



# Updates from the Principal

## Update - 23rd January 2026

### Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

Despite the drizzly and blustery weather, it has been all action at Vale of York this week. We have had students out on trips to York Minster and for sports fixtures and it has been a pleasure to see that Wizard of Oz rehearsals are now well underway. It has been great to see the rewards breakfasts taking place with different year groups too.

With 12 school weeks left before the start of the GCSEs, Year 11 students are attending more revision sessions than ever and the work rate in lessons has really stepped up.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,  
Ms Mills

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

Overall Attendance this half term: 90.09%

Week 18 Attendance:

Year 7	94.70%	National Average:
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	92.0% 2025/26	
Year 8	86.70% National Average: 92.0% 2025/26	
Year 9	87.66% National Average: 92.0% 2025/26	
Year 10	86.26% National Average: 92.0% 2025/26	
Year 11	88.46% 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.

With only 3 weeks left of this half term we are having a big push on attendance to see if we can reach over 90% consistently. Our attendance team



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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.

Students with 98% attendance for this half term will be able to watch a film on the last day of term alongside rewards for the promoted form teams and individual raffle tokens!

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](#)

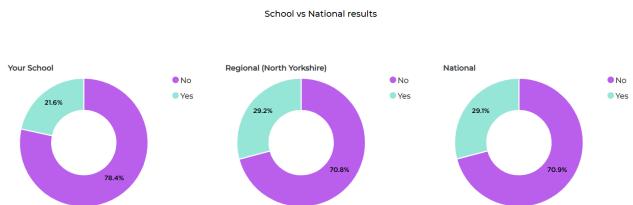
## Votes for Schools

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.

Thousands of families across the country are watching The Traitors, and many commentators are wondering if unconscious bias is playing a role in some of the game play. So, this week, voters are thinking about whether TV helps us to reflect on unconscious biases that exist in our society.

Question: Should reality TV help us reflect on unconscious biases?

### Regional results vs national results



## Quality of Education Update from Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

This week is the last week of our Key Stage 3 Endpoint assessment window. Students have shown great resilience when undertaking exams in their subjects and Year 7 students have displayed a great start to how they conduct themselves during assessments. Many thanks to all students, and parents and carers, for the hard work and



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support over the past few weeks.

## Teaching and Learning Update from Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

Year 9 options/parents evening will be held from 16:00-19:00 on Thursday 5th February and appointments are now open to book as of 9am on Friday 23rd January. This is a crucial moment for Year 9 students who are choosing their options for GCSEs. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support, Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Just a few reminders.....

We are unable to let children leave the site for an unauthorised absence, therefore a parent/carer must collect.

We are also not able to give medication to children unless the correct paperwork has been completed.

Thank you for your support, please let me know if you have any further queries

## 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