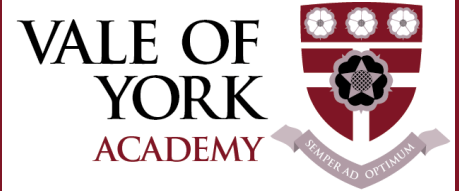


# Newsletter #6

17th February 2017



**In this edition:** \*DofE Awards Ceremony \* Year 11 Support \*Sporting News \*Introducing 'Positive Discipline'



## Message from the Principal

“ In the last year, our students have served over 40 community groups as part of DofE ”

I was absolutely privileged to be invited to the annual Duke of Edinburgh Award Ceremony last week.

This evening celebrates the work of all the young people and staff who contribute to this prestigious and worthwhile award.

Last year, Vale of York had nearing 100 participants in the scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. Many people associate the DofE award with weekends of walking and camping and forget that the Expedition is just one element of the award. Young people also need to develop a skill and dedicate time to a service.

I was unbelievably proud that our students had dedicated themselves to over 40 community groups including nurseries, charities and youth groups as part of their service contributions. Vale of York pupils were superb as they presented on this to a packed audience including the Mayor of York. None of this could happen without the

support of parents and staff, in particular Mr Rampling. Thank you.

On another note, 45 is the number of school days left before Year 11s begin their exams; at Parents' Evening this week, it was possible to collect a booklet containing a full programme of events, tips and support opportunities. This has now been loaded onto our website.

Thanks to all the Year 9 students who returned their option forms punctually. After half-term, Mr Halifax will meet any student that does not fit the option blocking, once calculated, to find the best solution for their KS4 provision.

We look forward to starting the options' process with Year 8 straight after half term.

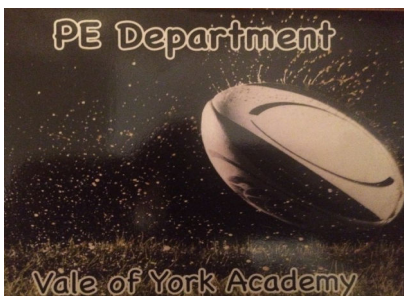
May I wish everyone a very restful half-term.

## Sporting News

Ben Pipes, a Team GB Volleyball player, has been back in to the Academy to work with our students. This is part of the AQA 'Unlocking Potential' programme and what a difference it is making!



PE Postcards for this half term have been written and sent home this week. These are given each half term to the top 5/6 boys and girls in each year group for their effort and commitment.



## Basketball Season 2016/17



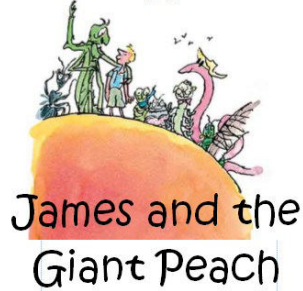
After great commitment and endeavour over the basketball season, both the Year 8 & Year 10 squads have qualified for the city wide Shield Final. We are delighted with how both squads have developed over the season and continue to be impressed by the ever improving standard of basketball being played. Results from the play offs and final will be shared in the next newsletter.

## Amazing happens all the time...

Introducing Vale of York students in a production of

### JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

KS3 Students Proudly present



By Roald Dahl  
Adapted for the stage by David Wood



A well deserved congratulations to the entire cast and crew of James and the Giant Peach! The production was a huge success and was enjoyed by all. Everybody who was involved should be proud of their wonderful contribution to the performance; the sheer amount of hard work and effort that went into this was clear to see.

**“Thank you to the students themselves; their commitment and talent makes everything worthwhile. Also, thank you to all the families and friends of the cast and crew – without your support, we couldn’t do this.”**

Miss Nicholson (Subject Lead: Drama)

## Key Stage Focus

### Key Stage 3

It's option's month here at Vale of York. Year 9 have submitted their GCSE option choices and Year 8 are just about to start the process.

These are important decisions to be made by our students; taking the time to apply careful thought to these choices ensures that their options will form the first stepping stone in their pathway to Higher Education, and ultimately their chosen career.

### Key Stage 4

As the half term approaches, Year 11 students are working on completion of controlled assessments and starting revision for more mocks or tests ahead. February half term should be an opportunity to recharge batteries for our Year 11's but also to start preparing for the exams ahead. We have seen a real shift in many attitudes, with improved performance and attendance at interventions in and after school. Some teachers give up time in the school holidays to make sure even more support is available.

Please keep encouraging your child to attend these invaluable support lessons. Year 10 have been preparing for their work experience placements this half term; they should now have handed all the paperwork into Mrs Brown as the deadline has lapsed. This is an excellent opportunity to experience the world of work, and gain some valuable insight into working practices in a range of settings. Year 10 will be out from 8th May until 12th May 2017. Homework is still a concern for some of our Year 10 students; some students are failing to record it in their planners and some are late handing it in. Please support us by checking homework has been completed, and enquiring about what had been set if it is not written in their planner.

## Partnership News: Bringing the community together

The busy start to the year has continued with a range of positive activities and initiatives for our young people and the school's partners.

At the start of February, Mr Orr had the pleasure of visiting Clifton Green Primary school to deliver Handball sessions to Year 5. He was hugely impressed by their team work, effort and how quickly they picked the sport up!

We were also delighted to host a Year 2 football tournament between teams from Lakeside and Clifton With Rawcliffe.

There was a great atmosphere and it was fantastic to be able to welcome so many parents and supporters to the event. Our Sports Leaders, Joe Hobson and Taylor Waddington, were superb at officiating the games also!



It was great to welcome John Hattam from Clifton Green to do assemblies for our Key Stage 4 students. He did a brilliant presentation around opportunities available to access careers in childcare, regardless of gender or background.



Mrs Haig, Mrs Browes and the Year 10 Language team put on a superb event for Year 5 pupils from Clifton Green and Burton Green. There were lots of fun activities that gave our primary visitors a taste of the French language. Everyone involved did a superb job and the pupils

worked brilliantly! We are looking forward to the next one.

A very positive Friday afternoon was had by some of our Year 10 students with Jill Langdale and Di Lambert from the City of York Council. They came in to begin training on a new peer mentoring scheme that is being driven by Phoebe Kilvington, who has shown a lot of passion for the project. We'll keep you up to date with how the group is getting on.



Finally, we have a new community board so if you have anything you would like our young people to be aware of, please get in touch with Mr Orr at [R.orr@valeofyorkacademy.org](mailto:R.orr@valeofyorkacademy.org) and follow our Community Twitter account @canonlecomco



## Dates for the Diary

School opens after half term on Monday 27th February at 8.30am

Year 8 Options Event  
Tuesday 28th February

Year 8 Parents' Evening  
Tuesday 14th March

### SLT Drop In

Meet the Senior Leaders:  
Your chance to discuss the new Positive Discipline System

Library 3.30pm-5.30pm

Thursday 16th March

## Call for Exam Invigilators



Vale of York Academy are looking for Exam Invigilators for Summer 2017 GCSE's.

These take place during May & June and employment will be on a casual basis with hours and days subject to the timings of each exam.

The role will involve supervision of students during examinations and the position would be suited to mature, responsible and calm individuals who are able to remain vigilant for long periods of time.

If any parents or grandparents are interested, in the first instance, please contact school on 01904 560000 or email

[l.cooper@valeofyorkacademy.org](mailto:l.cooper@valeofyorkacademy.org)

**DBS clearance will be required.**



Share the successes of the school on a daily basis and keep up to date with the latest news:

@ValeYorkAcademy



## Contacting school:

The quickest way to contact school is through reception:

Call: 01904 560000 or

Email:

reception@valeofyorkacademy.org

## Behaviour Focus: Positive Discipline



After Easter, Vale of York Academy will be adopting a new behaviour policy based on a system called Positive Discipline (PD), developed by Rodillian School in Wakefield.

This system is founded on rewarding the students who follow and support the rules in school, work hard and engage with their lessons; sanctions are applied to those students who fail to do so. The majority of our students will see the new Behaviour System as giving them the opportunity to gain more rewards than the current system allows.

In preparation for the new system, we are starting to make some changes to seclusion after February half term. Seclusion is a serious sanction and is the last stage we have before exclusion; therefore, we want to change the way students are managed in seclusion. After half term, students will spend the whole extended day in seclusion from 8:30 – 3pm. They will not be allowed to visit the canteen at break or lunchtime, rather they will be given a sandwich choice for lunch which will be brought to them whilst in seclusion.

Any student who spends four times in seclusion, within a term, will be sent a warning letter home, explaining that the next time they are placed in seclusion that it will result in a one day fixed term exclusion.

If you have any queries about this, please contact Mrs Johnston.

## Ready, Steady, Cook!



Four students from our current Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition group have recently taken part in the Rotary Young Chef competition. Sophie Kirby, Chloe Leatherbarrow, Nicole Ware and Lewis Rhodes were asked to cook two dishes in 90 minutes. The external judges tasted the food and were very complimentary. Nicole and Lewis were the winners and proceeded to the next stage, held at York College. Here they battled against five other schools. Unfortunately, they did not win overall but they really enjoyed the experience and we are proud of their achievements – well done!

## Music Updates

### Lunchtime Opportunities -

Students wishing to practise are welcome at lunchtimes but must have prior agreement from Mrs Brady and must have a dated lunchtime slip in their planner.

Singing – All singers welcome to Choir which runs Friday lunchtimes in S20.

Classwork – students have unlimited access to class worksheets and are encouraged to take these home if they have access to a keyboard at home.

GCSE - Students taking GCSE Music have priority at lunchtimes and after school, as well as dedicated additional teaching time on Tuesdays.

York Music Service – YMS offer high quality individual or group tuition on a wide range of instruments. Currently, we have students receiving tuition on drums, piano and trombone. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please ask Mrs Brady for a leaflet or search 'York Music Service' online for further information. Prices depend on length of lesson and group size and financial support can be offered in certain circumstances.



## Vale of York Academy Sports Timetable (Half Term 4) (February - April 2017)

### Lunchtimes - 1.05 - 1.35pm (trainers to be worn)

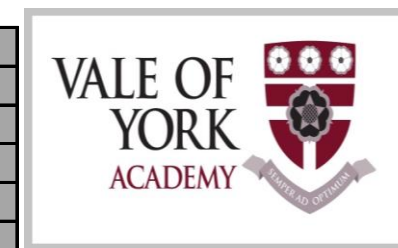
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Badminton - Yr 7,8,9 Mr Rampling (mixed) (Sports Hall)	Football - Yr 7 & 8 York City, Steve (Mixed) (Sports hall)	Basketball - Yr 8 & 10 Squad Training - Mr Halifax (Sports hall)	Yr 10 Bronze DofE students Mr Rampling (Lunch) PE classroom (F37) / F32	Football - Yr 9 & 10 York City, Steve (Mixed) (Sports hall)
	Just Dance Workout Mr Rampling (Cube / Sports hall)			Yr 11 Silver DofE Students Mr Rampling PE classroom (F37)

### Afterschool - 2.40 - 3.40pm (PE kits to be worn)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Trampolining - Yr 7,8,9,10 Mrs Colville (Girls) (Gymnasium)	Rugby Union - Yr 7 & 8 England Rugby (Mixed) (School Field) (Mr R)	Netball (Girls) - All years Mrs Colville and Mrs Brown (Sports hall / Courts)	Yr 10 Bronze DofE students Mr Rampling (1 hour) PE classroom (F37) / F32	Basketball - All years Mr Halifax (mixed) (Sports Hall)
Hockey - Yr 7,8,9,10 Mr Rampling (Mixed) (Astro Turf)	Badminton - Yr 10 & 11 Mr Stancliffe (GCSE) (Sports Hall) <b>4pm - 5pm</b>	Trampolining / Gymnastics - Mr Rampling (Boys) (Gymnasium) Yr 7, 8, 9		Football practice - Yr 7 & 8 Mr Rampling (Girls and boys) Astro turf

### KEY PE DATES (Feb-April 2017)

28th Feb - Yr 8 Options evening (4PM - 7PM) look at PE	16th March - Yr 8 & 10 Boys football - Home to Millthorpe
1st March - Yr 7 and 9 Girls Football - Away Fulford	21st March - Yr 9 Boys football - Home to All Saints
Orienteering - 2nd March and 7th March (Bronze DofE)	21st March - Yr 10 Boys Rugby Festival (Union) (4-5.30pm)
6th March - Yr 7 & 8 Boys Football - Away to Manor	23rd March - Yr 10 Boys Football - Home to Huntington
7th March - Yr 9 Girls Rugby League Away (4-5.30pm)	23rd March - Yr 9 Boys Rugby Festival (Union) (4-5.30pm)
8th March - Yr 8 Boys Football - Away to Bootham	28th March - Yr 7 & 8 Boys Rugby Festival (Union)
9th March - Yr 7 & 11 Boys Football - Away to Millthorpe	28th March - Yr 10 Parents evening (GCSE cohort key)
13th March - Yr 7, 8 & 10 Boys Football - Away to York High	Mon 3rd / 5th / 6th April - DofE Walks
14th March - Yr 8 Parents Evening	Yr 7,8,9 Girls football games - 2 games TBC
Weds 15th / 22nd / 27th / 29th / 30th March- DofE walks	Basketball Shield Final U13's - AWAY - date TBC



**Hope Learning Trust York**