

# Updates from the Principal



## Update - 3rd October 2025

### Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

The sports season has officially started this week and we have had a number of teams with very successful starts to their campaigns.

Assemblies this week have had a theme of Black History Month - 'standing firm in power and pride'. If you would like to know more, please access the following link: [Black History Month](#)

Kind regards,  
Ms Mills

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

Following on from the link sent a few weeks ago regarding exam boards and revision material that KS4 students can access, we will be hosting a Y11 revision information event on Tuesday 21st October. The event is designed to complement the list of resources sent to students to ensure that they have as much information as possible regarding how to prepare for upcoming mock exams and also the final exams in the summer. Whilst this event is still a few weeks away, we felt it was important to highlight the date now to allow for time to plan and coordinate diaries if you wish

to attend.

Revision sessions are aimed at KS4, however we know that many KS3 students are also keen to take ownership of their own home learning. To help students continue their learning and revision at home, we will be launching something very special in assemblies next week. Watch this space for more details...

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

A small plea from me please this week as we have been talking to students about Black History Month in our assemblies. The theme of this year's celebration is 'standing firm in power and pride'. We are encouraging students to research and find out more about any black individual who could fit within this theme to help raise awareness of the strength and resilience of this community. Students can then present this research into any format they wish (a poster, poem, piece or artwork etc) and pass it to myself in order for us to help promote this incredibly important area of history through the month of October.

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

Our September attendance bulletin is here [Attendance Bulletin](#), please read this over to see what we are doing to increase our attendance and how you can support your child's attendance.

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Our overall school attendance for this week is 89.93%. Our aim is 95%.

Week 5 Attendance:

Year 7	93.95%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 8	89.10%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 9	85.45%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 10	90.08%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 11	88.98%	National Average: 91.4% 2025

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)

Year 7 continues to lead the way with brilliant attendance!

Thank you for your continued support with attendance, it has a huge impact on students' progress and wellbeing. Good attendance is considered 95%+.

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.

We are working as a Vale Team to increase the sense of belonging around the school. Tutor time Pledges are in full swing and in week 7 Year 7 will have their big team breakfast along with Y8 & 9. Y10 are using Votes for Schools to engage them in democracy and current affairs. We are keen to hear students' voices and give them opportunities to connect in school.

Year 11 attendance is improving this week and we continue to have a big push to remind them that students with 95%+ attendance averaged over a grade 5.4 in their GCSE's last year - opening many doors to their future. Attendance below 90% severely impacts their learning and progress. Attendance rewards are in full swing as students have started posting their 100% weekly attendance tokens into the prize buckets for the raffle at the end of half term. Our Vale Attendance Leagues are up and running with 7MRA still looking to be contenders for an early lead in the premiership!

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We have started the Willy Wonka 100% weekly attendance rewards on Fridays for Year 8 & 9! Mr Donaldson and Mr Rice went around school this week rewarding students for their amazing attendance!



We are working with the community to improve our school attendance and appreciate your support getting students to school on time each day.

Late detention updates - since we changed our late's detention to 1 late = 1 detention in a week we have seen a 50% reduction in the number of late's to school. In week 5 this will be 1 late = 1 20 minute detention. **In Week 6 this will move to 1 late to school = 1 break time tutor catch up in the hall (11.15-11.30), failure to attend that will result in an afterschool detention.**

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)

**The Year 7 team identity this year is 'Work Together, Get it Done - Together, Life is Better'.**

The focus is on teamwork. This is because building a foundational identity around teamwork will result in a better school experience and better outcomes for everyone; if we can embrace our differences and share our strengths, we can get the best out of life as a whole.

Around school staff will be praising them for any examples of teamwork and collaboration, including 'We do' tasks in class, homework assignments, helping others around school and getting involved in team events and activities.

You can support our Year 7 Team by encouraging your child to treat their peers as a member of their team, with respect and kindness in all actions, and to be the person to make a positive difference to other peoples' day.

Any questions, please get in touch.

Progress Leader: Mr Belyeu

Email: [c.belyeu@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:c.belyeu@voy.hlt.academy)



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## The Year 8 team identity this year is **TEAM approach!**

Working collaboratively to **ACHIEVE** in all its different forms!

The focus during the Autumn Term is on positive mental health as we approach winter. The idea is that together everyone achieves better mental wellbeing if we all look out for each other and be kind. This is because we want to improve Y8 attendance and encourage students to be respectful and welcoming around school making it a warm atmosphere where we all feel we belong. Around school staff will be praising them for their manners, friendliness and kindness towards each other and staff.

You can support our Year 8 Team by influencing and noticing acts of kindness and respect.

Any questions, please get in touch.

Progress Leader Ms Appleyard email:

[a.appleyard@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:a.appleyard@voy.hlt.academy)



## The Year 9 team identity this year is **"Be Our Best"**

The focus is on Attendance and Teamwork. This is because as a year group we can work together and support each other to improve attendance, make progress in lessons and enjoy school.

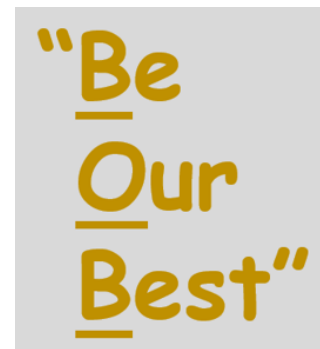
Around school staff will be praising them for regular attendance, working as a team, respect and hard work.

You can support our Year 9 Team by regularly talking about the importance of attending school every day, showing respect to others and working together with their peers and teachers.

Any questions, please get in touch.

Progress Leader Mr Rice email:

[d.rice@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:d.rice@voy.hlt.academy)



The Year 10 team identity will be published next week

## The Year 11 team identity this year is **'Accomplish' – Just do it**

The focus is on students bridging the gap between their pre-16 education and their post-16 opportunities. This is because they are at a crucial point on their educational journey with the year ultimately ending with their GCSE exams, something they have been working towards for a number of years.

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Around school staff will be praising them for their attendance, engagement in learning and effort in lessons.

You can support our Year 11 Team by maximising their attendance to school, talking to them about their post-16 options and making sure they buy into the fact that ensuring engagement and effort will improve the opportunities they have available to them.

Any questions, please get in touch.

Progress Leader Mr P Foster email:

[p.foster@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:p.foster@voy.hlt.academy)



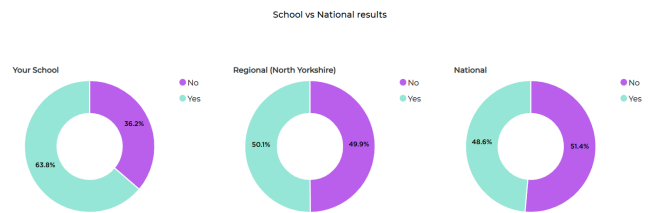
## Votes for Schools

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 to celebrate Black History Month 2025 and its theme of "Standing firm in power & pride", voters will consider the role that clothing & fashion plays in exploring Black history and how it contributes to the UK's vibrant cultural fabric.

Question: Does fashion teach us about Black history?

### Regional results vs national results



## Wellbeing Support

Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Signposting Event For Families, Parents and Carers @ York Explore Library - City Centre**

11<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
12noon - 3pm

- 12.30pm Young people's drop-in and LGBTQ+ mental health support - Sam Armstrong, YorMind
- 1.00pm Sensory integration awareness and the environment - Lizzie Huxford OT4ME
- 1.30pm Dear parents and teachers: This is what I wish you'd known when I was growing up with undiagnosed AuDHD - Jo McCormick, The Retreat Clinics
- 2.00pm York Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership Introduction - Helen McConnell, YMVP
- 2.30pm Introduction to Pave the Way Families in the York area - Helen Caulfield - Pave The Way Families

[www.theretreatclinics.org.uk/events/](http://www.theretreatclinics.org.uk/events/)



Our school will be taking part in **Hello Yellow** on Friday 10th October (World Mental Health Day) to raise awareness and funds for YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health. No young person should feel alone with

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their mental health and that's why Hello Yellow matters.

We're taking this opportunity as a school community to come together and show our students that we're with them and they're never alone with their mental health. If you would like to take part, students are invited to wear one **YELLOW** item, this could be a hair bobble, t-shirt, tie, jumper or socks -this must be worn along with their normal uniform.

You can choose to donate to support our school's fundraising for Young Minds, by contributing a small donation . Most importantly, we want to share the resources which YoungMinds offer to support parents and carers if you ever need help and advice to support your children. This includes:

- online resources

[\(www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/\)](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/)

- a phone line, open 9.30am-4pm (0808 802 5544)
- an online chat for parents and carers to speak to trained professionals if you're concerned about your children's mental health  
([www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/))

## Vacancies:

[Advanced Teaching Assistant](#)

[Driver \(Car/Minibus\)](#)

[Cover Supervisor](#)

## Key Dates:

### Friday 17th October

Flu Vaccinations

### Tuesday 21st October

Year 11 Revision Information Event

### Mon 10th Nov - Fri 28th Nov

Year 11 Trial Exams 1

### Thursday 13th November

Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening

### Thursday 11th December

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening

### Friday 12th December

Christmas Big Sing

### Mon 15th Dec - Fri 23 Jan

KS3 Assessment Window 1

### Tuesday 16th December

Christmas Concert

### 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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