

# CEO SYMAT, Governors & School Welcome Letters Feb 2022



South York  
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



Archbishop of York's Church of  
England Junior School

## Dear Candidate,

Thank you for showing an interest in becoming the Executive Head Teacher of Bishopthorpe Infant School and Archbishop of York's CE Junior School.

This really is a unique opportunity to develop an already strong partnership by providing skilled leadership leading to ever closer working and consistency across the schools.

Archbishop of York's Junior School (AYJS) joined South York Multi Academy Trust (SYMAT) in 2018. It is a 2 form entry junior school with strong links to its community. The distinctive Christian faith of the school is exceptionally important to governors, staff and pupils. It's a delightful place to work and be educated in.

Bishopthorpe Infant School is set to join SYMAT on 1 March 2022. The PAN has recently been reduced to 50 following many years as a 2 form entry school. This reflects the demographic changes in the village and will work its way through to AYJS. The ethos of the school is clear from the first time you enter the building. There is a warm caring environment that allows children to thrive. Bishopthorpe Infant School is a secular school whose vision and ethos is closely aligned to that of AYJS.

Both schools are held in high regard by their community. The overwhelming majority of infant children transition to AYJS at year 3.

SYMAT is a small trust consisting of Archbishops of York's CE Junior School, Bishopthorpe Infant School, Dunnington CE Primary School, Escrick CE Primary School, Fulford School and Wheldrake with Thorganby CE School. We work in collaboration for the benefit of all our children and young people, staff and families. All our schools are in close proximity to each other and individual primary catchment areas are all shared by Fulford School. We provide a 3-19 pathway for our children through our family of schools.

SYMAT exists to provide schools that serve their community, offering parents and carers high quality local schools for their children. We share a clear set of values, curriculum principals and behaviours. We believe head teachers are best placed to lead their schools and understand their communities. The role of the trust is to enable each head teacher within our trust to be as impactful as possible. We support and challenge each other to provide outstanding provision for all our children and young people.

We are looking for a colleague with enthusiasm, skill and a commitment to each child's well-being to join our family of schools. You will not only lead 2 fantastic schools but will also have a strong voice in the future direction of our growing trust.

We look forward to receiving your application.

**Steve Lewis**  
**CEO – South York Multi Academy Trust**



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Archbishop of York's Church of  
England Junior School

## Dear Candidate,

We are delighted that you have shown an interest in our schools.

Within the recruitment pack you will be able to read about what is fantastic about our schools and what are children would like to see from their new head teacher.

Each school has a proud and distinctive history. Together we have educated many generations of Bishopthorpe's children. We take our responsibilities seriously, our schools have made a positive difference to thousands of children, their families and our communities. We are value driven schools, where the nurturing of each and every child is central to all we do.

We are ready for the next phase in our history. Working within South York Multi Academy Trust we know the benefits of collaboration and close partnership working. Within the village we want our two schools to move towards a clear harmonisation of curriculum and educational approach. Children may be learning in different buildings but we want all of them to have a seamless primary experience that builds year on year. Likewise, we want to bring staff together to learn and share the best practice across primary phases.

It's an exciting opportunity and we need a great leader to make sure it happens.

If you can, please come and see our schools. You will be welcomed by our impressive children and staff body. They are looking forward to meeting the person who will lead them into an exciting new future.

## Chair of Bishopthorpe Infant School

## Chair of Archbishop of York's Junior School



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## Welcome From Bishopthorpe Infant School

Bishopthorpe Infant School is a happy and thriving school in the village of Bishopthorpe, just outside the beautiful and historic city of York. We are committed to providing high quality early learning experiences for all our pupils to give them the best education possible. We value the importance of first-hand experience, learning through play, creating a stimulating learning environment and planning with a progression of skills in mind. Our curriculum aims to build on knowledge and skills throughout each year group to embed and secure learning in each subject of the national curriculum.

The success of our school relies upon the positive partnerships between home and school, and we are grateful for the active interest our parents show in school life. We offer a school where staff are very committed to delivering the best education possible for all of the pupils in our care. Working together we ensure that children have the opportunity to build firm foundations which will equip them for their next steps.

We have a strong partnership with Archbishop of York's Junior School with whom we have worked to ensure our curriculum progression is seamless as pupils transition into Year 3.

**Our pupils are very excited about meeting their new head teacher and in their words would like someone who is 'nice, kind, funny and smiley. Someone who does fun things, organises nice events and makes them feel happy.'**

This is a school of which the staff, pupils, parents and governors are very proud!

**Please come and see our lovely school and if you like what you see we hope you will apply to be our next head teacher.**





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## Welcome from Archbishop of York's CE Junior School



### Our Vision

Through AYJS PRIDE, we nurture each individual to flourish, achieve and live out Christian values.

***Positive Respectful Inclusive Determined Engaged***

*Colossians 3 v23 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart'*

Archbishop of York's C.E. Junior School nurtures all children and adults to become lifelong learners: building a thirst for knowledge, encouraging excellence and fostering creativity, through a varied and exciting curriculum. The keystone to the life of our school is living out our Christian values; showing respect to all and serving others in our desire to make a positive difference in our world.

Christian values are central to all we do in our school. They underpin our ethos and are lived out in our relationships with one another, in how we behave within our school community and to the wider community. Children can articulate these values and demonstrate their understanding of being part of a Church School by the way they relate to one another. Our four key school rules include 'Treat others as you would like to be treated' (*'In everything, treat others as you would want them to treat you,' Matthew 7v12*). The school actively nurtures close links with the local Churches, Diocese and Archbishop's Palace through Christian Worship and mission, visits and hosting outreach Church events. Leadership at all levels places key importance on ensuring all members of the school community are valued and respected and that strategic decisions are influenced by our desire to deliver our vision statement.

When you walk through the doors of our unique school, it is the heart of the place that you feel as you are welcomed in. It permeates every person, every corner of the space and extends out into the community because this school is the heart of the village too. So many lives are, and have been, enriched by this incredible space where care, faith and encouragement wraps around every individual, every single day - in ways that continually seek to inspire in order to bring out the best in everyone connected to it.

Being the Headteacher of AYJS is a privilege indeed - and needs a very special person at the helm: someone whose eyes always notice the ever-present nurture given by all to develop every individual child, alongside the rich myriad of ways learning is intertwined at every possible opportunity; someone who always makes time to listen to and value each person; someone whose own energy and focus is always on the children every day and who is always ready to show this in words and actions; someone equipped with a wisdom to appreciate, understand and guide the next stage of the school's journey, so that it is positive, energising and inclusive; and someone whose own heart and faith are big enough to appreciate that what lies at the heart of AYJS is something far too special to lose.



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## Summary of school

Archbishop of York's CE Junior School is special because it promotes an ethos of inclusive practice where each child is valued as unique and individual: nurtured, cared for and recognised for who they are. The dedicated, hardworking, committed staff team is focused on driving excellent academic standards for all, alongside fostering a positive mindset. All staff are valued and appreciated for their individual talents as well as for what they bring to the team and importance is placed on contributions, no matter how small.

Promoting the 5 Ways to Wellbeing: *Connect; Take notice; Be Active; Learn something new; Give* is a core aspect of our daily life in school for all adults and children. The ethos within school demonstrates an atmosphere of respect, collaboration and understanding.

The school was built in the mid sixties and sits on a large site with extensive playing fields to the rear where children can play and take part in sports. We also have a pond area, a gardening area and a newly developing forest area. In addition, we have an outdoor reflection area, an outdoor reading area, separate library (The Burrow) and two hard core playgrounds. The classrooms are spacious and well resourced. Currently we have 241 pupils on roll split between 8 classes, two in each KS2 year group.

Our broad, balanced and creative curriculum is unique and exciting, focused on embedding and building on knowledge and skills. It is based on six overarching themes: The elements (Science); Four Corners of the World (Culture); Influential people (People); In the past (History); Landscapes (Geography); That's Entertainment (Art). A well structured Personal, Health and Social Education is embedded within this curriculum. RE is regarded as a core subject and follows the statutory SACRE 2021 -2026 scheme of work.

At AYJS, we take PRIDE in fostering life-long learners who strive for academic excellence. The results from the 2018-19 SATs assessments saw AYJS as one of the highest performing schools both with the SYMAT and LA for both Progress and Attainment. Indeed, the average scaled score in Maths for an AYJS child was 5.8 points higher than an average Year 6 child. At AYJS, reading is a passion and this is reflected in the results: 86% of the cohort achieved the Expected Standard and 46% the Higher Standard. For children to flourish in their lives, they need solid foundations for their learning. In 2019, 74% of children began their secondary education at the Expected Standard in RWM, and 15% at the Higher Standard - both higher than the National Average.

We have an extensive extra curricular programme which promotes healthy and active lifestyles offering a wide variety of sports and active clubs led by school pupils, school staff and outside providers. Alongside this we have a range of clubs to nurture a love of arts, music, singing, writing, computing. We have a talented group of peripatetic music teachers who run lessons for woodwind, brass, guitar, violin, drums, keyboard. Our musicians and choir perform at concerts and services throughout the year.

AYJS plays an active part in life in Bishopthorpe village fostering links with the local churches, Garden nursery, local shops and library. The Friends of Bishopthorpe School (FBJS) are very active supporting the school by organising a range of social and fundraising events. The Governing Body is drawn from committed members of the local community.

## **AYJS is a place ...**

- where all are respected and empowered.
- which promotes creativity, independence, responsibility, ambitious achievement
- which encourages all to be the best they can be.
- which nurtures a positive mindset and a healthy lifestyle
- which grows leaders
- where Christian values are right at the heart of everything

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*In the words of Tony Bower  
YOYO (York Schools and Youth Trust)*

## AYJS – WOVEN

*In words  
And in deeds  
In principle  
And in practice  
In ethos  
And in inclusiveness  
In inspiration  
And in perspiration  
In the big picture  
And in the tiny details  
In team  
And in individual  
In worship  
And in work  
In authenticity  
And in empathy  
In vision  
And in leadership  
In culture  
And in community*

## The Voice of AYJS pupils

‘Why are we proud to come to AYJS?’  
because ....

- Kindness is spread and positivity runs throughout school
- It is inclusive
- We are given opportunities to be independent, to take on responsibility and to have leadership roles
- Sportsmanship is promoted and celebrated
- We learn to achieve
- We are given lots of learning opportunities

Highlights of our school...

- Sharing our faith through focus on cross, candle, bible
- Active lifestyles and PE lessons
- Developing great friendships
- Learning languages
- Working together in houses
- Learning knowledge and skills from supportive teachers
- Engaging in many extra clubs
- Enjoying music and arts opportunities
- Reading and the Burrow ( library)
- Helping others by supporting charities, our shoebox appeal, the work of our eco-committee

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## The New Headteacher

AYJS School Council wants a headteacher who is helpful and fair; likes children (as well as dogs) or likes dogs (as well as children)!!

They must have good values in and out of school.

They must be someone who is smart, with the ability to put their own ideas over yet will value the opinions of others.

They must allow people to make decisions and can open opportunities for both staff and children.

We need:

Someone who is kind and caring yet has an understanding of consequences and will work with our four core school rules;

Someone who connects with children when they walk into the classroom;

Someone who leads an active, healthy lifestyle;

Someone who is encouraging;

Someone who can make people smile and be happy;

Someone who understands and respects Christian values.

'This school is inclusive for teachers and children' *Ethan*

'You will love to be the headteacher of this school because of the great behaviour of the children' *Wilson*

'This school has been a great school for years. It is a very positive, kind place. We respect everyone whatever they are like.' *Grace*

'AYJS is a great school because we all follow the school rules' *Lucille*

You would like to work here because it is full of respectful children and positivity all round' *Darcey*

'At AYJS we take PRIDE in everything we do and respect everyone no matter what' *Lily*

'This is a great place to be because everyone is kind' *Annabel*

'Our school is full of bright students and people who respect everyone and are proud of what they achieve' *Aris*



The South York Multi-Academy Trust.

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