

Updates from the Principal



Update - 28th November 2025

Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

A great week here at Vale. Students have adapted brilliantly to the Yondr pouches. Year 11 have completed their final week of mock examinations. We are now preparing for the final few weeks of term.

Assemblies have focused on Movember this week. Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health. We know what works for men – and what doesn't on both mental health and suicide prevention; prostate cancer; and testicular Cancer.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Poppy Appeal - we raised £56.56.

Kind regards,
Ms Mills

Quality of Education Update from Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

This week brings us to a close with our first mock exam season for Year 11. Students have shown exemplary behaviour throughout the past three weeks and it has been a pleasure to work with students at this critical point in their school career.

We will be holding a results assembly in school before Christmas where students will receive their grades and will have the opportunity to discuss these. We are incredibly proud of all year 11 for their hard work and commitment during this time, and hope that you are proud of your children too.

Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Our November attendance bulletin is attached. Please read this over to see what we are doing to increase our attendance and how you can support your child's attendance.

Overall Attendance this half term: 83.98%

Week 12 Attendance:

Year 7	88.66%	National Average: 93.4% 2025
Year 8	81.60%	National Average: 93.4% 2025
Year 9	83.70%	National Average: 93.4% 2025
Year 10	82.78%	National Average: 93.4% 2025

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Year 11	83.28%	National Average: 93.4% 2025
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Good attendance is 95%+ and 100% represents excellent attendance.

This half term, students with great attendance will be invited to a Christmas Film and popcorn alongside the attendance raffles.

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.

From Monday 1st December anyone who is late to school will receive a 60 minute after school detention the same day. A text will be sent out that day to inform parents/carers and students will be told on entry to the academy. If there are valid reasons for your child being late then please let school know as soon as possible.

If you have any attendance questions, please get in touch via the school phone line or at 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](#)

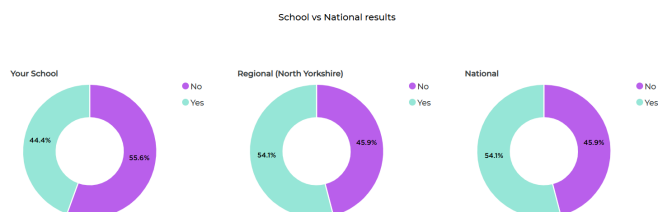
Votes for Schools

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.

This week, we're talking about whether schools should be helping young people get ready for voting at 16.

Question: Should your school help you prepare for votes at 16?

Regional results vs national results



Updates from the Principal



Teaching and Learning Update from Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

A reminder this week from me about Sparx homework for Maths and Science. Each student is given 45 minutes of maths and 30 minutes of science every Wednesday. Please speak to your children about this and encourage this regular practice in order to support their progress in these critical subject areas.

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

Another great week on the Yondr front for Vale. Thank you very much for your support from home on our new policy. Students overall are incredibly positive about the move and have taken to it really well, which is hugely commendable and very mature of them.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support, Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

York Mind are open for referrals for the Expressive Mind Group. It is a 6 week early intervention project to support young people through a mix of art media ranging from sculpture and watercolours to collage and painting

The group is designed to develop: confidence, communication skills, self-esteem, healthy relationships and self-expression and offers an opportunity to connect with others.

Please follow the link below to refer or for more information

<https://www.yormind.org.uk/mental-health-services/expressive-minds/>

Information for families in receipt of Free School Meals

York City FC Foundation are hosting Happy Healthy Holiday courses over the Christmas holidays. These are great for young people, allowing them to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. They will have the opportunity to get active using football as a vehicle to do so. They will be engaged in FUN activities where they will challenge both themselves and others, trying out new skills finishing the day with mini football matches. Not only does this offer allow your child a full day of activity they will also be provided with a healthy lunch.

This course will be taking place:

22nd & 23rd December LNER Community Stadium
22nd & 23rd December Millthorpe School
2nd January LNER Community Stadium
2nd January Millthorpe School

<https://www.holidayactivities.com/how-it-works/recipients/>

If you would like any further information or to book in advance please contact

inclusion@yorkcityfcfoundation.co.uk

Information for all SEND families

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Updates from the Principal



Attached is a Parent Carer Forum newsletter for all SEND families. The newsletter highlights some current aspects of York's local offer and signposts families to events and opportunities.

Vacancies:

[Teacher of Mathematics](#)

[Lead Teacher of Mathematics](#)

Key Dates:

Thursday 11th December

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening

Mon 15th Dec - Fri 23 Jan

KS3 Assessment Window 1

Tuesday 16th December

Christmas Concert

Wednesday 17th December

School Community Christmas Lunch

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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