

Updates from the Principal



Update - 19th September 2025

Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another busy week at Vale of York Academy.

P6 targeted interventions have been launched for Year 11 students. From the start of the term in September, there are only 30 weeks of teaching before the start of the GCSEs; students have already completed 10% of their Year 11 course. We are looking at revision from the start of the day with quizzes for maths, English and Science on the gates, before students go into their enhanced curriculum interventions at tutor time. We will continue to build this throughout the half term with the Year 11 revision information event on Tuesday 21st October - more information will be released over the next few weeks.

Year 7 students have been completing their Reading Plus assessments and CAT tests as part of their baseline assessments when starting secondary school.

This week, we have had assemblies on the theme of e-safety. Mr Donaldson has supported students to understand this. If you would like to know more,

please access the following website: [CEOPS for Parents/Carers](#) There is also other information available on the Wake Up Wednesdays section of the Vale of York Academy website: [Wake Up Wednesdays](#)

Kind regards,
Ms Mills

Quality of Education Update from Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

This week we have expanded our focus on Year 11 students with the addition of P6 intervention lessons after school. Students are invited to these sessions to address any gaps in knowledge that they may have and it has been great to see so many taking the learning seriously and giving their best. Alongside P6 intervention we also run intervention sessions during tutor time on a Wednesday-Friday. This means that rather than traditional tutor time, students will be taking part in maths, English or science lessons. It is crucial that students attend school by 8.40am to gain the most benefit from these sessions.

We are aware that many students (and parents) are keen to have access to resources that they can use for independent study at home. This applies not just to Year 11 students but year 10 students who are starting their GCSE journeys. To help with this, the list below has been put together to ensure students know which revision resources they can access to complement the learning they are doing in class.

[KS4 Revision Information](#)

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Information regarding independent study opportunities for Years 7-9 will be available within the next few weeks.

Teaching and Learning Update from Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

Next week all year 7, 8 and 9 students will be completing a reading plus assessment on Friday 26th September. This is crucial for us to ensure that appropriate reading support is provided. It is vital that your child completes this assessment to the very best of their ability so as always attendance is key! I would like to take the opportunity once again to encourage you all to promote reading for pleasure at home with your children as not only are students finding their love of reading but a high quality of reading will enable the best progress and outcomes for our students in their GCSEs.

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

Again a quick reminder that behaviour and achievement logs should now be available for all parents and carers to view on the Edulink App. If you have any issues accessing the app, please visit reception to resolve these. Our focus in school this week will be orderly and timely transitions from lesson to lesson.

Safeguarding from Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

This week we were delighted to welcome Lilly from YorSexual Health into school. Our Year 9 students engaged brilliantly during the assembly, asking thoughtful questions and showing real curiosity. In addition, a group of our Year 10 boys represented the school with pride, contributing sensibly and enthusiastically to discussions around healthy relationships. If you need any further information do not hesitate to ask.

I'd also like to share with parents an upcoming event around supporting young people and their mental health and wellbeing.

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Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal



There are 490 students at 100% since the start of the academic year. That represents a large number of our school population, a fantastic amount. Of course we would like this to be higher as our overall school attendance is 92.5%, which is below the national average of 93.2%.

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

Week 3 Attendance:

Weekly attendance update: 89.22%

Year 7	95.82%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
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Year 8	88.72%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 9	85.20%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 10	89.64%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 11	86.48%	National Average: 91.4% 2025

All parents/carers should have received a text message to promote strong attendance of 95%+. Thank you for your continued support with attendance, it has a huge impact on students' progress and wellbeing.

Year 7 continues to lead the way with brilliant attendance, especially the Y7 boys who reached 100% on Thursday!

We are working as a Vale Team to increase the sense of belonging around the school. Tutor time Pledges play a crucial role in this as students in Y7 work towards their 'Big Team Breakfast' and Y8 & 9 work on their form identity and towards their big breakfast. Y10 are using Votes for Schools to engage them in democracy and current affairs. We

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are keen to hear students' voices and give them opportunities to connect in school.

Year 11 attendance is dropping and we are having 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. Our Vale Attendance Leagues are up and running with 7MRA still looking to be contenders for an early lead in the premiership!

We have started the Willy Wonka 100% weekly attendance rewards on Fridays for Year 8 & 9! Our Principal, Ms Mills, dresses 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. Since we changed our late to school detention to 2 incidents in a week, we have seen a 20% reduction in the number of lates to school. In week 4 this will reduce to 1 late to school resulting in an afterschool detention. 20 minutes late to school will result in a 20 minute detention the following night, 40 minutes will result in a 40 minute

detention, 60+ minutes late will result in a 60 minute detention.

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

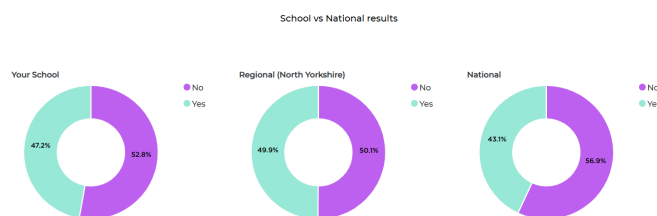
Votes for Schools

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 reflecting on how they feel about their national identity as part of the UK in 2025.

Question: Do we need to embrace national flags more?

Regional results vs national results



Wellbeing Support

Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Free family support Autumn 2025

Contact jenwootten@fmy.org.uk OR emmamarshall@fmy.org.uk for more details about any of the following courses and events

**Time Out for Parents: The Teenage Years**
FREE Family Support Course

**SIGN UP NOW**

**Finding it hard to connect with your teen?
Struggling to communicate well?**

Join us for 5 sessions to find out more about the changes your teenager is experiencing; ways to communicate better with them; how to stay connected and ways to support their wellbeing. Share with others and find you're not alone!

BOOK NOW www.fmy.org.uk
jenwootten@fmy.org.uk

Begins Wednesday 24th September 2025
7-9pm session
Huntington Methodist Church,
Strensall Rd, York YO32 9SH

* Chat & share * Bite-sized tips & strategies * Know that you are not alone!

**Time Out For Parents: Dads!**
5 FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS
Starting Thursday 25th September 2025
7 - 9pm (via Zoom)

**SIGN UP!**

This course is run by Dads, for ALL Dads, Stepdads and Paternal carers, to help you....

- ✓ Engage with your children & boost your relationship
- ✓ Increase your skills & confidence as a parent
- ✓ Discover practical tools to make your relationship with your child even better

Website: www.fmy.org.uk
Email: jenwootten@fmy.org.uk

Key Dates:

Tuesday 23rd September

Community Open Evening

Friday 17th October

Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 21st October

Year 11 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

Vacancies:

[Advanced Teaching Assistant](#)

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