

Updates from the Principal



Update - 23rd October 2025

Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

Many thanks for all of your support this half term. Even though this has been a short week, we have had a lot going on with the Year 11 revision evening and the full launch of Sparx this week.

As a reminder, if students do not have access to technology to complete Sparx at home, technology is available in the library before school, at break, at lunch and after school. We are currently top of the leaderboard in the Trust for Science. A fabulous start!

Diwali has been the subject of the assemblies this week. Diwali is the "Festival of Lights," a multi-day celebration observed by millions of Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs worldwide. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Celebrations include lighting clay lamps (diyas), decorating homes with colorful lights and rangoli, exchanging gifts, and enjoying festive foods. We also celebrated Diwali with a themed food in the dining room on Tuesday.

We will welcome students back to school on **Monday 3rd November 2025**. We hope that you have a good half term.

Kind regards,
Ms Mills

Quality of Education Update from Mrs
Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

[Y11 Exam Revision](#)

Teaching and Learning Update from Miss
Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all your support this half term. We have been working hard to ensure students get the very best deal in lessons with a real focus on our connect mini whiteboard tasks across the whole school. Please continue to promote reading for pleasure at home across the half term holiday as this is something which will help to boost confidence as students progress through school.

Also our proud Thursday awards have been running throughout this half term so please do catch up with students about their rewards and help us to celebrate the incredible achievements of our pupils here at Vale.

After half term staff will be focusing on the I do section of our lessons and we will be looking at different ways to live mark so please speak to students about what this looks like. I hope you all have a wonderful half term.

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

Greetings all! After half term we will be returning to the Safety Net Timetable used over the last few years. This is to ensure that any student who is placed in a Safety Net has the best chance to re-engage with their subject in the next classroom (which will be in the same department wherever possible). This also limits the amount of lesson time missed, as students will not have to navigate across the school, and will be rehoused on the same corridor. This will be communicated to students upon our return, but please feel free to discuss this with them sooner.

Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Overall Attendance this half term: 89.98%

Week 8 Attendance:

Year 7	95.18%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 8	88.40%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 9	84.60%	National Average: 91.4% 2025

Year 10	89.63%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 11	87.33%	National Average: 91.4% 2025

Good attendance is 95%+ and 100% represents excellent attendance.

260 students with 100% attendance - wonderful to see! Next half term students with 100% attendance will be invited to a Christmas Film and popcorn!

The Vale of York Attendance Leagues have been set up and included a full match report delivered by students on the highs and lows of the season so far.



7PBR	97.5
7DHO	97.1
7JPE	96.5
7PWI	95.3
11PME	95.0

Here is our Premier League so far! Winners of each league will receive a family breakfast and a trophy.

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We are nominating 'players players' and 'managers players' each half term which will build up to an awards presentation in the final week of school. There are prizes associated with each award.

Alongside this, £280 worth of prizes were drawn to celebrate students that have posted their 100% weekly attendance tokens into the prize tubes!

We return to school on Monday 3rd November, thank you for supporting punctuality!

Thank you for your continued support with attendance, it has a huge impact on students' progress and wellbeing. Good attendance is considered 95%+.

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.

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

Exam Stress Resources

Following the Y11 Exam Information Evening, below are the external links relating to support for exam stress. As always, help is also available in

school from the Y11 Progress Leader and our welfare team.

[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.

This week, our debate springs from Joe Wicks' conversation-sparking documentary, License to Kill; we are asking voters to consider what exactly is in the food we eat and who should be helping us decode the endless ingredients lists.

Question: Does ultra-processed food need more warnings on it?

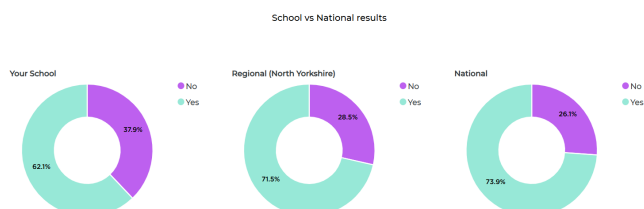
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Regional results vs national results



Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support, Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Start Safe Stay Safe App

A new app, *Start Safe, Stay Safe*, has been launched to improve street safety in York and North Yorkshire. It offers a straightforward, and confidential way for members of the public to report street, town and city centre incidents by way of photo, video and audio capture. It also enables authorities to quickly identify patterns of abuse and criminal behaviour and help them to respond more effectively. The app has been designed to help more people in York and North Yorkshire report street harassment and feel safer in public spaces.



Vacancies:

[Cleaner - 16 hours per week](#)

Key Dates:

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

Mon 15th Dec - Fri 23 Jan

KS3 Assessment Window 1

Tuesday 16th December

Christmas Concert

Thursday 8th January

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

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

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