needs there is additional support through specialist teaching and the support of Teaching Assistants.

We enrich classroom learning for all through a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities ranging from STEM club to a number of performing arts and sports groups and visits such as the Year 7 outdoor education residential. Students are

encouraged to participate in this important aspect of school life via the Year 7 RAS Award.

In Years 10 and 11, in addition to the traditional GCSE subjects, we also offer qualifications in Child Development, Health and Social Care, Sport, iMedia and for our most able students there is the option of studying Triple Science.

Outstanding facilities

York High School is fortunate to have some of the best facilities available to schools. Not only do we have excellent teaching and learning spaces, but we are lucky to have a sports provision that includes a climbing wall, large sports hall, dance studio, outdoor tennis

and netball courts, fitness suite and all-weather pitch.

We are proud of our school building, which includes classrooms with interactive technology, dedicated ICT teaching spaces, as well as a Performing Arts area with Music Technology rooms, a Drama Studio and a Recording Studio.

In addition, our stunning central atrium includes a Learning Resource Centre and further ICT workstations for use across the curriculum. There are seven Science Laboratories and a Technology department

equipped with state-of-the-art Engineering equipment as well as more traditional workshops and art rooms.

Our building is characterised by wide open spaces which provide social areas for students as well as two modern eating places. Visitors often express how good our school building looks and how it creates an inspiring atmosphere where young people are encouraged to take responsibility, but also feel valued by the quality of the provision available to them.



Flying high for the future

As well as our core learning offer, we provide students with incredible opportunities outside the classroom.

Resilience, Aspiration, Success

As well as providing good teaching we believe that it is our duty to inspire our students to achieve things that they never thought were possible. We are constantly seeking opportunities to provide that extra motivation and confidence.

Through our **RAS Award**, we have an excellent foundation for developing our young people and inspiring them to achieve new levels in a huge range of opportunities. Our

excellent sports facilities are one avenue for students to experience success and develop leadership and teamwork skills.

We have cultivated links with York City FC for informal sports, as well as York Knights to motivate students, providing opportunities outside of the classroom. By focusing on enjoyment and widening participation, we aim to promote healthy lifestyle choices and an increase in confidence in our young people.

Inspiration goes beyond sport. In the last few years, we have introduced our RAS Award, rewarding students for participating in extra-curricular activities within school. We have built strong links with businesses such as Boxxe with our young people presenting pitches, as well as with local universities to inspire aspiration.

Students have performed on the stage at York Theatre Royal as part of the TakeOver Festival, and participated in the Westfield Green Corridor Project with local primary schools.

The increasing numbers of young people who are participating in our extra opportunities is a sign of the growing confidence within

our school community, and we will continue to look for more opportunities including visits to London, France and the Battlefields of Europe.

Looking to the future

An important part of student success is the transition post-16, when our students leave York High School. We have excellent relationships with York College, Askham Bryan College, local sixth forms and apprenticeship providers so that we can ensure the next step is the right one for each student in Year 11. Our Careers Advisor meets with each student to offer information, advice and guidance that is tailor made to their aspirations.

Beyond the classroom, we are proud that our young people have become international sports players, have graduated and become doctors, lawyers or have simply achieved their own personal goals and are making a contribution to a range of employers, clients and the wider community.

We are proud of all of our students and it is a pleasure to hear from parents and former students who have graduated from university and are on track to be very successful in their chosen professions. It is equally fulfilling to see those who are making a substantial contribution in their own community.

■ Check out our Alumni at www.yorkhighschool.co.uk/alumni



Realise your potential at York High

How to apply

York High School has a designated catchment area defined by the local authority. Students outside of the catchment area and when the school is over-subscribed are allocated places according to the local authority criteria.

Students and parents will receive an application pack from the City of York Council for a place at a secondary school in the Autumn Term. Further information is available from the Education Access Team at the City of York Council.

Applications for a secondary school place for the 2024-25 academic years, should be made by **31 October 2023**.

In addition to the formal Open Evening and other events, parents are always welcome to make an appointment to visit us during the school day and to meet the Headteacher and other key members of staff.

■ To view the Admissions Policy and all our policies please visit our website: www.yorkhighschool.co.uk

From primary to secondary...

To help all Year 6 students joining York High School, we've created a dedicated transition section on the school website at www.yorkhighschool.co.uk. Packed with essential knowledge for both students and their parents/carers, there's a host of practical information, support and answers to frequently asked questions as students move up to secondary school.

