



# Updates from the Principal

## Update - 30th January 2026

### Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week, students have had assemblies on Holocaust Memorial Day. The students have taken this very seriously and have been very respectful. If you would like to know more details, this is the link for the [Holocaust Memorial Day website](#).

We welcomed a guest speaker for Year 11 on Thursday who is an examiner for GCSE English Literature. The Year 11s were polite and receptive to the advice that was offered. We also welcomed York Knights who led a talk for Year 9 on the work it takes to be a sportsperson.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Ms Mills

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

Overall Attendance this half term: 90.12%

Week 19 Attendance:

Year 7	93.76%	National Average:
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		92.0% 2025/26
Year 8	89.64%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 9	87.52%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 10	88.04%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 11	88.22%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26

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

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.

With only 2 weeks left of this half term we are having a big push on attendance to see if we can reach over 92% consistently. Our attendance team



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

During form time tutors are awarding achievement points for outstanding, great and good attendance to recognise each individual student and their effort.

Students with 98% attendance for this half term will be able to watch a film on the last day of term alongside rewards for the promoted form teams and individual raffle tokens!

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

This week, voters get to have their say in the debate about whether there should be a social media ban for under-16s in the UK, based on the recent ban in Australia.

Question: Should there be a social media ban for under-16s?

### Regional results vs national results



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

Options evening for Year 9 will take place during parents evening on Thursday. Please do join us if your son/daughter is in Year 9 to hear about the options process and the different options that they can pick. Students will also be told about their option choices during lessons and there will be an assembly explaining the process on Thursday of next week. This will include an overview of any subjects that students don't currently study in Y9



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but they can opt for in Y10.

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

Thank you for all your ongoing support with encouraging our students to read for pleasure. Please can I ask that you check your child has a planner and pencil case for school. Each student was issued with a pencil case at the beginning of the year or they can of course bring their own. These are vital parts of our lessons and routines that pupils need to bring and have out in every lesson of the day.

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

Please note that as of Weds 4th Feb, Mr Vine will be running Computer Science P6 weekly in S4. Please encourage your child to attend.

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support, Mrs Cook

### [Parent webinars on County Lines and Exploitation \(Ivison Trust\)](#)

The Ivison Trust (formerly Pace) is a national charity working to keep children safe from exploitation by supporting parents, disrupting exploiters, and working in partnership with police and family services. Their work is grounded in a trauma-informed, family-centred approach. During

March 2026, the Ivison Trust are delivering a series of live webinars for parents and carers focused on county lines and criminal exploitation. The sessions help parents understand how exploitation happens, how children are groomed, what warning signs to look out for, and where to access advice and support. Each webinar includes local context, time for questions, and input from a parent with lived experience.

The Yorkshire and Humber webinar is on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 1pm to 2:30pm however, parents (and professionals) can attend any sessions including those outside of their region. More information and booking details are available at: <https://ivisontrust.org.uk/webinars/>.

## Current Vacancies

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

## Key Dates:

### **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



# Updates from the Principal

**Friday 17th July**

Year 9 Graduation

**Kindness | Respect | Teamwork**

ALWAYS GIVING THE BEST