

El Mayhew
Corporate Director,
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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Contact: El Mayhew

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Dear Headteacher,

Welcome Back and Best Wishes for the New Academic Year

As we begin a new academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you, your staff, governors, and trustees, and all those who work so hard to support children and young people across North Yorkshire.

I hope that the summer break has provided some opportunity for rest and renewal. As schools reopen their doors, I know that you and your teams will once again be focused on creating safe, inclusive and ambitious learning environments that give children and young people the very best opportunities to learn, thrive and succeed.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for your continued leadership, commitment, and resilience. The challenges facing education remain significant, but so too is the dedication shown every day by school leaders and staff. Your work makes a profound difference to the lives of children, young people and families across North Yorkshire, and it is greatly valued.

This year presents fresh opportunities to build on the successes of the last. Together, we will continue to focus on delivering the education, SEND and social care reforms, improving outcomes for all children and young people, strengthening inclusion, supporting attendance, ensuring robust safeguarding arrangements, and promoting the wellbeing of pupils and the workforce. Effective partnership working remains one of our greatest strengths, and we are committed to working alongside you to address emerging challenges and seize opportunities for improvement.

The Children and Young People's Service remains committed to supporting schools and settings through a wide range of services, networks, and professional development opportunities. We will continue to listen to your feedback and work collaboratively with you to ensure that the support we offer reflects the needs of school leaders, staff, and communities. I have attached a [document](#) of the Children and Young People's Service leadership team and their remits so that you know who the key leads are that you can reach out to. I also wanted to let you know that Louise Wilson, the current Head of Educational Standards, has been appointed as the interim Assistant Director Education and Inclusion, whilst Amanda Fielding is away from work. Louise can be contacted on 01609 536211 or by email – Louise.wilson@northyorks.gov.uk

Alongside this welcome message, you will receive a series of separate communications via the Redbag ([Red Bag | CYPInfo](#)) from across the Children and Young People's Service. These updates are intended to provide key information, highlight important developments, and ensure that you are aware of the support available to your school during the year ahead.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to our Welcome to North Yorkshire induction programme for newly appointed headteachers and those who are new to working in North Yorkshire. The programme provides an opportunity to build local networks, gain insight into council services and priorities, and access practical support to help you navigate your new role within our education community. We also encourage all new headteachers to join our CYPs Welcome Webinar on 24 September 2026, where senior leaders from across the service will provide an overview of key priorities, introduce support teams, and answer questions to help ensure a positive start to the academic year. The webinar will take place from 09:15 – 12:00 – please use the following link to book: <https://www.nyes.info/Event/306043>

As we welcome children and young people back into our schools, let us remain ambitious for every learner, particularly those who face the greatest barriers.

Together, we can continue to ensure that every child and young person in North Yorkshire has the opportunity to thrive, succeed and fulfil their potential.

I wish you, your staff and your pupils a successful, rewarding and enjoyable year ahead.

Thank you for everything you do.

Your Sincerely

El Mayhew

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Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples' Services