

Updates from the Principal



Update - 5th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a fantastic start to the new term. We have been really impressed with the attitude of the students to their new uniforms and each other. We would like to welcome the new Year 7s to the school formally. Welcome to Team Vale.

Assemblies this week have focused on the standards and expectations within the school and the rewards which are on offer in the school. Enrichment activities have been launched with all students and the P6 revision sessions information will be with the Year 11s in the next week.

There are a number of new staff in the academy:

- Faye Garland - Assistant Vice Principal (main subject: Geography)
- Fiona Lawrence - Art/Technology Teacher/Cover Supervisor
- Kira Dernie - English Teacher
- Penny Tyrer - Assistant Vice Principal (main subject: History)
- Sarah Dibley - Curriculum Lead for Technology
- Wendy Storr - English Teacher
- Anthony Malouf - Advanced Teaching Assistant

- Jon Whitehouse - Technology Technician
- Kayleigh Walton - School Administrator
- Oscar Redpath - Senior Cover Supervisor

We say goodbye to Jenny Lockwood, Senior Attendance Officer, who is leaving the school to pursue her career in the charity sector. We wish Miss Lockwood all the best for her future career.

Finally, we would like to share some of the incredible results from the Year 11 students. 70.9% of students attained grade 4+ in English and Maths and 50.4% of students attained grade 5+ in English and Maths, both above national average. English results at 5+ were 70.2%, placing Vale of York 4th overall in the city. We are very proud of what the students achieved and are working hard with our current students to hopefully exceed this performance further. Again, I would like to congratulate the outgoing Year 11 students on their results.

Kind regards,
Ms Mills

Quality of Education Update from Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to the academy after the summer holidays and we have been really impressed so far with the maturity and dedication shown in their lessons. During INSET day staff discussed the best ways to

Kindness | Respect | Teamwork

ALWAYS GIVING THE BEST

Updates from the Principal



support students in understanding content in lessons and applying this and we are looking forward to using new techniques within lessons. In particular, this week will focus on ensuring the start of lessons set students up to learn effectively by designing connect tasks that help students to recall prior learning - especially crucial after such a long break.

Please ask your children what they have been learning about in lessons, and in particular what the connect tasks have helped them to remember.

Teaching and Learning Update from Miss Tyrer, Assistant Vice Principal

I am delighted to be joining you as the new lead on Teaching and Learning this year. I look forward to working with our fantastic community to ensure lessons at Vale of York ensure all our pupils can achieve. I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole Vale of York community for the kind and warm welcome I have received. The hard work and quality of teaching and learning here at Vale has been quantified through an amazing set of results this year. I am thrilled to be joining the team at this pivotal time to continue to embed and develop the highest standards of teaching practice. Staff CPD has now been fully designed for the upcoming year to allow teaching staff time to consider ways in which they can best support pupils to learn in the classroom. I look forward to

working with you all in the future and getting to know the wonderful Vale of York community.

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

And here we are - hello again!

Great to be back on site and to see everyone chomping at the bit for another year. Students are showing a fantastic level of energy and positivity towards each other and staff, which is without doubt the best feature of a small and tight knit community school.

Students are looking brilliant in their new uniforms. Thank you all for your support in this transition period. Please note- no jewellery at all is permitted beyond a single pair of stud earrings (one in each ear), and will be confiscated on site if worn. Additionally, skirts must be loose fitting and knee length, please. No fake eyelashes are permitted. I'm incredibly proud of student responses to these conditions, as all have been very supportive of our uniform policies and willing to make changes where they have been requested.

Finally, use of phones is strictly prohibited on site. This is for safeguarding purposes. We will support students in contacting home should they need to, something students were told in assembly this week. If students have jewellery or phones confiscated 3 times, a parent, carer or guardian will

Kindness | Respect | Teamwork

ALWAYS GIVING THE BEST

Updates from the Principal



be required to pick the items up from school, as they will not be returned to the student at that point.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support!

Safeguarding from Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

There are lots of new groups and services starting back up that may be helpful for families:

The Island is running a new six-month support group for young women, girls, non-binary youth, and their families (see flyer attached).

York Mind are open again for one to one counselling support

If you'd like more information about any of these, just let us know and we can help you get connected. Please also feel free to share this with any other families who might find it useful.



Attendance Update from Miss Garland, Assistant Vice Principal

Students in school have made a superb start with 597 students on 100% attendance for week 1! Our message is that every student belongs at Vale and we are a strong team with support for everyone to achieve their best!

Weekly attendance update: 92.7%

Year 7	97.2%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 8	90.9%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 9	89.1%	National Average: 91.4% 2025



Kindness | Respect | Teamwork

ALWAYS GIVING THE BEST

Updates from the Principal



Year 10	93.4%	National Average: 91.4% 2025
Year 11	92.5%	National Average: 91.4% 2025

Attendance is crucial for improving students overall wellbeing and attainment, opening many doors to their future. Parents/Carers can contact us to discuss attendance or register their child's absence at attendance@voy.hlt.academy or by ringing reception. We want students to be 'here today, ready for tomorrow'.

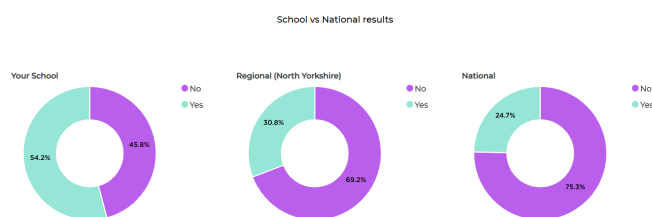
Votes for Schools

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, welcome back! For our first VoteTopic of 2025-26, voters reflect on the headlines they have heard about over the summer break, and consider where they get their news from.

Question: Have you kept up with the headlines this summer?

Regional results vs national results



Wellbeing from Wellbeing in Mind, Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Hello, it has been so lovely to meet our new Year 7s!

If your child needs any support, please let their form tutor, Head of Year, or myself know. We work closely with the School Wellbeing Service and the Wellbeing in Mind team, who can offer low-level interventions if needed.

The Resilience Triple P programme led by Brightsparks is now open for applicants. The feedback we have received so far has been really positive, families have found the course really valuable. Applications will close Friday 19th September, and the course starts Thursday 25th September. If families are interested, they need to complete the application form on the website link -<https://www.brightsparkscic.org.uk/resilience-triple-p-helping-families-build-resilience-against-bullying->


It is a new, fully funded* 8-week programme supporting families of children aged 6–12 who live in York and have experienced bullying or difficulties with peer relationships.


Updates from the Principal




- 4 Parent Sessions: Learn positive, supportive strategies to help your child thrive.
- 4 Child Sessions (with parents present): Build social confidence and learn practical ways to manage peer challenges.
- Game-Based Learning: Interactive activities that help children explore resilience in a fun way.
- Sibling-Friendly Environment: Siblings aged 6 and over are welcome to join in!

Session Overview

 **Location:** The Gateway Centre, Front Street, Acomb, York, YO24 3BZ

 **Start time and Date:** 4pm - 6.30pm from Thursday 25th September 2025 (weekly sessions until 20th November, break for October half term)

 **Cost:** Free – Fully funded by City of York Council (pilot scheme, limited spaces)

Key Dates:

- Thursday 11th September - Year 7 and Year 10 Photos
- Tuesday 23rd September - Community Open Evening
- Friday 17th October - Flu Vaccinations
- Tuesday 21st October - KS4 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

- Tuesday 16th December - Christmas Concert
- Thursday 8th January - Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening
- Thursday 5th February - Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening / Options Presentation
- Thursday 30th April - Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
- Friday 17th July - Year 9 Graduation

Thank you for all of your continued help and support.

Ms Mills
Principal