

# Updates from the Principal



## Update - 16th January 2026

### Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week, we have seen some fantastic work from the Key Stage 3 students on their end point assessments. The focus in lessons has been terrific! This has been supported by assemblies focusing on assessment and revision techniques.

Don't forget that students have home learning using Reading Plus and Sparx for Maths and Science. We will be pushing competitions for these platforms over the next few weeks.

We have also seen a boost in attendance across the school. Thank you for your support from home to ensure that students are in school.

Miss Cooke in Science will be taking over as temporary Progress Leader of Year 8. Please contact her in the first instance for Year 8 related queries.

Finally, we have relaunched Proud Thursdays. Students will receive stickers in their planners for this and can exchange the sticker for a celebratory postcard and a prize from the box. This week, we nearly ran out of prizes as so many of our students had completed high quality classroom work.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,  
Ms Mills

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

Our behaviour focus for the week is jewelry. We have seen a rise in students wearing jewelry, again. As a result we will be requesting that students with jewelry on the gate put it in their Yondr pouches. This allows them to keep it with them, and safe, and to retrieve it as soon as they unlock their pouches at the end of the day. Please remind students that one pair of stud earrings is the only acceptable form of jewelry we allow. Non-smart watches are also still permitted, and are not considered jewelry. Thank you for your support with this, as ever.

### Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Overall Attendance this half term: 90.64%

Week 17 Attendance:

Year 7	93.70%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
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Year 8	92.94%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 9	90.42%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 10	88.92%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 11	90.26%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26

Good attendance is 95%+ and 100% represents excellent attendance.

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.

Our attendance team is sending text messages, making calls and doing home visits every day to support improving attendance.

During form time tutors are awarding achievement points for outstanding, great and good attendance to recognise each individual student and their effort.

If you have any attendance questions, please get in touch via the school phone line or at [attendance@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:attendance@voy.hlt.academy)

## Exams

As always, help is available in school from the Y11 Progress Leader and our welfare team. Below are the external links relating to support for exam stress.

[Childline](#)

[Kooth](#)

[Young Minds](#)

[The Mix](#)

[Mind](#)

## 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 we considered how over the last few weeks, many major global news stories have been unfolding, so we're asking voters to think about how much they engage with global news.

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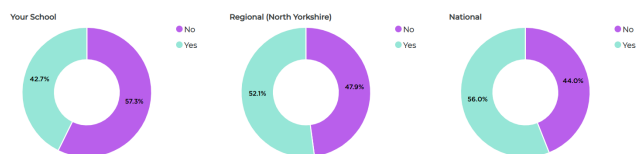
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Question: Is global politics relevant to you?

## Regional results vs national results

School vs National results



Teaching and Learning Update from Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support, Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

We would like to make you aware of an online tool called Grok, which is connected to X (formerly Twitter) social media platform. Grok includes an image-generation feature that allows users to create or edit images using artificial intelligence.

We have been informed that this technology has recently been misused to edit images of real people to depict them in revealing or nude situations, without their consent.

If you have any concerns please let us know. For further information on AI please see advice from the NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents/>

## Current Vacancies

[Exam Invigilator - casual hours](#)

[Advanced Teaching Assistant - 30 hours](#)

[Advanced Teaching Assistant - 28.75 hours](#)

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

## Key Dates:

### 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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