

Updates from the Principal



Update - 9th January 2026

Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year to you all.

It has been a fantastic start to the new year. All students started with the usual standards and expectations assembly and the launch of Project Joy.

Year 11 students celebrated their return with an exams improvement focused assembly in which we celebrated the improvements that the students have made in Year 11 so far. This continued into the Year 11 parents' evening, when students were issued with a revision wallchart, trial exam timetable for February and March, and the P6 timetable for the term.

There has been a great buzz around the school with the start of the rehearsals for 'The Wizard of Oz' school production too.

Proud Thursdays will relaunch for students in KS3 next week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Ms Mills

Quality of Education Update from Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

It has been great to see so many students settle back into the school routines this week and be focused on their learning in lessons after the two week break.

Period 6 sessions for Year 11 will start as of next week. Please see the attached timetable for information.

Students will be targeted for intervention in Period 6 as per last half term, however we would also like to invite any additional students to attend sessions if they feel they will benefit from it. This is in addition to the targeted students.

Please note that although all students are welcome to all sessions, if they have a targeted session on the same night as a subject that they are not targeted for, the targeted session must take priority.

KS3 will be undertaking end point assessments this week and next in all subjects. Teachers will discuss the format and revision needed with students to help them be as prepared as possible. Please ask your children about these assessments and praise the hard work that has been put in so far.

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

This week we launched 'Project Joy' - a revamp of our whole school rewards programme.

Achievement points will now be awarded in the following quantities:

Points	Reason
5	On-task behaviour, being prepared, small acts of kindness. Consistent homework, good teamwork, helping others. Punctuality, presentation.
10	Strong effort, leadership, sustained positive behaviour. Significant improvement, representing the school
15	Exceptional contribution or achievement in any area of the school

We have upped the amount of points students receive in the hopes they will obtain more rewards than ever in the following two terms. In addition, we have added more variety and depth to the reasons for points being awarded:

Behaviour Categories to Reward

- Attendance & punctuality
- Academic effort - (e.g., improvement, homework/Sparx completion, class engagement)
- Behaviour - (e.g., kindness, leadership, cooperation, respect)
- Contribution to school life - (clubs, volunteering, events)

Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Overall Attendance this half term: 90.64%
Week 16 Attendance:

Year 7	93.55%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
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Year 8	90.60%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 9	86.10%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 10	87.58%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26
Year 11	88.40%	National Average: 92.0% 2025/26

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

Y11 Taster Days - please let the attendance team know if your child is attending a taster day on Tuesday or Thursday next week and details of the provider.

Congratulations to 7DHO who won the premier attendance league last half term! 5 forms were promoted and won a form breakfast in the canteen.

We now have a form time session dedicated to attendance support and conversations. Form tutors

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are praising students with great attendance with achievement points and are the first line of support for students.

Our attendance rewards continue with weekly tokens, half term rewards in tutor groups and individually, alongside reward assemblies.

Students in Y7-10 with 98% attendance this half term will be invited to watch a film on the final day of term in recognition of their efforts.

Similarly to last term, Y11 students will be having a special celebration on the final day of the half term to recognise their efforts.

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.

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

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](#)

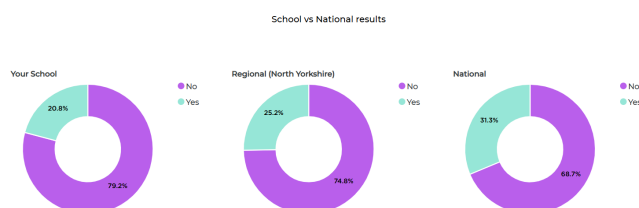
Votes for Schools

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, our first VoteTopic of the new year celebrates all things reading, while also asking voters to consider whether it is going to be a priority for them in the months ahead.

Question: Would you like to read more?

Regional results vs national results



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Teaching and Learning Update from Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

Thank you to all our Year 11 parents and carers who attended parents evening this Thursday. We hope you received some good tips to help with revision in the run up to exams.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support, Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Happy New Year!

There are a lot of helpful sessions being offered in the local area.

First up a workshop for parents at carers to help them learn about anxiety and how it can present in young people. This is at SEND Central at Clifton Childrens Centre- no need to book, just turn up.

For those who may need support with managing tricky emotions, there are two courses available

Handling Anger in the Family

ALL families experience anger and conflict. It's normal! But how often do we talk about it?

Join our **FREE 5 session** course to find out more about anger and its impact on our family relationships. Learn simple strategies to manage strong emotions and communicate better. **(Free childcare available)**

Starts **Wednesday 14th January 2026**
12.45 - 2.45pm @ Yearsley Grove Primary School, Huntington, York YO31 9BX

YORK Learning in partnership with FAMILY MATTERS YORK **BOOK NOW**

A Mind Of Their Own

FREE PARENTING COURSE: www.fmy.org.uk

A 5 week video & discussion based course to help parents support the emotional well being of their child, including a brand NEW session on taking care of yourself!

Starting **Wednesday 14th January 2026**
7-9pm @ Huntington Methodist Church, York YO32 9SH

FAMILY MATTERS YORK in partnership with **iGood Mental Health Project**

Funded by Yorkshire Housing

Tackling subjects like: self-esteem, managing strong emotions, anxiety, body confidence & belonging

Sign Up

To sign up: Scan the QR code; Visit fmy.org.uk

Or contact Jen for more details : jenwootten@fmy.org.uk; 07393 147259

There is also this free online course

TOGETHERNESS

NHS

Understanding your own adolescence

Emotional health in teenagers explained

For teens and preteens:
Understand your adolescent brain development and what to do with it

Private wellbeing pathways for teens online. Wherever and whenever you need it

Free for you with the access code: **RAISE**

togetherness.co.uk/learn From understanding to thriving: for everyone.

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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

Friday 17th July

Year 9 Graduation

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