

Updates from the Principal



Update - 2nd October 2026

Principal's Update Mr Green-Harding

It has been another busy and really positive week at Vale of York Academy.

A particular highlight was our Key Stage 4 Revision Evening. It was fantastic to see so many Year 10 and 11 pupils and their families joining us. Thank you for the support, the conversations and the really positive feedback. Working closely with families is incredibly important to us, particularly as we support our older pupils through the important months ahead.

Across school, we have continued to focus on the things that matter most: great teaching, high expectations, strong relationships and making sure every pupil feels known, supported and able to succeed. It has also been great to see so many pupils getting involved in wider school life, whether through sport, enrichment or by volunteering to support our Open Evening.

There is plenty coming up too. Year 11 Period 6 sessions begin on Monday, Year 10 families have our Work Experience Launch, and on Thursday we open our doors for our Community Open Evening. I am particularly proud that more than 200 of our pupils have volunteered to help us showcase the

school. That says a great deal about how they feel about Vale and the pride they have in their school.

Thank you, as always, to our pupils, families and staff for your continued support. There is a real sense of momentum across the academy, and I am looking forward to another busy and successful week ahead.

Mr Donaldson, Assistant Vice Principal

Thank you to all who attended our Key Stage 4 Revision evening. We were delighted with the number of students and family members who joined us, and really appreciate your support and feedback. It was a very positive evening, and it was great to hear your verbal feedback. We will be sending a digital feedback form to capture your thoughts, presently.

The information from the evening will also be condensed and circulated to all Year 10 and 11 parents.

If you have any questions about any of the details we discussed, please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email, or by calling school and requesting a call back.

Period 6s begin on Monday (5th October) for Year 11 students. Year 11 parents and carers should have received the Period 6 timetable this week, so please inform reception if you have not, and we can resend it.

Mr Orr, Director of Community

Thursday 8th October sees our annual Community

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Open Evening take place from 17.00 - 19.00. This is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to get a feel for what Vale of York Academy has to offer. I am delighted that over 200 current students put their name forward to help out on the night, which I was absolutely delighted about and of course, am very grateful for. A big thank you to parents and carers who have taken the time to complete the consent forms to allow their children to support what is always a really positive evening.

Mr Martin, Careers Lead

This week in KS3 our year 7 and 9 students have been focusing on key skills needed for their future whilst the year 8s have been conducting independent research while having 1-1 meetings with their form tutors to support them in their thinking and where they want to be when they are older.

In KS4, year 10 are well on their way with work experience, with many students seeking support and some already having found their placements! A friendly reminder that the work experience launch for parents will take place at the academy on Monday 5th October 6pm to 7pm. Our year 11 pupils are starting to decide where they want to go after Vale, with the first open event at York College taking place Tuesday 6th October.

Your career questions answered.

This week's question is 'What are the essential

skills my child needs for their future?

At Vale we use Skills builder, an internationally recognised set of skills, which employers and further education providers value. Find out more here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zij8TS_V0f8

Mr Rampling, Sport and Enrichment

Please can I draw your attention to the procedure when home matches are played at Vale of York

- Home fixtures will start around 4pm and spectators will be able to attend on site from 3.55pm.
- Spectators are kindly asked not to attend before 3.55pm as they will not be allowed access before that time.
- Parking and entrance for spectators is at the Cube entrance.
- Visiting spectators do not need to sign in at reception.
- Spectators will **not be** allowed access to the school buildings and there will be **no** toilet facilities for spectators.

At the pitch there will be a 120m respect line down the side to allow spectators to stand behind.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Key Dates:

Monday 5th October - Work Experience Launch

Thursday 8th October - Open Evening

Friday 23rd October - School Closed

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - Half Term

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Thursday 12th November - Y7 Parents

Consultation Evening

Friday 18th December - School Closed

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