

## Parent Update 18th July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

In the final week of term, it has been a pleasure to facilitate educational experiences for the students this week, including Sports Day, Careers Day and two cultural experience days. There have been other reward events taking place including the trip to Year 9 trip to Flamingoland and Year 9 graduation. Well done to the students who participated in the Duke of Edinburgh expedition and the French trip. We rounded off the week with celebration assemblies for each year group. Proud Thursdays and Feel Good Fridays have been very successful with Year 8 students and we will extend these opportunities to all Key Stage 3 students from September.

I would like to extend my thank you to all parents/carers for your support throughout the academic year. The students at Vale have shown how they can give their best and demonstrated the core values of teamwork, kindness and respect as part of the Vale community. I am very proud to be the Principal here.

Finally, we say goodbye to a number of staff today and we wish them all the best in their future.

- Mr Welch, Computer Science cover teacher;
- Mr Coles, Maths teacher and Senior Cover Supervisor, who is taking up a maths post in the city;
- Ms McMullan, English teacher, who is stepping up to Curriculum Leader of English at Barlby High in the next academic year;
- Miss Crisp, Lead Teacher for English, who is stepping up to Curriculum Leader of English at a school in Leeds;
- Mrs Zulkarnain, Curriculum Leader of Technology, who is taking up a Food Technology post for both GCSE and A Level students;
- Mrs Hardy, Vice Principal, who is retiring. There is an extended piece of writing about Mrs Hardy and her wider contributions to the academy.

We look forward to seeing the students return in September.

Kind regards,  
Ms Mills

## Return to School Arrangements Tuesday 2 September 2025

Vale of York Academy will open to students from Tuesday 3 September 2024. There will be a staggered start for year groups as follows:

8.40 New Year 7 students to meet on the Courtyard  
10.15 Year 11 to meet on the Courtyard  
11.30 Years 8-10 to meet on the Astro Turf with Years 7 and 11. All year groups line up in their tutor groups on the Astro Turf.

The gates from Water Lane and Fairway will be open from 8.15am for the new Year 7 students. **Fairway only** will be open from 10am for Year 11. **Fairway only** will be open from 11.15am for the remaining year groups.

## Uniform

As you know, we expect our students to attend the academy fully meeting our uniform expectations. A summary guidance sheet of these expectations has been included below, including additional infographics regarding skirts and footwear. Please take a few moments to read through it and check your child/children have the correct uniform for their return after the summer holidays. As shared last week, if the current uniform is still wearable, this can continue to be used in the next academic year. New Year 6 to Year 7 students will be expected to wear the new uniform. Any unwanted uniform can continue to be donated to the school.

If you need to purchase replacement uniform and are concerned about meeting the costs of this, please contact the school in the first instance to discuss what support there is available to you.

### Standard Day Wear

Our uniform is **non-gender** specific.

Item	Branded (School Specific) /Unbranded	Colour	Details (inc Style)
Jumper	Branded	Black	V neck With the school logo only. No cardigans.
Tie	Branded	KS3 - Grey & Red KS4 - Black & Red	School defined style only
Skirt	Unbranded	Black	'A' Line, knee length, no splits or flares and no extreme style. Skirts should not be made from tight or stretchy fabric.
Trousers	Unbranded	Black	Formal, classic smart trousers, of waist height and below ankle length - trousers should meet shoes/trainers and not be skin tight or jeans/denim/cargo/chino style. Worn with a thin black belt if necessary - no fashion belts/large buckles.
Shirt/Blouse	Unbranded	White	Loose-fitting school shirt Stiff pointed collar to take a tie; shirt must be long enough to be tucked in and wide enough at the neck to fasten the top button.
Tights	Unbranded	Black or Natural	Plain (not patterned). Leggings are not permitted.
Footwear	Unbranded	Black	Plain shoes, flat or low heels - No canvas, sandals, mules, sling-backs, knee length boots, UGG boots or baseball shoes. Or - Plain trainers - No coloured stitching.

## PE KIT

Item	Branded (School Specific) /Unbranded	Colour	Details (inc Style)
Shorts / Tracksuit / Full Length Black Sports Performance Leggings (polyester/elastane mix)	Unbranded	Black	Plain (not patterned) No cotton leggings or lycra.
T-Shirt	Unbranded	Black	Plain (not patterned)
Sweatshirt (Optional only)	Unbranded	Black	Plain (not patterned) Non-zipped style / no hood
Socks	Unbranded	Black / White	PE style socks are recommended
Trainers	Unbranded	N/A	Sports style appropriate for activity i.e. non-slip soles for inside activities, soles with grips for field / all weather pitch activities

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Hair must be of a natural colour and style.
- Make-up, if worn, should not be noticeable.
- Coloured nail polish, acrylic nails, gel nails, and other forms of false nail are not permitted.
- False eyelashes are not permitted
- Jewellery is restricted to one pair of stud earrings. No other forms of jewellery are allowed.
- Hoodies are not permitted in school.
- Mobile phone use is not allowed in school. If mobile phones are brought in by a student, they should be switched off and kept in the student's bag at all times.
- Any mobile phone seen will be confiscated by a member of staff.

## Skirts

- A-line
- To the knee
- Plain black (no pleating or embellishments)
- Loose material and not tight fitting



## Footwear

- Plain black matt or patent formal shoes
- Plain black trainers (fully); no coloured branding, soles, tongue etc












### Teaching and Learning Update from Mrs Cripps, Trust Vice Principal

This week we have had our first 'cultural week', which means that teaching and learning has looked different to our usual routine.

On Monday, students took part in sports day which gave them a chance to showcase the knowledge and skills that they have acquired over the year in different sports. It was brilliant to see all students engaged in such a positive day and to see the support that they gave for one another.

On Tuesday, students took part in a careers day where they learnt about different skills needed for the workplace. Again, it was a pleasure to see students so focused on learning that was different to their normal routine and there were many insightful questions asked.

Wednesday and Thursday were the days for our cultural enrichment trips and visits, with learning taking the form of a more immersive experience. Highlights from the trips were the Year 10 cultural walk around York, where students learnt about their local area and the Year 7 trip to York St John University, where students had their first experience of higher education.

After a week of varying experiences, we hope that students have a restful and enjoyable summer break and we are looking forward to welcoming all back to the academy in September.

### Weekly Focus from Mr Donaldson

I want to take a moment to say a sincere thank you to each and every one of you. It's been an incredible first year, and I feel truly privileged to have been part of this school community.

Your growth this year has been fantastic, and it's been a joy to watch you all rise to challenges, support one another, and continue striving to be your best selves.

Thank you for making my first year here such a memorable and rewarding one. I'm proud of what you've achieved, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for all of you.

Have a fantastic, safe, and well-deserved break!

Warm regards,  
Mr Donaldson

### **Safeguarding from Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead**

#### Mental Health & Wellbeing

Children's safety and wellbeing remain our top priority – even outside of school hours. Here are a few reminders and resources to help keep your child safe:

#### Online Safety

- Monitor screen time and the apps your child is using.
- Encourage open conversations about who they're talking to online.
- Useful websites:
  - [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
  - [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)
- The holidays can be an isolating time for some young people.
- Maintain routines and check in regularly with how they're feeling.
- Support services:
  - Childline – 0800 1111 or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
  - Kooth – [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) (free, safe online counselling)

#### Where to Get Help

If you are concerned about a child's welfare during the break, please don't hesitate to seek support. Key contacts include:

- Local Authority Safeguarding Team: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub contact information: telephone: 01904 551900

email: mash@york.gov.uk

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- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Police (non-emergency): 101 / In an emergency: 999

### Attendance from Mr Donaldson

Weekly attendance update:

Year 7	83.88%	National Average: 91.3%
Year 8	76.74%	National Average: 91.3%
Year 9	84.08%	National Average: 91.3%
Year 10	81.90%	National Average: 91.3%

### Votes for Schools

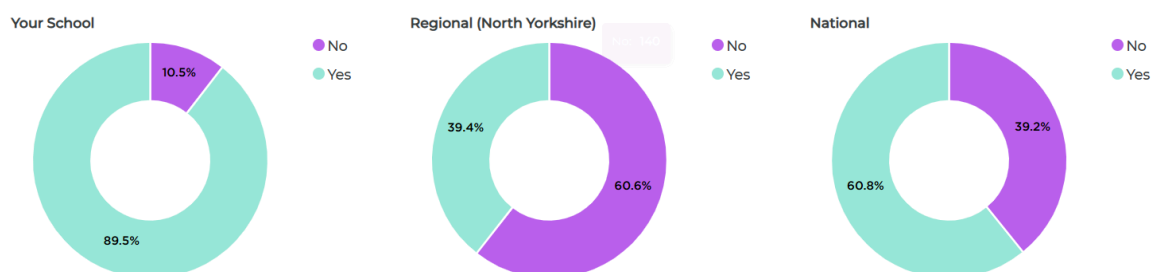
Each week, the students are given an opportunity to participate in a democratic voting experience as part of their tutor time. We will share the responses of our students with you.

This week, for our Voters' Choice topic, teen skincare trends were top of the agenda, so this week's lessons explore whether or not age restrictions on products are needed given that children as young as nine are creating their own regimens.

Question: Should skincare products have age limits?

## Regional results vs national results

School vs National results



Wellbeing from Wellbeing in Mind, Mrs Cook, Designated Safeguarding Lead, and Mrs Goodwin, Education and Welfare Support Officer

Hope you all have a lovely summer, we have found some local offers that might be of interest.

Kids eat for free or £1 in York- <https://www.raiseyork.co.uk/directories/kids-eat-free-1>

£1.00 family films

-<https://www.cineworld.co.uk/static/en/uk/offers-and-promotions/%C2%A31-family-films>

York Mind are also continuing their drop in sessions at Highcliffe House- 4.30 onwards every Thursday

**Vacancies:**

[Advanced Teaching Assistant](#)

**Key Dates:**

Tuesday 2 September

Students return to Vale of York Academy