

Updates from the Principal



Update - 10th October 2025

Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I had the pleasure of co-hosting an event on Thursday afternoon as a thank you to the students who had helped on the open evening. We have never had so many students volunteer to support the evening and the feedback from the visiting families has been exceptionally positive. Well done all!

This week, our assemblies have been to launch SPARX in Maths and Science online home learning platforms. Students have also had the opportunity to log into SPARX in their lessons so that they are familiar with the platform. You will have received a letter providing information about SPARX too.

Kind regards,
Ms Mills

Quality of Education Update from Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

This week during assembly students have been introduced to our new online learning platform 'SPARX'. We are extremely excited to launch this with pupils as we believe it is a fantastic tool to help all students achieve their potential and beyond in Maths and Science.

Going forward all Maths and Science home learning will be set on SPARX - your child will receive a new home learning task each Wednesday in the afternoon which they will have a week to complete and all home learning will be submitted by the following Wednesday at 8am. Sparx as a platform is unique in that it is personalised to each child, using AI to tailor learning tasks based on how students answer specific questions. It is almost like a personalised 1 to 1 tutor that students can access at any time. We hope you are as excited as we are for students to use the product and we ask that you please encourage your child to use SPARX regularly by talking to them about what they are learning and remind them of the in school rewards we are offering for those that gain the highest number of XP points. If you have any questions please contact your child's Progress Leader or myself.

Behaviour Weekly Focus and Update from Mr Donaldson, Assistant Vice Principal

Thank you for making sure your child is adhering to the uniform policy. However, can we please just remind you that false eyelashes are not to be worn as per the policy.

Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Our overall school attendance for this week is 90.50%. Our aim is 95%.
318 students have 100% this year! A superb total.

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Updates from the *Principal*



All these students have received positive texts home and are being celebrated in their form!

Our September attendance bulletin is here [Attendance Bulletin](#), please read this over to see what we are doing to increase our attendance and how you can support your child's attendance.

Week 6 Attendance:

Year 7	95.54%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 8	92.10%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 9	86.78%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 10	90.20%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 11	88.94%	National Average: 91.4% 2025

Year 7 continues to lead the way with brilliant attendance and Y10 are smashing it by achieving over 92% frequently.

Thank you for your continued support with attendance, it has a huge impact on students'

progress and wellbeing. Good attendance is considered 95%+.

Please continue to report absences to the school attendance team in advance. Where possible, please update us with the nature of the illness so we can inform any vulnerable members of our community.

We are working as a Vale Team to increase the sense of belonging around the school. Tutor time Pledges are in full swing and in Week 7 Year 7 will have their big team breakfast along with Y8 & 9 - parents should have received a text about this!

Y10 are using Votes for Schools to engage them in democracy and current affairs. We are keen to hear students' voices and give them opportunities to connect in school.

Year 11 attendance is improving this week and we continue to have a big push to remind them that students with 95%+ attendance averaged over a grade 5.4 in their GCSE's last year - opening many doors to their future. Attendance below 90% severely impacts their learning and progress.

Attendance rewards are in full swing as students have started posting their 100% weekly attendance tokens into the prize buckets for the raffle at the end of half term. In Week 8 our Vale Attendance Leagues will be revealed with 7MRA still looking to be contenders for an early lead in the premiership!

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Friday Sweet Treats! Our Principal, Ms Mills, will be dressed as Willy Wonka rewarding students for their amazing attendance on Friday's! Year 9 form tutors are giving a bag of Haribo to one student in their form who is on 100% attendance for the week. Year 8 tutors are also giving a lolly to give to a top attender in their form. We are hoping to drive both year groups over 90% consistently.

We are working with the community to improve our school attendance and appreciate your support getting students to school on time each day.

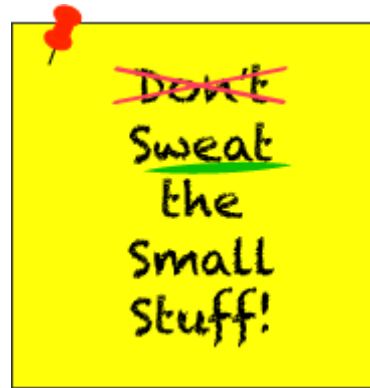
Late detention updates - since we changed our lates detention to 1 late = 1 detention in a week we have seen a 50% reduction in the number of lates to school. **In Week 6 this will move to 1 late to school = 1 break time tutor catch up in the hall (11.15-11.30)**, failure to attend that will result in an afterschool detention.

If you have any attendance questions, please get in touch via the school phone line or at attendance@voy.hlt.academy

In Year 10 our team identity is 'Sweat the Small Stuff'

As we embark on our KS4 journey we want to really focus on making sure we are getting the basics right to help us on our way to achieving our goals. This can be as simple as making sure we are on time everyday, to taking the initiative to spend 10 minutes a day learning some key terms or

definitions to consolidate our learning as we move through the curriculum. We really want the emphasis to be about developing good habits and characteristics now as learners, and as young people, which we can maintain through the remainder of our education and beyond, ensuring all the small building blocks needed for us to achieve our full potential are in place.



Votes for Schools

Each week, the students are given an opportunity to participate in a democratic voting experience as part of their tutor time. We will share the responses of our students with you.

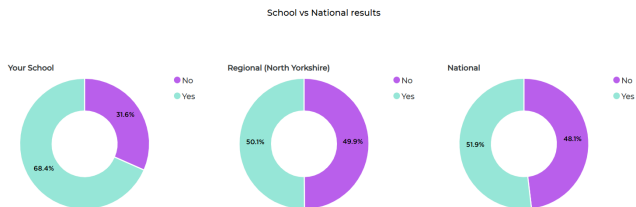
This week, voters are discussing potential new laws around anti-social behaviour. As the Crime & Policing Bill that includes these proposals is currently making its way through Parliament, we want to know whether our voters think 'respect orders' should apply to 16-year olds.

Question: Should 'respect orders' apply to 16-year olds?

Updates from the Principal



Regional results vs national results



Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead



The Monkey App is a video chat and social networking app that randomly matches strangers for a 15 second face to face video call. Once the video chat begins, users have 15 seconds to decide what to do next. They can request more time to chat or end the chat and match with another person.

Sexually explicit content on the app is commonplace. It has been assessed as not safe for children due to lax age verification policies, privacy concerns and persistent issues with harmful and sexual content.

The UK based Safer Schools Safeguarding App released an alert calling “Monkey” extremely dangerous.

There is no age verification process in place which means adults can manipulate their profiles to make themselves appear much younger.

It is an app centred around the sharing of personal information and the lowering of privacy barriers. Users cannot use the app without allowing access to their camera or microphone.

HELLO Yellow - Thank you to all the students and parents who contributed to Hello Yellow Day. We were joined by Sam from York Mind who shared information on their services as shown below- <https://www.yormind.org.uk/mental-health-service/s/expressive-minds/>

Vacancies:

[Cover Supervisor](#)

[Exam Invigilator](#)

[Senior Attendance Officer/Family Outreach Worker](#)

Key Dates:

Friday 17th October

Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 21st October

Year 11 Revision Information Event

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Mon 10th Nov - Fri 28th Nov

Year 11 Trial Exams 1

Thursday 13th November

Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening

Thursday 11th December

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening

Friday 12th December

Christmas Big Sing

Mon 15th Dec - Fri 23 Jan

KS3 Assessment Window 1

Tuesday 16th December

Christmas Concert

Thursday 8th January

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

Thursday 5th February

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening / Options
Presentation

Mon 24th Feb - Fri 13th Mar

Year 11 Trial Exams 2

Thursday 30th April

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

Mon 1st Jun - Fri 26 Jun

KS3 Assessment Window 2 / Year 10 Trial Exams

Friday 17th July

Year 9 Graduation

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