

# Updates from the Principal



## Update - 1st September 2025

### Welcome Back - Academic Year 2025-26

We welcome back all students to Vale of York Academy on Tuesday 2 September 2025. Please see below for details for the arrangements for the day.

### Return to School Arrangements Tuesday 2 September 2025

Vale of York Academy will open to students from Tuesday 2 September 2024. There will be a staggered start for year groups as follows:

**8.40** New Year 7 students to meet on the Courtyard

**10.15** Year 11 to meet on the Courtyard

**11.30** Years 8-10 to meet on the Astro Turf with Years 7 and 11. All year groups line up in their tutor groups on the Astro Turf.

The gates from Water Lane and Fairway will be open from 8.15am for the new Year 7 students. Fairway only will be open from 10am for Year 11. Fairway only will be open from 11.15am for the remaining year groups.

### Uniform

As you know, we expect our students to attend the academy fully meeting our uniform expectations.

A summary guidance sheet of these expectations has been included below, including additional infographics regarding skirts and footwear. Please take a few moments to read through it and check your child/children have the correct uniform for their return after the summer holidays. As shared before the summer holidays, if the current uniform is still wearable, this can continue to be used in the next academic year. New Year 6 to Year 7 students will be expected to wear the new uniform. Any unwanted uniform can continue to be donated to the school.

If you need to purchase replacement uniform and are concerned about meeting the costs of this, please contact the school in the first instance to discuss what support there is available to you.

### Attendance

We're really looking forward to seeing all the students on Tuesday! The first week is crucial for students' overall attendance. Good school attendance is critical for a student's development, well-being and academic success. It is the key to opening doors to their future and we are passionate about giving students these chances. An Attendance Bulletin will be coming out in September for all attendance information. We have support in school for students, please get in touch if you have any questions.

**Here today, ready for tomorrow!**

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## Standard Day Wear

Our uniform is non-gender specific.

Item	Branded (School Specific) /Unbranded	Colour	Details (inc Style)
Jumper	Branded	Black	V neck With the school logo only. No cardigans.
Tie	Branded	KS3 - Grey & Red KS4 - Black & Red	School defined style only
Skirt	Unbranded	Black	'A' Line, knee length, no splits or flares and no extreme style. Skirts should not be made from tight or stretchy fabric.
Trousers	Unbranded	Black	Formal, classic smart trousers, of waist height and below ankle length - trousers should meet shoes/trainers and not be skin tight or jeans/denim/cargo/chino style. Worn with a thin black belt if necessary - no fashion belts/large buckles.
Shirt/Blouse	Unbranded	White	Loose-fitting school shirt Stiff pointed collar to take a tie; shirt must be long enough to be tucked in and wide enough at the neck to fasten the top button.
Tights	Unbranded	Black or Natural	Plain (not patterned). Leggings are not permitted.
Footwear	Unbranded	Black	Plain shoes, flat or low heels - No canvas, sandals, mules, sling-backs, knee length boots, UGG boots or baseball shoes. Or - Plain trainers - No coloured stitching.

## PE KIT

Item	Branded (School Specific) /Unbranded	Colour	Details (inc Style)
Shorts / Tracksuit / Full Length Black Sports Performance Leggings (polyester/elastane mix)	Unbranded	Black	Plain (not patterned) No cotton leggings or lycra.
T-Shirt	Unbranded	Black	Plain (not patterned)
Sweatshirt (Optional only)	Unbranded	Black	Plain (not patterned) Non-zipped style / no hood
Socks	Unbranded	Black / White	PE style socks are recommended
Trainers	Unbranded	N/A	Sports style appropriate for activity i.e. non-slip soles for inside activities, soles with grips for field / all weather pitch activities

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Hair must be of a natural colour and style.
- Make-up, if worn, should not be noticeable.
- Coloured nail polish, acrylic nails, gel nails, and other forms of false nail are not permitted.
- False eyelashes are not permitted

- Jewellery is restricted to one pair of stud earrings. No other forms of jewellery are allowed.
- Hoodies are not permitted in school.
- Mobile phone use is not allowed in school. If mobile phones are brought in by a student, they should be switched off and kept in the student's bag at all times.
- Any mobile phone seen will be confiscated by a member of staff.

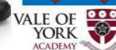
## Skirts

- A-line
- To the knee
- Plain black (no pleating or embellishments)
- Loose material and not tight fitting



## Footwear

- Plain black matt or patent formal shoes
- Plain black trainers (fully); no coloured branding, soles, tongue etc



## Senior Leadership Team (SLT) 2025-26

We would like to introduce the Senior Leadership Team to you:

- Gillian Mills, Principal
- Cat Cripps, Trust Vice Principal
- Rory Donaldson, Assistant Vice Principal (Welfare and Inclusion)
- Faye Garland, Assistant Vice Principal (Attendance, Data, Assessment and Standards)
- Penny Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal (Teaching and Learning)
- Rob Orr, Associate SLT
- Grace Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Stacey Stump, Support Services Manager

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The Progress Leader and SEND team for 2025/26.  
The Progress Leader team are your first point of contact with the academy.

- Sarah Barnes, SENCO
- Corin Belyeu, Progress Leader Year 7
- Alice Appleyard, Progress Leader Year 8
- Dion Rice, Progress Leader Year 9
- Laura Duncalf, Progress Leader Year 10
- Paul Foster, Progress Leader Year 11

## **Congratulations to Year 11 (Class of 2025):**

We are delighted to celebrate the success of our Year 11 students, following the publication of the 2025 GCSE results. We are really proud of the academic success of our students, demonstrating their resilience and determination.

The school would like to extend sincere thanks to our dedicated teaching and support staff, whose tireless work has both inspired and guided students. We would like to share our appreciation for the parents, carers and the wider community for their support and encouragement which have been provided throughout the journey.

Best of luck to all of our outgoing students in their next steps in education and training. We look forward to seeing all that they accomplish in the future.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Ms Mills  
Principal

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