

Updates from the Principal



Update - 18th September 2026

Principal's Update

It has been another really positive week at Vale of York Academy, and I continue to be impressed by the way our pupils are settling into the new academic year.

There has been a real sense of purpose around the academy. It has been great to see pupils engaging positively in lessons, building strong routines and responding well to the high expectations we have for them. I am also delighted that our enrichment programme has now been launched and that so many pupils are getting involved in the wider life of the academy.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The partnership between school and home is incredibly important, and I have been very grateful for the positive conversations that both colleagues and I have had with parents and carers since the start of the academic year.

There is lots to look forward to over the coming weeks, and I am excited about what we can achieve together.

Mr Hunt, Trust Vice Principal

This week I have enjoyed leading assemblies with Years 7, 10 and 11, posing the question to them: 'Who are you when no one is watching?'. This

question led to some discussion around how we all behave in front of different audiences, be that in the Academy, at home, online or with our friends, with a clear link to the kind of community we all want to be a part of here at Vale. Pupils were encouraged to self-reflect and to consider their actions over the next week and beyond as we think about how we can be the best version of ourselves.

I have also spent a lot of time this week thanking students for their high standard of appearance and for working so positively with us to resolve any small uniform issues that have arisen at the beginning of term. As I mentioned in the last bulletin, there is an ongoing focus on uniform as we continue to embed high standards across the Academy. If you have any queries regarding uniform or any other elements of the work we are doing in the Academy, please contact your child's Learning Manager in the first instance.

Mr Donaldson, Assistant Vice Principal

Greetings to Year 10 and Year 11 Parents. We have scheduled the Key Stage 4 Revision Evening for the 29th of September to avoid any clashes with extracurricular activities and events. Please save this date for your diaries. A letter with accompanying digital sign up form will be sent out shortly. These are year group specific, so will be sent to you directly depending on which year group your child is in. The timings of the evening are reflected in that, so please don't be alarmed if

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your time slot is different to another family. The evening will last approximately 1 hour for all attendees and will provide valuable information on exam regulations, what to expect, revision support and guidance, and more. More details will follow in the letter.

Mrs Harrower Long, Assistant Vice Principal

It has been wonderful to get to know so many students over the last week. We have had a positive start to the academic year in Key Stage 3, with attendance currently at 97.9% in Year 7, 94.9% in Year 8 and 93.2% in Year 9. KS4 - Some work to do, we will get there, Well done all - keep it up.

Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

This week our Key Stage 3 pupils have completed their Reading Plus benchmark assessment. This will allow us to now put in place targeted intervention to support all our students with developing their reading. Please continue to encourage your children at home to read for pleasure and we would like all our year 7s to bring a reading book as part of their equipment into school.

For Year 10s who have recently started their new GCSE options any requests for changes must be made in advance of Friday 25th September. These requests should come directly to me or through

hello@voy.hlt.academy. After this date requests to change options will not be looked at as we do not want our Year 10s missing out on key content.

Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Wellbeing in Mind Team is running a series of workshops online, to support you and our young people. The next one is around managing anxiety



If you have any questions prior or issues logging on to the webinar, please contact teww.wimtsa@nhs.net

ANXIETY WEBINAR

WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER - 6PM TO 7PM

This webinar is aimed at young people and parents needing support and advice around managing anxious feeling.

WEBINAR FOCUS

- Understanding what we mean by anxiety
- Understanding different types of thoughts
- Exploring techniques for managing anxiety.
- Breathing and grounding techniques.



@wellbeinginmind.mhst

SCAN HERE



JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

To join our webinar please scan the QR code and follow the instructions to join using **Microsoft Teams**. You can also join using the following details:

Meeting ID: 364 086 290 656
467
Passcode: j5jR22f9

The Youth Council is looking for volunteers from our school. I have attached a flyer below. If your child would like to join, please let myself or Mr Orr know.

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Updates from the *Principal*



York
Youth Council

taster session

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

FULLY ACCESSIBLE EVENT

FOR 11-18 YEAR OLDS FROM YORK



who we are

what we do

what's next

OUR AIM IS TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO YOUTH COUNCILLORS FROM EVERY SECONDARY SCHOOL AND COLLEGE IN YORK TO GUARANTEE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF ALL

- chat
- debate
- get involved
- be heard

21 OCTOBER 2026



5:30PM - 6:30PM

VISITORS ENTRANCE AT WEST OFFICES
STATION RISE, YORK, YO1 6GA

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@YOUTHCOUNCILYORK

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT
WWW.YORK.GOV.UK/YORKYOUTHCOUNCIL

Key Dates:

Thursday 8th October - Open Evening

Tuesday 29th September - KS4 Information
Evening

Friday 23rd October - School Closed

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - Half Term

Thursday 12th November - Y7 Parents
Consultation Evening

Friday 18th December School Closed

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