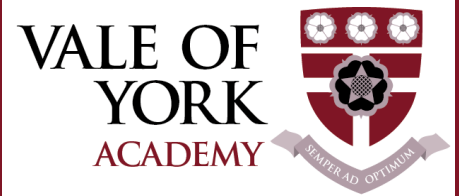


Newsletter #8

6th April 2017



In this edition: Community achievements - Year 6 Transition - Trips and Visits



Message from the Principal “ *Look out for your new child’s planner after Easter as part of the introduction of Positive Discipline* ”

Newsletter 8 sees Easter fast approaching. It has been a particularly busy half term, involving a number of key events, including Options Evening for Year 8, plus two sets of parents’ evenings. Feedback from both of these continues to be strong with the majority of parents pleased by the rapid changes and improving standards across school.

Inside this edition, you will see great news about the latest work as part of the colourful Clifton project, plus the brilliant efforts of the staff and students in raising a substantial sum of money for Comic Relief. The pictures above show what a great start our new DofE students have made towards securing their Bronze Expedition Award, follow them on Twitter.

After Easter, Year 11 have just three weeks left until they commence their GCSEs. For this reason, there is a significant number of revision sessions established for the Easter holidays. The programme has been sent home and I strongly recommend that students take a full and active part in these to utilise staff expertise to the full.

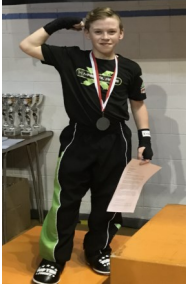
In total hours in a calendar year, a child spends at most 15% of it in school; 85% of the year is spent at home in your care. We have been reminded in the news recently how important behaviour and engagement is to the ultimate success a child has in school. Therefore, it is your support and consistency as parents that has the most influence in this area. However, we firmly believe that having a clear and consistent behaviour policy in school helps re-enforce the work you do to help your children succeed. Also after Easter, the positive discipline behaviour model commences – the policy was sent out to all families and can be viewed on the website. All students have had extended assemblies this week to ensure they understand the new protocols and parents will see pupils have a new planner when they return to school after Easter.

Can I remind you all that we close at 1pm on Thursday 6th April for Easter and return to school on Monday 24th at 8.30am.

Sporting Successes!

Harvey Fisher

(7MR) has recently qualified to represent England, in Orlando, during the Kick Boxing



Championships. We are very proud of Harvey!

Our Year 9 Boys rugby team had a cracking festival 2 weeks ago beating Huntington and Joseph Rowntrees! Our Year 7 and 8 team also performed very well the week after.



Friday 31st March saw a large number of students involved in the **Sky Sports Living day**. Students had great master class sessions from Ben Pipes



(Team GB's volleyball captain).

Year 9 boys Football team have finished 2nd in the league this year and **Year 11 boys** are now in the semi finals of the U16 cup!

Focus on Culture: Year 11 Theatre Trip

A Night with Shakespeare...

Romeo and Juliet

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet"



An exciting opportunity fell at the feet of some of our Year 11 students as we secured a limited number of tickets to see the West Yorkshire Playhouse's production of Romeo & Juliet. With final exams fast approaching, it was perfect timing for the students to see first-hand a new, contemporary production of this well-loved play. The modern setting of a Northern urban area perfectly enhanced the play's themes of violence, feuds and love – in addition to this a clever gender swap of some of the key characters had the students seeing the characters with fresh perspectives: we all agreed that the female version of Mercutio stole the show and constantly amused us with her over the top gesturing contrasting her tragic ending. This was a fantastic evening's entertainment.

Key Stage focus

Key stage 3

This month saw the return of our Road Safety colleagues conducting the bikeability training with our Year 7-9 students. As the nights get lighter and our students stay out later on an evening, learning how to ride a bike safely on our busy roads is essential. Stay safe!

Key Stage 4

This has been a very intensive term for Year 11, with extra classes, more mock exams and finishing off controlled assessments, the pressure has been well and truly on. I have been impressed with the attitude and resilience of many of our students, and as teachers, we can see the progress our students are making towards their final goals. The study skills day on 5th April should be a real boost to all students in the final preparations for their examinations. Additionally, the parents' information evening on the same day should really help our parents cope with the support needed at home during this stressful time.

Year 10 will also be involved in the study skills day with our Year 11's and their focus is preparing for their first set of mock examinations in June, 19th to 30th. It was good to see so many parents at parents' evening last week; your support is invaluable for your child.

Partnership News Bringing the community together

On the 21st and 22nd of March, our green fingered Year 7 students and Miss Bailey braved the weather to help Burton Green and Clifton Green Primaries with the second phase of Colourful Clifton. Despite it pouring down, plenty of planting was done as part of the project to brighten up Kingsway North for the local community.



In other news, our school community group CLIC took the opportunity to update local organisations on their projects around Diversity, Youth voice, Local Provision and Peer Mentoring. They were very professional and made an excellent impression!

Vale of York Academy was delighted to welcome leaders from Accessible Arts inclusive music group who ran two superb workshops with Year 7 and 8 students. From singing, to body music, everyone involved had a great time and worked really well together!



We had a fantastic day at Vale of York for Comic Relief this year. The Year 7 Student Council had decided that the non-uniform theme would be "Celebrities" and students and staff alike made a real effort! The Vale of York Society (formally Friends of Canon Lee) and the Student Council ran a bake sale that made a fortune, whilst at lunch, our friends from Door 84 put on some great activities in the main hall for our young people to enjoy. The climax of the day was in the afternoon where we had a sponsored Skip-athon and Dance-athon! Both were great fun and again, made a lot of money for charity. Overall, £1000 was raised which is a new school record! Well done to everyone involved and huge thanks to those who donated baking!



Dates for the Diary

Easter Holidays - 7th to 21st April

Return - 24th 8.30am

GCSE's Start 15th May

Half Term 29th May to 2nd June

Return Monday 5th June 8.30am

SLT Drop In

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

Library 3.30-5.30pm

27th April

Year 11 Mental Health Awareness Workshop

Year 11 were really fortunate to be part of a session run by Dr Jo Clarke on Monday where they were made aware of how to deal with stress and to consider the



ways to help them stay focused as their exams approach.

Dr Clarke talked about how to "Be present" - ensuring that the mind stays focused on the task in hand, she also helped pupils develop strategies to rid themselves of excess worries and mental baggage so they had more opportunities to succeed in revision.

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

A warm welcome to Vale of York Academy

I hope that you are as thrilled to be joining Vale of York Academy as I am to welcome you! The transition from Year 6 to Year 7 is an exciting time and I want to reassure you that we make a very special effort to get to know all of our students as individuals – each with their own strengths, needs, and aspirations. Our students are the driving force in everything that we do and the success of every child is of paramount importance to us. Every student who joins us will be challenged to 'always give their best' in every aspect of school life – whether that is academically, through supporting our wider community through events and charity or through activities. We have so many transition events for you to take part in, to make that movement from primary to secondary less daunting and help you to settle in and fully understand your role in school before September arrives. You are about to embark on the next phase in your life – the graduation of your primary school and commencement of your secondary school journey. You will learn new subjects, develop new skills, and grow as an individual. We are so excited that this journey will be with us.

Mrs Helen Dowds
PRINCIPAL

Meet our transition expert

Miss Scaum (pictured above) joined Vale of York Academy in September 2016, and has been working with our feeder primary schools on the transition process. You may have already met her at one of our parent events which we hold for the Year 6 students in our catchment area. Miss Scaum will continue to be your first point of contact throughout the transition process. Miss Scaum can be contacted at any time and your parents can contact her at any time. Miss Scaum says: "The Vale of York Academy and your parents are becoming a part of it. You will absolutely love your time here! We love so much to offer both in and outside of the classroom – whatever your interests, strengths, or personality may be, there is something for everyone. I very much look forward to meeting you."

Miss L Scaum
VICE PRINCIPAL - STUDENT WELFARE

Getting ready for our new Year 7—take a look at our transition leaflet—available at reception soon

VALE OF YORK ACADEMY

Welcome

Important information to help your transition from Year 6

THE YORK ISSP CONFERENCE FOR KS3

A number of Year 7 and 8 students attended the 'Codes and Ciphers' talk organised by York ISSP (Independent State School Partnership) on Monday 27th March. This was the latest lecture in a series by high profile speakers, aimed to inspire the most able and interested students in York. The talk was led by Thomas Briggs from Bletchley Park. He described the encryption methods used throughout history, in particular the role of Bletchley Park during the Second World War. He also explained some of the mathematics behind making ciphers more secure. The highlight was the demonstration of a real, working, World War II Enigma machine, used by Nazi Germany to send messages in secret. Ellis Ismail (Year 8) was lucky enough to be involved in the demonstration and try some codebreaking of his own!

