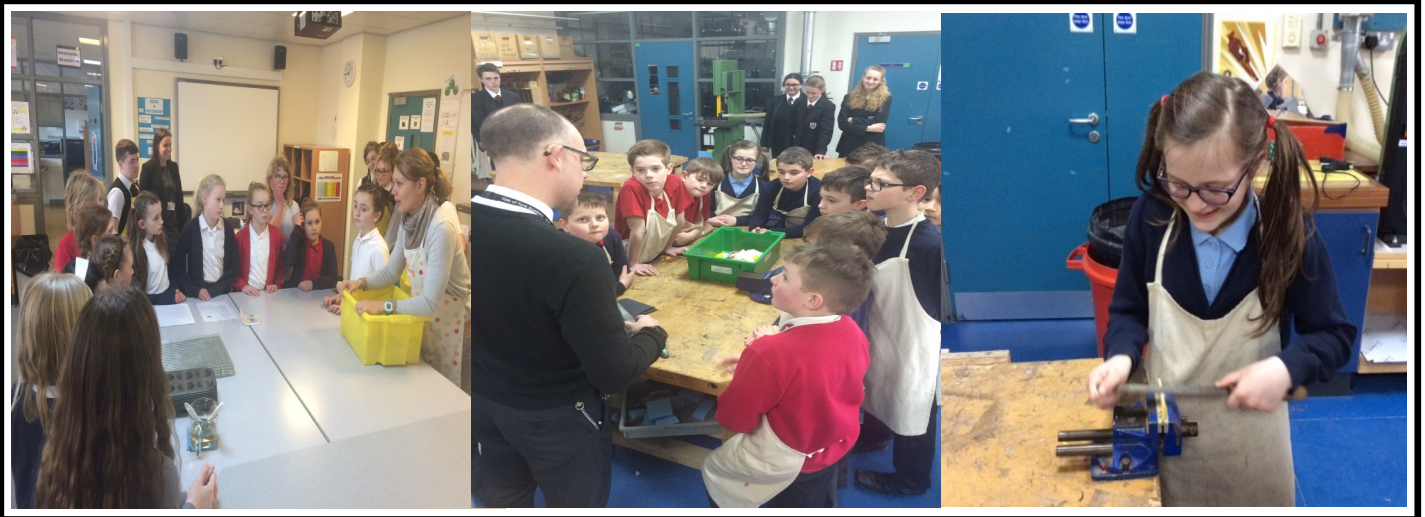


In this edition: *DT Primary School Event *Sporting News *Key Stage Updates *Dates for the Diary



Message from the Principal “Admissions figures show a 12% uplift on last year”

This week we received notification that we have 141 children assigned to the school for September from 24 York primary schools. This is fantastic news as it represents a 12% uplift in numbers from last year and means that the school will be able to grow into a five form intake next year. This is a real green shoot of recommendation from the local community and I want to thank all parents with children here for making sure the word out in the community is one of rapid change, improving standards, positivity and significant improvements. 2017 is looking already set to be a record year. Very shortly your child will start to talk about PD – positive discipline – our new behaviour management system. This will be introduced after Easter, and includes a new planner and new codes that will make it far easier for you to identify areas

in which your child is under-performing or causing concern. PD also ties in with a new rewards system that we have been trialling. Further details are included in this Newsletter of our next rewards trip co-ordinated by Mr Orr. I was very proud to hear that over 350 students have the equivalent of less than one basic expectation stamp a week and nearly 100 pupils (20%) have none at all – very well done to those students, thank you for giving your very best always.

The pictures above show children from our local primary schools enjoying DT lessons at Vale of York. The photo on the left shows Year 5 pupils taking on the “Muffin Challenge”. The photos to the right of this show Year 5 learning how to make acrylic keyrings using the school’s laser cutter. A big well done to all involved!

SPORTING NEWS

On Sunday 26th February, Mr Rampling, Mr Stancliffe and Mr Orr took 7 students to Twickenham Rugby Stadium in London, to watch England in a 6 Nations Rugby match against Italy. These students have shown true commitment and passion to Rugby throughout the school year.



Matthew Dawes was 1 in 100 students who represented school to walk on the Twickenham pitch and sing the National Anthem behind the England and Italy squads. Matthew was a great advocate to the Academy and wore our new rugby kit, designed by our students!



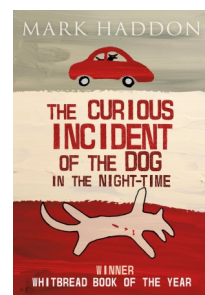
It is with great thanks to England Rugby Union for giving us this opportunity, due to our partnership on the 'All Schools Rugby Programme'.

AMAZING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME ...

“Miss, I need to read more.”

“Miss, I need to read more.” A phrase, that with the distractions of modern life, I don’t often hear in the classroom. It was fascinating, as an avid reader, to see a student making the link between reading fiction and their writing skills first-hand; knowing that the easiest way to produce her own creative work was to read others. “Miss, can we start a book group?” – music to my ears!

As teachers, the links between reading and writing are obvious, but as there are ever increasing forms of entertainment and busy social lives, I know that a lot of our students struggle to find the time to sit down and pick up a book without feeling as though it’s a chore. A student book group is a perfect opportunity for students to read at their leisure, discuss with their friends and tackle challenging reads with the guidance of a teacher. Our first choice has been selected by Phoebe Kilvington (Yr10): *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon. I can’t wait to revisit this book and am excited to see what the students make of it.



Miss Doust

Key Stage focus

Key stage 3

Year 8 and 9 have been busy making their option choices for their GCSE’s. This year we have been able to offer a huge range of courses, ensuring all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Year 8 students are reminded to get their forms handed in by March 20th!

Key Stage 4

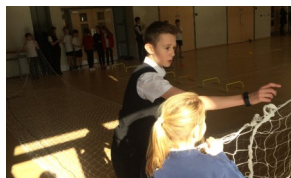
Year 11 are working hard this term preparing for their final exams. They have just completed mocks in English Language and Mathematics and are working on intensive support for some of their other subjects. We are also pleased to announce that we are offering the European Computer Driving Licence to all our year 11’s. This is a qualification for ICT skills and digital literacy which is equivalent to a GCSE qualification. This will not only give our students an extra award but will give them an edge when competing for jobs and courses in the future.

Year 10 are working hard on their GCSE courses; homework is improving and they are showing progress in all aspects of their studies. Presentation, and pride in their work is a focus and we are seeing some improvement from some students in this area. Nearly all students are now planned and prepared for their Work Experience in May.

Partnership News Bringing the community together

It has been yet another positive few weeks for both the young people at Vale of York and our wider community, with a range of activities taking place and being planned.

The Year 9 Sports Leaders had the pleasure of visiting Clifton With Rawcliffe Primary School to run a fitness session called 'Blow the Cobwebs.' Over 80 Year 5's worked their socks off under the expert guidance of the leaders and an excellent afternoon was enjoyed by all.



A similar session was run at Clifton Green Primary School by Mr Orr. Despite the awful weather, all the children in Year 5 were very impressive in the effort they put in and how they were able to work as a team. Another great event!



We also recently had a superb evening of netball when teams of girls and boys came to take part in the High 5 City Qualifier. On a beautiful spring evening, six teams from Clifton With Rawcliffe, Lakeside and Clifton

Green battled it out to get through to the next round. After some fantastic team displays, Clifton With Rawcliffe and Lakeside both had sides who qualified. Huge congratulations to them and thanks to all who played and supported. Special thanks also to Maggie and Margaret from Rawcliffe Netball Club who umpired the evening. Rawcliffe are looking for new players so anyone who is interested, please contact the club on 07793559251.

Some fantastic work has been done by Steve Ridley from York City Football Club who has been helping students develop business plans that were presented to Senior Leadership at the school. All students who presented did so with great confidence and clarity and we look forward to seeing what they come up with for their next project!



Finally, we have a fun filled day planned for Comic Relief on Friday 24th March — if anyone is able to donate an item to our bake sale, it would be much appreciated. Just drop it at the school's reception!

Dates for the Diary

Non Uniform Day - 24th March

Year 10 Parents' Evening -
28th March

Year 11 Parents' Study Skills
Evening - 5th April

End of term early close -
6th April 1PM

Training Day - 7th April

Easter Holidays - 10th to 21st April
Return - 24th 8.30AM

SLT Drop In

Meet the Senior Leaders:
Your chance to bring things to our
attention

Library 3.30-5.30pm

27th April

REMINDER

School will close early on Thursday 23rd March at 1pm for all students to allow staff training to run on the new Positive Discipline Policy, which will be introduced after Easter. Any students who are in receipt of free school meals will be able to get a lunch before they leave school.

Please note that an amendment has been made to a letter that was sent out regarding the early closure of school. It should have read:

"Advice suggests that children under the age of 12 are supervised and are not at risk if unsupervised"

Instead of

"By law children under the age of 12 should not be at home unsupervised"

Apologies for the initial error.

Mrs Dowds

Behaviour Update



Students will be receiving information about Positive Discipline (PD) in assemblies and in form time in the next few weeks. Any queries, please speak to Mrs Johnston - Vice Principal (Student Welfare)

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

SPORTING UPDATE: SILVERWARE FOR THE U15 BASKETBALLERS



After an excellent second season where the under 15 basketball squad has not only grown in size but also in stature and status across the York and District, they qualified for the shield final. The final is played on a round robin basis with games played to a shortened format so concentration and execution must be high as any slip in standards can lead to a game being over before you've got started. The first game saw us play our Trust rivals Manor CE. The key to this game was the quality of our bench; Manor had a squad of

only 6 players and in a tight first half, our interchanges had real impact bringing an extra level of pace to the game. Mid way through the second half, for the first time we opened up a small lead and despite a strong comeback from Manor, Vale of York played out a 4 point win. Job half done. We were then straight into our second game v Bootham. During the season, Bootham had beaten us so the squad were keen to set the record right. We obviously had our game heads on as we quickly opened up a 4 then 6 then 8 point lead. Once again, the bench played a key role, especially completing defensive patterns to limit Bootham's direct driving offence. Brimming with confidence, the team were now playing how I had wanted them to play all season; patient yet decisive offence and aggressive defence, even the free throws were dropping! In the end a comfortable win. I am so pleased that the squad have something to show for their commitment and enthusiasm over the season. I doubt any squad has trained harder or made as much progress in one season. Great job, bring on next season!

Mr Halifax

A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS



The Music and Drama departments are looking for students to take part in this summer's performing showcase A Night At The Musicals. This will be a celebration of Musicals and will feature scenes and songs from favourite shows.

Interested students (acting, singing, dancing, backstage, lighting) are invited to attend a preliminary meeting after school on Tuesday 21st March in the Cube to receive further information. This is an opportunity for students of all ages to get involved and is a chance for many to be cast in a main role. Please speak to Miss Nicholson or Mrs Brady for more information.

