

# Updates from the *Principal*



## Update - 27th February 2026

### Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this update finds you well.

This week, the Year 11s have entered their last formal trial exam period. We have been really impressed with their attitude towards the exams with many of the students accessing P0 and P6 revision opportunities to support their learning. The first revision duck (James Pond) will be available for collection on Monday at break for any student who attended three revision events.

Students from Vale have played a pivotal role in the first ever York Traveller Conference this week, speaking in front of 80 delegates and creating a video of their experiences at Vale of York. The students received praise from the adults who attended the conference. Many thanks to Mr Orr, Mr Donaldson and Mrs Cook for supporting the students in the event.

Mr Mulhearn led the first of the French primary school support sessions this week with a team of students from Vale going to support with learning languages in primary schools.

Assemblies this week have focused on standards and expectations on the return to the school. Next week, the focus will be on careers and International Women's Day.

Kind regards,  
Ms Mills

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

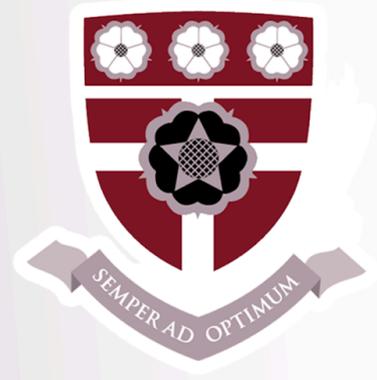
Overall Attendance this half term: 89.64%  
Week 22 Attendance:

Year 7	92.84%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 8	88.46%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 9	84.22%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 10	85.30%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26

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Year 11	92.48%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
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Good attendance is 95%+ and 100% represents excellent attendance.

Thank you for all your support! We are tracking 2% above the same period last year consistently.

This week Y11 have been brilliant attenders (94%+) and shown amazing effort with their mock exams.



To recognise great attendance we are running an 'Easter Streaks' theme. If students can be in for 25 days they will receive an easter egg. This sits alongside the attendance raffle tokens for 100% weekly

attendance and weekly attendance achievement points issued by form tutors. There are 20 days left of this half term.

Our attendance team is sending text messages, making calls and doing home visits every day to support improving attendance.

## Half Term 4 Attendance Leagues

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### Championship



11SN1
11CSM
10EL
8SD1
11CEL

### Premier League



7DHO
7PBR
10HCO
7PWI
7JPE

MOMENTS  
MATTER.  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.

### League 1



9JCO
8AMA
9TGI
8RCU
7MRA

### League 2



8KDE
11JHU
10JMI
9JMA
8SST

### National League



9HJA
10RNY
8THU
10SVI
11KBR

Please continue to report absences to the school attendance team in advance.

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](#)

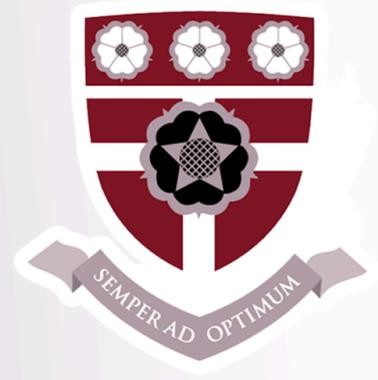
## Votes for Schools

Each week, the students are given an opportunity to participate in a democratic voting experience as

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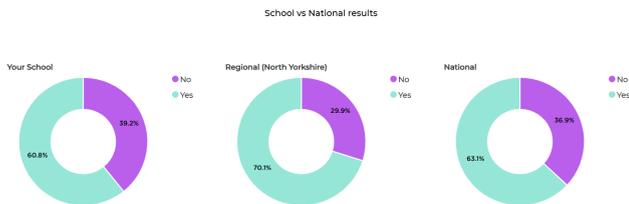


part of their tutor time. We will share the responses of our students with you.

This week, with MPs from across the political spectrum defecting to new parties, we're asking our voters to think about whether these defections should trigger by-elections in their constituencies or not.

Question: Should a defection mean a by-election?

## Regional results vs national results



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

Many thanks for all of your support with Y11 students during their final set of core mock exams. Students have shown great maturity and respect in how they have conducted themselves not only during the exams but also in making the mature decision to attend P6 session which has been great to see.

P6 will remain for core subjects only for next week, and then for the final 3 weeks of term it will be all subjects except core. A timetable for the final 3 weeks will be shared in next week's bulletin.

This week saw Y9 students have their first subject focused options assembly, hearing about what Business Studies is like to study at GCSE level. A copy of the power point that was used will be sent to all parents early next week - please use this as a resource to discuss GCSE business studies as an option with your child.

## Behaviour Update from Mr Donaldson, Assistant Vice Principal

Just a reminder that in line with the uniform policy students are not allowed to wear nose studs and will be asked to remove them.

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

Thank you for all your support with KS3 reading plus assessments before the half term. This helps us to ensure that relevant interventions are in place to support pupils with reading however please encourage pupils to read for pleasure!

# Updates from the Principal



## Music Opportunities

North Yorkshire and York Music Hub

### VOCAL PROJECT DAYS



**7 March  
18 April  
16 May  
20 June**

**10am - 3pm**

**Love to sing?  
Want to perform with others?**

Come and be part of our new Vocal Groups

A fun and inspiring space for young and aspiring singers from across North Yorkshire and York to rehearse, learn, and grow together.

Vocal Project Days are **FREE**, & open to all children and young people from North Yorkshire and York in Years 4 to 13.

Esrick C of E Primary School  
Carr Lane  
YO19 6JQ

For more details, email: [Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk)



North Yorkshire and York Music Hub

### ENSEMBLES PROJECT DAYS



**15 March  
19 April  
14 June  
20 June**

**10am - 3pm**

**Play an instrument?  
Love making music with others?**

Come and be part of our Instrumental Ensemble Days

A fantastic opportunity to rehearse, perform, and develop your ensemble skills with other musicians from across North Yorkshire and York in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Ensemble Project Days are **FREE**, & open to all children and young people from North Yorkshire and York above grade 2 on their instrument.

The Regen Centre  
Landing Lane  
YO19 6PW

For more details, email: [Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk)



## Current Vacancies

[Higher Level Teaching Assistant - 37 hours a week, term time only](#)

[Advanced Teaching Assistant - 30 hours per week, term time only](#)

[Advanced Teaching Assistant - 37 hours per week, term time only](#)

[Advanced Teaching Assistant - 28.75 hours per week, term time only](#)

## Key Dates:

**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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