



Sherburn High School

Headteacher: Mr Matt Gill

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all as we begin a new school year. I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer and had the opportunity to spend special time with family and friends. We are thrilled to welcome all our students back to Sherburn High School for what promises to be an engaging and productive term. I would also like to give a special mention to our new Year 7 cohort, who have settled in amazingly well this week. I've been hugely impressed by their positive attitude and resilience during what is always an exhausting first week. As I told them in their welcome assembly, they should wear their uniform with pride and aim high with ambition and respect for our community. They have made a brilliant start, you should be very proud of them.

Over the summer, we celebrated a fantastic set of A-Level and GCSE results. These achievements reflect substantial growth across both academic and vocational pathways, serving as a true testament to the dedication of our students and staff:

- **A-Level Highlights:** Over a quarter of all grades were awarded at A*-A (significantly up from last year). 58% of entries achieved A*-B grades (up from 38% in 2025), and 80% secured A*-C grades (exceeding the 64% recorded in 2025).
- **GCSE Highlights:** Our key measures, including Basics 4+, 5+, and 7+, remain exceptionally strong, outperforming national benchmarks while significantly narrowing the achievement gap for disadvantaged students. These outcomes place us in the top 20% of schools nationally.

Beyond these fantastic metrics, we know that success looks different for every individual. As I shared with many of our students on results day, while these grades open exciting doors to their next steps, they do not define who they are as people. What mattered most was seeing so many proud, smiling faces as they opened those envelopes. Our entire staff body could not be prouder of every single one of them for what they have achieved. We look forward to working just as hard to support our new Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts to achieve their full potential next summer.

Key Priorities for School Improvement: To build on this momentum, our focus for the term ahead centres on three core pillars: Quality First Teaching, Attendance and High Expectations and support for all. Every day counts. Consistent attendance is the single most significant factor in student success and future opportunities. Every missed day creates a learning gap that is difficult to bridge, which is why our goal for every student is to maintain over 95% attendance this term. Developing punctuality is also an essential life skill that prepares students for the future. If you face any attendance challenges, please contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year immediately so we can support you.

Staffing Updates I am delighted to welcome several outstanding new appointments to our growing team and highlight key internal updates:

- Maths: Miss Farrar
- English: Miss Smith and Miss Lomax
- French: Mr Heath
- ICT/Business: Mr Williams
- PE: Mr Scurry (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)
- Head of Year 9: Mrs Clark joins Mr Darnbrough in job-sharing this role. For any Year 9 Head of Year communications, please use: shs.hoy09@shs.starmat.uk.



Mobile Phone Policy (Statutory Guidance) The Department for Education has issued statutory guidance requiring all schools to be mobile phone-free environments during the school day. In compliance with these regulations:

- **No Access:** Mobile phones and smart devices must not be used or accessed at any point during the school day (including lessons, transitions, breaks, and lunchtimes).
- **Prohibited Uses:** Devices cannot be used as calculators, for research, checking timetables, or taking photos/videos.
- **Requirement:** Devices must be switched off and kept in bags from the moment students enter the school site until they leave.

You can view the full Yorkshire Learning Trust policy on our website [here](#).

Key Dates for Your Diary - Half Term 1

Date	Event
Wednesday 23rd September	Yr 11 Supporting Success Evening 6pm-7pm *A very important event for all Year 11 students and parents to attend.
Thursday 1st October	Sherburn High School Open Evening for Yr5 and 6 students 5pm-8pm *School closes for all students at 1pm.
Friday 9th October	Yr 7 Reports are Issued.
Thursday 15th October	Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 19th October	Yr 11 PPE 2's begin
Tuesday 20th October	Yr 7 Meet the Tutor Evening [letters with timings to be sent soon]
Thursday 22nd October	Yr 8 Reports are Issued.
Friday 23rd October	School is closed Yorkshire Learning Trust Training Day
Half Term	

Free School Meals: To apply for **Free School Meals (FSM)** in North Yorkshire, you must submit an application through the **North Yorkshire Council** portal. Even though eligibility has expanded to include all households on Universal Credit, **families must still proactively apply** to receive the meals.

- **Where to apply:** Use the official [North Yorkshire Council Synergy Portal](#) to log in or create an account.
- **Instant decision:** The digital application features a simple step-by-step process that provides an **instant decision** on whether your child qualifies.
- **Automatic notification:** If approved, your application is automatically submitted, and the council will directly notify your child's school. [\[1\]](#)
- **Required details:** You will need your **National Insurance Number** (or National Asylum Support Service number) and a copy of your **Universal Credit statement** or benefit proof.

We have enjoyed a wonderful, focused start to the term. A close partnership between home and school forms the foundation of student success, and we look forward to working alongside you. I encourage you to follow our social media pages to see these success stories and daily updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/SherburnHigh>
<https://www.instagram.com/sherburnhigh/>

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and continued support of Team Sherburn.

Have a great weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Gill', written in a cursive style.

Matt Gill
Headteacher
Sherburn High School