Updates from the Principal

Update - 6th November 2026

Principal's Update
Mr Green-Harding

It has been lovely to welcome our pupils back to the Academy following the half-term break. I hope everyone enjoyed some time together as a family and had the opportunity to recharge ahead of another busy half term.

I would like to thank our pupils and staff for such a positive first week back. As always, our focus remains on maintaining high expectations, positive behaviour and making the most of every opportunity, both in and beyond the classroom.

Next week marks the start of our Year 11 mock examinations. This is an important milestone for our Year 11 pupils and an opportunity for them to demonstrate what they have learnt, identify areas for further improvement and build confidence ahead of the summer examinations. I would encourage all pupils to approach these exams positively, prepare carefully and give their very best. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support during this important period.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming our Year 7 families to Parents' Consultation Evening next Thursday. This is a valuable opportunity to reflect on how our newest pupils have settled into life at Vale and to celebrate their progress so far.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Mr Donaldson, Assistant Vice Principal
It's been great to see everyone back in the Academy this week, hitting the ground running!
An important reminder for Year 11 parents and students that mock exams begin on Monday (09/11/26).
It is crucial that exams begin on time, and that students receive the pre-exam briefing beforehand, so please encourage punctuality even more than ever across the next three weeks.
Period 6 attendance has been phenomenal, with sessions completed nearing 600 in total in the first 4 weeks alone! Thank you for your ongoing support!

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Road Safety and Cycling to School

As the mornings and evenings become darker, we would like to remind all pupils and families of the importance of staying safe when travelling to and from school.

We encourage pupils who walk or cycle to school to remain alert, use designated crossings wherever possible and take particular care around busy roads and junctions.

For those cycling to school, we ask parents and carers to reinforce the importance of wearing a helmet, ensuring bicycles are roadworthy and using appropriate front and rear lights and reflective clothing, particularly during the darker winter months. Pupils should also cycle responsibly, follow the Highway Code and be considerate of pedestrians and other road users.

We also ask parents and carers who drive their children to school to take extra care around the school site, particularly during the busy morning drop-off and afternoon collection periods. Please be mindful of pupils walking and cycling, check carefully for cyclists before turning or opening car doors, and ensure that parking or stopping does not obstruct pavements, crossings or visibility for other road users.

The safety of our pupils is a shared responsibility, and we would appreciate your support in reinforcing these important messages at home. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe on their journey to and from school.

Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

Welcome back! As we begin half term 2 I wanted to inform parents about our new reading plus intervention sessions that are beginning next week to support specific pupils at KS3 with their reading. These sessions will run once a week during normal lesson time to help pupils progress with their learning. Parents and Carers of pupils involved have received a separate message. These sessions will be delivered by the English team.

Can I also ask that if for any reason your child is missing a lesson (perhaps for a music lesson etc) that it is their responsibility to check what they have missed with their class teacher and catch up on any work needed. This is especially important for Year 11 and Year 10 pupils. We want to help our young people develop an independent and conscientious approach towards all of their studies. Thank

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you as always for your ongoing support.

Mrs Harrower-Long, Assistant Vice Principal

It is fantastic to see our students return to the Academy after half term! We ended last term on a real high, celebrating our 100% attendance students with vouchers and a live prize draw. A huge well done to everyone who achieved this!

As we move into Half Term 2, our message remains the same: Every Day Counts! We will continue to recognise and reward students achieving 100% attendance each week, alongside celebrating those who are making improvements in their attendance. There is also something exciting coming for our students on Fridays – our Fri-yays! Watch this space for more details!

A massive well done to all of Year 8 for being such fantastic ambassadors for the Academy during Wednesday's Crucial Crew event. They were an absolute credit to the school, showing excellent attitudes and behaviour while engaging with external visitors and taking part in a range of important activities as part of their alternative timetable for the day. Well done, Year 8!

Rob Orr, Director of Community

Remembrance Day

The Student Council will be going around on Monday and Tuesday to sell poppies ahead of Wednesday's Remembrance Day. Students are asked to bring a small donation to put in the tin for a poppy so please ensure they have cash if your child wishes to get one.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will start again this coming week. It will run from 08.15 - 08.40 for all students, who can enjoy a slice of toast and a drink free of charge. Contact r.orr@voy.hlt.academy should you have any questions.

Jack Martin, Careers Coordinator

Preparing to Launch: University Explained for Parents & Carers

Thursday 26th November 2026, 6pm - 8.30pm at York St John University

Find out everything you need to know about sending a young person to university.
The university application process can feel daunting, and as a parent or carer it can be difficult to know where to start. At this informative event, we will explain how the application process and UCAS work, share information on student funding and

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accommodation, and provide advice on how to choose the right university and course. You will leave feeling confident and empowered to support the young people in your lives to make informed decisions about higher education and their futures.
This event will begin with free refreshments from 6pm, followed by a presentation from our friendly team. Afterwards, you will get the opportunity to talk to our support teams one-to-one and have all your questions answered in one place.
For more information and to book your place, please see our website or attached flyer:
Parents and Carers Event - Book Your Place

Our year 7's have continued to develop their skills in form time, and some year 7's have taken part in the annual breakthrough event through ISSP at Bootham school. Year 8s have learnt about the different public services and jobs in those areas.

Some of our year 10s went and visited Ardent Financial and gave presentations to industry experts. They did a fantastic job. Year 10 should be continuing to find work experience opportunities and year 11 needs to be attending open events, booking taster days and applying for their post 16 courses.

This week's focus: What is LMI? (Labour market information). Understanding LMI helps our pupils to understand which jobs are in demand and how where they are can shape their careers choices.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajp1wrNIsZ0

Key Dates:

Monday 9th November to Friday 27th November - Y11 Mock Exams
Thursday 12th November - Y7 Parents Consultation Evening
Tuesday 1st December - Flu Vaccination catch up session
Tuesday 15th December - Xmas Concert
Friday 18th December - School Closed