

Updates from the Principal



Update - 12th September 2025

Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

A fabulous week here at Vale. Year 7 students have settled quickly and are learning the routines and expectations. The students are working well in lessons and we have seen some excellent work from Year 11 in their preparation for mock examinations. Please note that P6 intervention and revision sessions for Year 11 students will start next week.

We have launched 'Pledges' in assemblies this week, which have had a positive reception from the students.

Kind regards,
Ms Mills

Teaching and Learning Update from Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

This week students have been informed in assemblies about our reading in tutor time beginning from next week. We are very excited about increasing our opportunities for students to read for pleasure! Each tutor group in y7-10 will be reading a book which has been carefully selected by Ms Mills herself. They will read as a

tutor group once a week and will discuss and question the intricacies of that book through discussion. We hope this will help our students see the joy in reading for pleasure. Please speak to them about what they are reading and we encourage you to pick up a book yourselves and enjoy getting lost in the magic of a great book!

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

All behaviour is now being shared with parents through Edulink. Any guardians with the Edulink app should now have access to a Behaviour tab, as well as the Achievement tab. This will allow you to see all achievements and incidents logged for your young person. Please reach out should you have difficulties accessing this. I have enabled this to ensure transparency and facilitate further collaboration within our community in supporting our students and maintaining expectations and standards.

Safeguarding from Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

We're excited to launch our brand-new Wake Up Wednesday section on our school website! It's packed with useful resources, guides, and support for both parents and pupils.

Take a look today and discover tips, advice, and information designed to help our school community thrive.

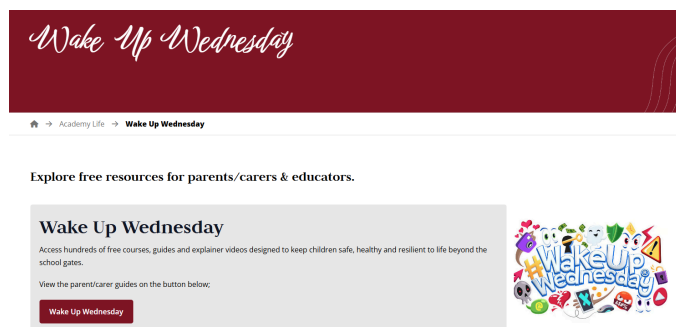
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[Wake Up Wednesday](#)



Solihull Approach - The City of York Council, in partnership with the Solihull Approach, is offering families free access to online courses through the 'inourplace' platform.

These courses have been developed by NHS professionals and are designed to support parents and carers at every stage of a child's journey, from pregnancy and the early years, right through to the teenage stage and beyond. Each course provides evidence-based, non-judgemental learning that helps families understand child development, manage challenges, and strengthen relationships.

Topics include brain development, behaviour, communication, and parental wellbeing, giving families practical tools and confidence as they navigate the ups and downs of parenting.

York families can register for the free courses by visiting <https://inourplace.co.uk/york/> and entering the access code: RAISE.

Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Weekly attendance update: 91.48%

Year 7	96.8%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 8	89.46%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 9	88.88%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 10	91.72%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 11	90.38%	National Average: 91.4% 2025

Attendance is crucial for improving students overall wellbeing and attainment, opening many doors to their future. Parents/Carers can contact us to discuss attendance or register their child's absence at attendance@voy.hlt.academy or by

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ringing reception. We want students to be 'here today, ready for tomorrow'.

Year 7 have been leading the way with brilliant attendance, reaching 99.6% on Wednesday.

There are 495 students on 100% since the start of the academic year, that represents 75% of our school population, a fantastic amount.

Assemblies this week have focused on attendance, in particular the positive impact on wellbeing and students with 95%+ attendance averaging over a grade 5.4 in their GCSE's - opening many doors to their future.

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. Our Vale Attendance Leagues are up and running with 7MRA looking to be contenders for an early lead in the premiership with 100% attendance on 6/8 days so far!

We will also be starting the Willy Wonka 100% weekly attendance rewards on Fridays for Year 8 & 9! Our Principal, Ms Mills will be dressed as Willy Wonka rewarding students for their amazing attendance!

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

Unfortunately we had over 300 incidents of students being late to school this week that counts as an unauthorised absence and impacts their education.

Currently, 2 lates to school is an after school detention. From week 4 this will move to 1 late to school resulting in an after school detention.

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

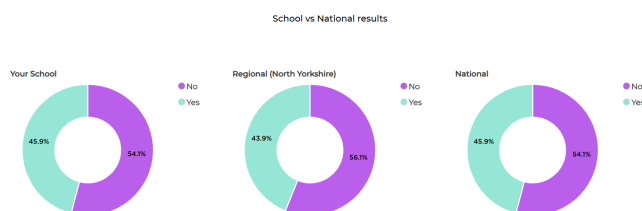
Votes for Schools

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, the topic asks voters to consider what other priorities - if any - businesses should have besides making money.

Question: Should making money be the main priority for big businesses?

Regional results vs national results



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Wellbeing Support Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

We are proud to have formed a strong partnership with Bereaved Children in York, enabling us to offer specialist support and guidance to pupils and families during difficult times. If your child has experienced bereavement and may need additional support, please let us know. We are here to listen and to provide the right care and guidance during this difficult time.

Bereaved Children Support York do offer drop in sessions for bereaved children and their parents/carers. These are held at Oaken Grove Community Centre in Haxby 2-4 pm, and completely free of charge.

We are also sharing this, which may be of interest to some of our families.



Vacancies:

None

Key Dates:

Tuesday 23rd September

Community Open Evening

Friday 17th October

Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 21st October

KS4 Revision Information Event

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

Tuesday 16th December

Christmas Concert

Thursday 8th January

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

Thursday 5th February

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening / Options Presentation

Thursday 30th April

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

Friday 17th July

Year 9 Graduation

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