

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Dear Families,

I am pleased to be writing to you for the first time as the Headteacher of John Spence.

I would like to formally introduce myself and welcome you and the students back to school after the summer holidays. I hope you have all had a lovely break and are looking forward to the new school year starting.

I am very excited to be joining the team here at John Spence after working in London as the Principal of a large all-through school. It is a privilege to be back living and working in the place where I grew up.

I believe deeply that every child deserves an excellent education, and that schools should be places where students feel happy, safe, and inspired to succeed. In the coming months, I am looking forward to working in close partnership with all of you - and the wider community - to build on the strengths of John Spence and to deliver this for our pupils.

Last week, Mr Brierley sent you a letter with some key reminders and information for the start of term. You can read the letter in full [here](#) but the key things to remember are:

- All pupils return to school tomorrow, Wednesday 2nd September.
- Year 7: Please arrive at reception for **8.30am**, ready for registration at 8.35am.
- Years 8 –11: Please arrive at reception for **11.00am** and go to break. After break, students will make their way to their form classes for 11.15am.
- Pupils should arrive with their correct uniform and equipment, including a school bag.

I look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school in the morning. Thank you for your support in ensuring they have a positive start to the new year.

Yours faithfully



Katie Marshall
Headteacher
John Spence Community High School