

# Updates from the Principal



## Update - 27th March 2026

### Principal's Update

We find ourselves at the end of a short but very busy half term.

This week, Year 11 students completed their performances for their Drama GCSE and students from across the school have been preparing for the performance of the school show for after the Easter holidays.

Well done to the Year 11 students who collected the fourth revision duck - Captain Quack Sparrow - this week. The fifth revision duck - Quacky Chan - and the extra bonus prize will be available from the Year 11 lunch area today.

This week, the success of each year group has been rewarded in the end of term celebration assemblies.

Thank you for your continued support. **Students return to school after half term on Monday 13th April.**

We say goodbye to Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal, who is leaving the academy today. Please can any queries regarding Year 9 options be directed to Mr Rice, Year 9 Progress Leader, during the Summer Term.

After Easter, Ms Griffin will be joining the academy as Trust Vice Principal with responsibility for Behaviour and Inclusion.

Kind regards,  
Ms Mills

### Trust Vice Principal (Ms V Griffin)

#### Behaviour Culture and Ethos

#### Safety Net Room – Year 9 Pilot

We are introducing a new *Safety Net Room* for Year 9 students as part of our ongoing commitment to supporting positive behaviour and wellbeing.

This space is staffed by members of our Behaviour Team and provides a calm, structured environment where students can:

- **Regulate** – take time to settle and reset
- **Reflect** – think about their behaviour and its impact
- **Refocus** – prepare to return to their learning positively

If a student attends the Safety Net Room, they will remain there for the rest of the lesson before returning to their usual timetable.

**Our aim** is to support students in managing their emotions, encourage reflection and ensure that learning for all students continues with minimal disruption.

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Ms Griffin

## Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Overall Attendance this half term: 89.66%

Week 26 Attendance:

Year 7	92.80%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 8	89.36%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 9	83.78%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 10	87.66%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 11	88.40%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26

We are thrilled to report that our school attendance is going up! Thank you for everyone's

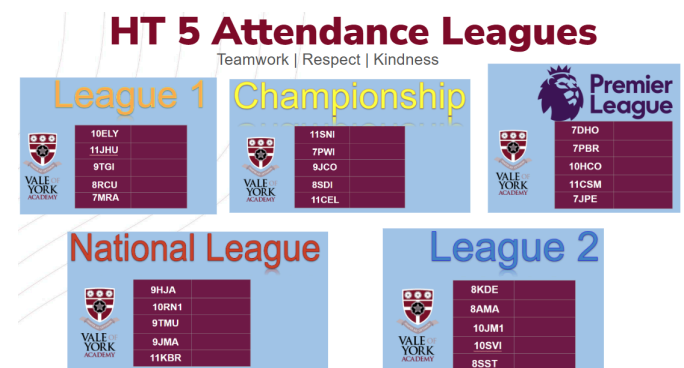
support. This increases students' academic success, wellbeing and future opportunities.

Over 350 students have done superbly to achieve their 25 day 'Easter Streak' and received a chocolate egg on Friday. Other students that have shown significant increase and/or extra effort have also received an easter egg. Next half term there will be a film reward for students with over 98% across the 6 week period.



Students have been celebrated in rewards assemblies this week for their efforts across all areas of school.

Congratulations to 7PBR who won the Premier Attendance League! The standings for HT5 are below.



The link to attendance and academic outcomes is clear. Thank you to Y11 parents/carers for supporting them in the final lead up to their GCSE's.

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Vale Year 11 Leavers Summer 25	
Attendance %	Average Grade
95+	5.41
91-94	4.68
85-90	4.16
84 and under	2.42

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

Our attendance team will be coming out in the minibus from 8.15am from Monday 13th April to support students arriving at school on time.

If you have any attendance questions or need support, 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 Mr Donaldson and our welfare team. Below are the external links relating to support for exam stress.

[Childline](#)

[Kooth](#)

[Young Minds](#)

[The Mix](#)

[Mind](#)

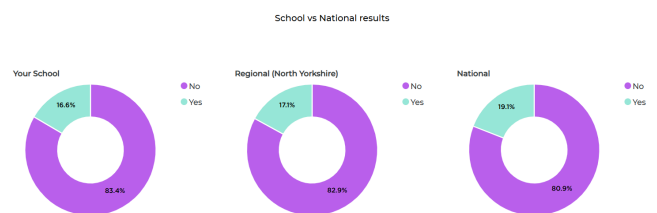
## Votes for Schools

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.

Following the recent Louis Theroux documentary, "Inside the Manosphere", this week's VoteTopic focuses on a trend that has roots in this emerging culture: looksmaxxing. Young people will be considering its potential harms as well as possible benefits, and reflect on how this impacts the way they and others feel about their appearance.

Question: Is the influence of looksmaxxing a good thing?

### Regional results vs national results



## Uniform Reminder

We would like to clarify that for all students, only a single stud earring in each ear will be accepted at Vale of York Academy and any other style will need to be removed before the start of the school day. Jewellery must also be removed before entering the school building however some

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cultural items will be accepted if a consultation has taken place with the school prior to them being worn.

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

Year 11 revision sessions will be taking place over the Easter holidays as follows:

Day	Sessions
Tuesday 31st March	History 10am-12pm (Miss Tyrer) Music 9am-3pm (Ms Brady)
Thursday 2nd April	Art 9am-2.30pm (Mr Hopkins and Ms Larwence) Psychology 9am-2.30pm (Mr Donaldson)
Tuesday 7th April	Maths Foundation 9.30am-2.30pm (Mrs Mapplebeck and Mr Smith)
Wednesday 8th April	Maths Higher 9.30am-2.30pm (Mr Smith)

Period 6 sessions after the holidays will be for all subjects and open to all students. Please see below for the timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk A	French G109	English CIA F9 CE F8 JH - F12	Science SV -F38,PW2 - F28	Staff CPD	
	Science KB - G39,	Maths Higher SN in F31	GCSE PE - RO (G40)		
	GCSE PE - MR (G40)	Maths Foundation CS in F32	Business DR S5		
	Art DHO S19	History HA FA S1	Engineering G2		Health & Social canteen RDO/PT
	Geog JP/JM G94	Music PB G97	Food Tech f2		

Wk B	French F43	English CIA F9 CE F8 JH - F12	Engineering G2	Staff CPD	
	Art DHO S19	Maths Higher SN in F31	Food Tech f5		
	History HJ S2	Maths Foundation CS in F32	Business DR S5		
	GCSE PE - MR (G40)	Music PB G97	Drama - The Cube/F33 RN		
	Science KB - G39,		Science SV - F38,PW2 - F28		Health & Social canteen RDO/PT
	Geog JP/JM G94		GCSE PE - RO (G40)		

**Year 9** - The Options deadline has been extended until 16th April 2026 due to the removal of Business.

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing from Mrs Cook Designated Safeguarding Lead

Hope you all have a lovely Easter break, I have included some information from the Family Information Service on support and activities available:

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## Summer Term Family Support 2026

Family Matters York - Sign up today for our FREE courses and events  
<http://fmy.org.uk>

April - July courses now available!

**A Mind Of Their Own** FREE PARENTING COURSE: [www.fmy.org.uk](http://www.fmy.org.uk)

A 5 week video & discussion based course to help parents/carers support the emotional well being of their child, including a brand NEW session on taking care of yourself.

Starting Thursday 4th June 2026  
 7-9pm @ St Giles Church, Copmanthorpe, York YO23 3SE

Scan the QR code or email: [jenwootten@fmy.org.uk](mailto:jenwootten@fmy.org.uk)

Tackling subjects like: self-esteem, managing strong emotions, anxiety, body confidence & belonging

**BOOK NOW** >>

FAMILY MATTERS YORK in partnership with **Good Mental Health Practice**

**Handling Anger in the Family** FREE ONLINE course for parents & carers in York

ALL families experience anger and conflict. It's normal! But how often do we talk about it?

Join our FREE 5 session course to find out more about anger and its impact on our family relationships. Learn simple strategies to manage strong emotions and communicate better.

Starts Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026  
 Online via Zoom 7.15 - 9.15pm

Tackling subjects like: anger triggers, stress and anger, anger responses, warning signs, calming strategies, better communication.

www.fmy.org.uk  
[jenwootten@fmy.org.uk](mailto:jenwootten@fmy.org.uk)

**BOOK NOW** >>

FAMILY MATTERS YORK

## Current Sparx Science Homework League:

Leaderboard		Leaderboard		Leaderboard	
7PWI	77%	8AMA	50%	9TGI	41%
7JPE	72%	8SDI	50%	9JMA	21%
7MRA	46%	8RCU	45%	9JCO	14%
7DHO	40%	8SST	31%	9HJA	13%
7PBR	39%	8KDE	17%	9TMU	12%

Leaderboard		Leaderboard	
10JM1	56%	11KBR	26%
10ELY	38%	11CEL	23%
10HCO	38%	11CSM	17%
10RNI	34%	11PME	10%
10SVI	27%	11JHU	7%

## York Students in Schools Project

Over this half term, we have been delighted to welcome in 18 undergraduate students from York University who have volunteered to tutor a group of Year 11 pupils in a range of subjects. The project, known as York Students in Schools, saw undergraduates receive training from the university and staff at Vale of York Academy around how to tutor and safeguard, before delivering high quality sessions once a week during this half term.

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Attendance by our pupils has been strong and the feedback we have received from those pupils involved has been really positive. As a reward, those who regularly got involved were treated to Dominoes during the last session... which went down very well!



Ella Warrington | Lily Dawe



Leilah Harris | Aisha Turan

## Current Vacancies

[Education & Welfare Support Officer](#)

[Senior Attendance Officer - Family Outreach Worker](#)

## Key Dates:

**Thursday 30th April**

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

**Mon 1st Jun - Fri 26 Jun**

KS3 Assessment Window 2 / Year 10 Trial Exams

**Tuesday 14th July**

Year 9 Graduation

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