Updates from the Principal

Update - 22nd October 2026

Principal's Update
Mr Green-Harding

As we reach the end of our first half term, I want to thank all our pupils, staff and families for such a positive start to the academic year. There has been much to celebrate, and it has been wonderful to see our pupils demonstrating our values of Kindness, Respect and Teamwork. Our recent Open Evening was a particular highlight, with pupils representing Vale with real pride and confidence.

We have made a strong start, and I look forward to building on this together as we continue to raise expectations and provide the very best opportunities for every pupil. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.

A reminder that **school will be closed to pupils tomorrow**, 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.

Mr Hunt, Trust Vice Principal

After the half term holiday, we are delighted to be welcoming Miss Norton to the team as a Learning Manager. Miss Norton will be working closely with our Year 10 and 11 pupils and is looking forward to engaging with you all as we continue to ensure the best possible support is in place for our pupils. Year groups will be supported as shown below:

Year	Learning Manager	Behaviour Support Officer
7	Mrs Yildirim	Mrs Goodall
8	Mrs Yildirim	Mrs Goodall
9	Mr Clark	Mrs Goodall
10	Mr Clark / Miss Norton	Mr Wilson
11	Miss Norton	Mr Wilson

As mentioned in the previous update, in response to pupil and staff voice we will move to Lunchtime Behaviour Detentions after the half term holiday. This change will only impact a small proportion of our Academy community, who will complete a 25 minute lunchtime detention instead of the after school detention they currently receive. This length of detention has been decided after considering pupil feedback, ensuring that they still have time to socialise and eat their lunch before returning to lessons. The change to lunchtime detentions allows pupils to complete any sanctions during the school day rather than impacting their time at the end of the day, which we know is often spent enjoying extra curricular

Updates from the Principal

enrichment activities and with their families. Should you have any queries, please contact your child's Learning Manager in the first instance.

On our return to the Academy, we will focus heavily on pupil equipment and uniform as we ensure we continue the high standards we have set together. Please help your child have a successful start by working with them at home to ensure they have everything they need and are in their correct uniform when we come back. We are keen to support any families who need any assistance with uniform or equipment, please reach out to us if you need any clarification or support. We are here to help.

Thank you all for working collaboratively with us this half term. We have made a very strong start to the year indeed. The staff here know your children well, care about them, support them every day and it is by working together that we will ensure they reach their undoubted potential. Have a wonderful half term holiday.

Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

Thank you for all your support this half term. I hope our new Year 7s have settled into all their lessons well and are enjoying accessing the library as part of tutor time.

After half term our Year 7 Parents evening will be held on Thursday 12th November from 16:00-19:00. Appointments will be available to book via edulink from lunchtime on Monday 2nd November. Any issues please get in touch via hello@voy.hlt.academy

Mrs Rachael Harrower-Long, Assistant Vice Principal

Wow - what an amazing first half term, it has been incredible to see so many of our young people attending each and every day and most importantly enjoying school. Vale is an incredible school and I love the values that our students and staff demonstrate each and every day. Exciting rewards for attendance going on these last couple of weeks and these will keep on growing. Every day counts - keep going everyone and thank you for your support in encouraging students to attend everyday. I hope you all have a well deserved restful half term.

Jack Martin, Careers Coordinator

The first half term of the careers provision has been a real success with great engagement from our pupils, excited for the next half term and what that'll bring. If any parent/carer would like to support the provision, please do get in touch and we can discuss potential opportunities - j.martin@voy.hlt.academy

Some of our year 10s have been taking part in Project Dare with Ardent FInancial, with a trip to see their offices taking place after the half term. Remember that half term is a great opportunity for them to be finding work experience placements.

Updates from the Principal

Year 11s need to be booking their taster days in January. They are first come first served.

This week's focus: What can my child do now to prepare for their future?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhpcgpqWc1Q

City of York Council Local Transport Plan Consultation - improving transport across the region.
CYC are inviting parents for their feedback on the Local Transport Plan
The Mayor's Local Transport Plan consultation - York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority - Citizen Space

Key Dates:

Friday 23rd October - School Closed
Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - Half Term
Monday 2nd November - Whole School Nasal Flu Vaccinations
Monday 9th November to Friday 27th November - Y11 Mock Exams
Thursday 12th November - Y7 Parents Consultation Evening
Tuesday 15th December - Xmas Concert
Friday 18th December - School Closed