

Updates from the Principal



Update - 6th February 2026

Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

Many thanks to those of you who attended Year 9 parents' evening this week. It was well attended and a pleasure to catch up with so many families.

It has been another busy week for Year 11 students with GCSE moderation and the final preparations for the trial examinations. We also hosted the student council leaders at the Senior Leadership Team meeting on Tuesday. They represented their year groups well.

This week's assemblies have been on the theme of LGBT+ History month and the introduction of the options process to Year 9 students. There is more information for parents on this in the section from Mrs Cripps, who is overseeing the process.



Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Ms Mills

Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Overall Attendance this half term: 89.96%

Week 20 Attendance:

Year 7	92.32%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 8	90.54%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 9	88.60%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 10	89.06%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 11	86.90%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26

Good attendance is 95%+ and 100% represents

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excellent attendance.

With 1 more week (5 days!) until the February half term break we are hoping we can shoot above 90% next week across all year groups. This half term has shown us that our attendance is increasing significantly and we are moving in the right direction.

Our attendance team 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. Alongside this tutors are talking to students about their individual attendance and making sure the support is in place.

We have introduced 'Attendance Streaks' cards where students have a set number of days needed to reach above 90% attendance. These are run by form tutors and students are responding well to gaining 'streaks'!

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!

Please find attached to this newsletter our Attendance Update.

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

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, with the Winter Olympics fast approaching, a heated debate is taking shape on the slopes: should artificial snow have a place in the Games? As climate change reduces natural snowfall, many venues are turning to man-made snow to keep events running, though

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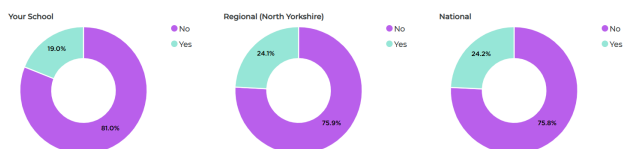


environmentalists warn of the heavy toll this takes on water and energy resources. We want to find out what our voters think is a priority.

Question: Should the Winter Olympics use fake snow?

Regional results vs national results

School vs National results



Quality of Education Update from Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

Many thanks to Year 9 parents for attending the parents/options evening on Thursday. Students will be receiving information from teachers about options choices during their lessons over the next few weeks and they will also have presentations during assemblies. Please view the presentation that was on the screen during the evening here

[Y9 Parents evening information](#)

Year 11 mock exams for English, Maths and Science start after February half term. P6 sessions will be used as pre exam workshops during the mock exam period; a timetable for this will be shared with parents next week.

Teaching and Learning Update from Miss

Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

Next week all KS3 classes will be completing their reading plus assessment on Thursday. This is crucial data for us to collect in order to ensure we can put any relevant support in place for students to develop their reading.

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

We have some significant changes taking place with regards to behaviour sanctions next week, and until further notice. Students found truanting in school, or any student walking away from staff trying to support or direct them on corridors, will receive automatic 3 day suspensions.

The students whose behaviour has prompted this change are a very small group, however, their conduct cannot be allowed to impact the vast majority of students, who are thoroughly engaged in their education.

Rather than having any responsibility for finding their own Safety Nets (a secondary classroom students are moved to after receiving a Phase 3 in their lesson), students will now be collected by On Call staff and relocated. This is to prevent any confusion as to why students are out of lesson, and to prevent any undeserved sanctions being issued.

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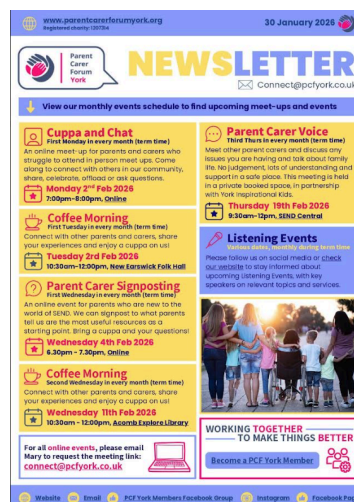
We have also been experiencing a high number of students trying to use lesson time to refill drinks bottles. The water fountains are available at all social times and in between classes, but should not be used during lessons. It is the expectation that students refill their water bottles at the times provided, rather than during lesson. This will again prevent any misunderstandings when students are on corridors.

The standard policy for use of toilets remains unchanged- students are permitted to use the toilets in the middle 30 minutes of lesson, but not in the first 15 or last 15 minutes of a lesson. Students with existing toilet passes will not experience any change to their support.

These changes will be communicated to students within school, but please emphasise this at home to prevent any misunderstanding on their part.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support, Mrs Cook

Please see the newsletter from Parent Carer Forum York



Current Vacancies

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

[Cover Supervisor - 22 hours per week, term time only](#)

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Key Dates:

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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