

Updates from the Principal



Update - 16th October 2026

Principal's Update Mr Green-Harding

As we approach the end of our first half term, I would like to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support. It has been a busy and positive start to the academic year, and there is much to celebrate. Our pupils have made a strong start, and it has been lovely to see them getting involved in so many aspects of school life.

As we enter the final week, our focus remains on maintaining high standards, positive routines and making the most of every learning opportunity.

A reminder that **school will be closed to pupils on Friday 23 October**, followed by the **half-term holiday from Monday 26 to Friday 30 October**. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on Monday 2 November.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and partnership. I hope all our pupils and families enjoy a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Mr Hunt, Trust Vice Principal

I would like to echo Mr Green-Harding's thanks as we reflect on what has been another fantastic and productive week across the Academy.

Our focus on high standards remains at the heart of everything we do. It has been brilliant to see our

pupils taking real pride in their appearance this week, maintaining our high expectations for uniform and setting a positive tone across all year groups.

Listening to our young people is central to our school community, and this week we held valuable Pupil Voice sessions to gather their feedback on many aspects of school life. Alongside this, we are currently reviewing our behaviour systems with staff and pupils, including a change from after school detentions to lunchtime detentions from after the half term holiday. While this change won't impact the majority of pupils, who do not receive detentions, we are committed to ensuring that all viewpoints are heard so that our procedures continue to support a positive, fair, and an encouraging environment for everyone. More information on this change will be shared soon but, should you have any queries or feedback regarding this change, please contact me at the school.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our dedicated staff, who are working incredibly hard to ensure a calm, purposeful, and focused finish to the half term. We are always here to support our pupils and families. Please contact your child's Learning Manager in the first instance if you have any queries.

Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

Good afternoon, please may I ask parents that if they have a query with regards to lessons or for

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individual teachers that these are sent to our hello@voy.hlt.academy email and we will direct to the relevant staff member. This is to ensure that we prioritise the well-being and workload of our staff and ensure any queries can be answered by the correct person. Thank you.

Mrs Rachael Harrower-Long, Assistant Vice Principal

Thanks for all the support this half term, it's great to see so many students in school and enjoying their lessons, treats for attendance streaks have gone out this week and we will continue to do so next week. I am enjoying reading the students feedback about how they would like their attendance rewards to look throughout the year. Keep going everyone!

Mr Donaldson, Assistant Vice Principal

Good afternoon parents of Year 11!
Please see the November Mock Exam Timetable (commencing 9th November), below. This will also be sent to you separately via email.

Please note that we will not change the days or timings of Period 6 sessions during the mock window. This is to allow the system to continue running smoothly and respect the times and days our young people have already become accustomed to. My thanks to you all for your support with their engagement - we have had an outstanding turnout for sessions so far, with staff and students feeding back positively!

Mr Rice and I will signpost students to their nearest Period 6 to the relevant exam, within the window, to support them with their exam efforts.

I will be discussing mocks in more detail with Year 11 in their assembly on the 2nd November.

Thank you

Mock Exam Timetable November 2026						
	Time	Monday 09/11	Tuesday 10/11	Wednesday 11/11	Thursday 12/11	Friday 13/11
Week A	AM (0900)	Maths Paper 1 (1hr 30m)	English Language C1 (1hr 45m)	Biology Paper 1 (Foundation 1hr 15m) (Higher 1hr 45m)	Geography Paper 1 (1hr 30m)	Maths Paper 2 (1hr 30m)
	PM (1300)	Psychology Paper 2 (1hr 45m)	RE Paper 1 (1hr 45m)	Hospitality and Catering (1hr 20m)	French Listening and Reading (1hr each)	PE Paper 1 (1hr)
	Time	Monday 16/11	Tuesday 17/11	Wednesday 18/11	Thursday 19/11	Friday 20/11
Week B	AM (0900)	Chemistry Paper 1 (Foundation 1hr 15m) (Higher 1hr 45m)	English Language C2 (2hrs)	Geography Paper 2 (1hr 30m)	History (1hr)	Maths Paper 3 (1hr 30m)
	PM (1300)	French Writing Paper (1hr)	History (1hr)	Computer Science (1hr 30m)	Engineering (1hr 15m)	Drama (1hr 45m)
	Time	Monday 23/11	Tuesday 24/11	Wednesday 25/11	Thursday 26/11	Friday 27/11
Week A	AM (0900)	Physics Paper 1 (Foundation 1hr 15m) (Higher 1hr 45m)	English Literature (2hrs 30m)	Business Studies (1hr 45m)	Art (3hrs)	Contingency Day
	PM (1300)	Health and Social Care (1hr 15m)	Further Maths Paper 1 (1hr 30m)	Music (1hr)	Further Maths Paper 2 (1hr 30m)	

Grace Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

We wanted to make you aware that a number of anonymous TikTok accounts have recently been created featuring some of our staff and students. We are working hard to get these accounts removed and would really appreciate your support.

Please have a friendly chat with your child about using social media responsibly and encourage them not to engage with or share any content from these accounts. If you come across any of them, we would be grateful if you could report them and let

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the school know.

Thank you, as always, for your support and for working with us to keep our school community safe and positive.

Jack Martin, Careers Coordinator

KS3 students this week have been developing their essential careers skills in tutor time, this is an important part of their time at vale as we aim to make our students Confident, Capable, and Careers Ready.

Year 10 students are in the process of finding their work experience placements as well as learning about financial literacy. Year 11s should be attending the different open events for post 16 as well as signing up for the York College taster days in January.

Askham Bryan has an open morning Saturday 17th October.

What is? Your career questions answered.

This week's question is what are V levels?

V levels are a relatively new qualification which are available to students post 16 - learn more about them here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FI-xwudalNk>

Mr Rampling, Sport and Enrichment

Please see the link below which gives information about our new rewards and recognition system that will go live next week.

[Reward and Recognition presentation](#)

Key Dates:

Wednesday 21st October - Autumn Concert

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - Half Term

Monday 9th November to Friday 27th November - Y11 Mock Exams

Thursday 12th November - Y7 Parents Consultation Evening

Friday 15th December - Xmas Concert

Friday 18th December - School Closed