



**Bumper Edition:** \*Key Stage Updates \* Year 11 Revision Sessions \* Enrichment Day  
\* Changes to the School Day \* Sporting Updates \* Student Successes \*Key Dates

## Enrichment Day Successes



### Message from the Principal “ Another celebration of all the brilliant work by everyone at Vale of York ”

There has been much to be pleased about since our last edition. The Enrichment Day that took place just before Easter was a real success with a huge variety of activities and pupils doing the school proud in a number of off site visits. Year 7 travelled to Helmsley for a combined Humanities trip, Year 8 went to Magna to deepen their Scientific understanding, Year 9 learnt more about British Values and keeping themselves safe and Year 10 and Year 11 undertook study skills training from an external company. Have a look at twitter for some great photos in addition to those above.

We were particularly pleased to run a rewards trip to Xscape for those pupils who had excellent attendance and virtually no Basic Expectations stamps—they had a great time sledging!

This half term has seen yet another excellent Duke of Edinburgh expedition, revision conferences for Year 11, a visit from Julian Sturdy, more Primary activities, plus our first Spring concert, which was a real delight and success in addition to many other opportunities.

I would like to use this newsletter to bring to your attention two very important news items:

#### School Day 2017

Please read the back page thoroughly so you can understand the changes to be made to the school day for 2017.

#### School Examinations

All pupils will take part in school examinations in the fortnight 19th—30th June. For Year 10, all the exams will take place in the Sports Hall, whilst for Year 8 and 9 Maths, English and Science will take place in the Sports Hall whilst all other exams will take place in lessons. Year 7 will have their exams as part of their normal class timetable. I am alerting you to this now so that you can support your child to start to consider revision in addition to homework and also so that you ensure they are in school throughout this key time. In the week beginning 12th June, all lessons will be focussed entirely on revision, as will all homework, to ensure every child is fully prepared to do their very best.

## Sporting and DofE Success!

On Friday 25th April, students from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 were chosen to take part in Sky Sports Masterclasses with Ben



Pipes (Team GB Volleyball player). Students worked meticulously trying to

complete the challenges set by Ben; those sports leaders who shone through were presented with t-shirts.



The Duke of Edinburgh season is well under way. We have proudly seen Year 11 Silver students complete their practice expedition from Grosmont to Danby via the coast of Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby over 3 days. They walked over 50km, carrying everything needed



for the 3 days (including food, tents, clothing and cooking items).

Year 10 Bronze students also completed their practice expedition last week. This entailed 2 days walking and 1 night camping from Stillington to Hushwaite.

All students were awesome and completed it with pride!

## AMAZING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME...

### European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) Success!



**ECDL**  
European Computer  
Driving Licence



Some of our Year 11 students have already taken advantage of the opportunity to complete the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) qualification. These have been very successful so far with many students completing the qualification, achieving an A or A\* equivalent grade. A big well done to all of those that have completed this qualification; you now have this award to add to your CV or college application. If you have not completed the ECDL yet, check the dates for the next set of courses and get a date in your diary. The next dates are the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of June and then the final group on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June. If you are not sure when yours is, please check with Mrs Hardy or Mr Padgham. Good Luck in all your upcoming exams!

### Key Stage focus

#### Key stage 3

Students have been focusing on developing their organisational skills. Being on time and fully equipped are key skills in being prepared to learn. Students should work hard each day to ensure that they are in full uniform, that they arrive on time, equipped with a pen, pencil, planner and ruler. Doing so will gain them 4 house points from their tutor. Points mean prizes in the new positive discipline policy!

#### Key Stage 4

Year 11 are now into the examination season; they are working on intensive revision sessions in school and at home to prepare for each examination. This is a stressful period and your support as parents and family is invaluable to these students at this time. Please encourage and help them to get organised each day and make sure they get a good breakfast before they come to school. Perhaps you could ask them to take advantage of the breakfast club at school? Remember to also check the half term revision timetable (shown on page 3 of this newsletter). These sessions will help to give students an extra boost in their exams. Year 10 have returned from their work experience placements with a new perspective on the world of work, and what they need to do to reach their own career aspirations. There has been some excellent feedback from employers about how fantastic our students have been in the work place. Year 10's will be sitting their first set of mock examinations starting on the 19th June, so preparation for these are key.

## Partnership News Bringing the community together

A very positive end to Spring saw our newest recruits of Sports Leaders put through their paces. Our friends from the Rugby Football Union, Yorkshire Cricket Board and Lawn Tennis Association ran coaching courses with our top Year 9 students. In the last year, over fifty of our students have been part of this leadership programme and we look forward to even more taking part in the latter part of the year.



As Mrs Dowds mentioned, we had a fantastic evening at Xscape on the reward trip. Despite the temperature being minus four, all students had fun in the snow before going off to shop 'til they dropped at Junction 32. As They were a credit to the school throughout.



Our Humanities department were delighted to welcome Year 5 pupils from Clifton Green Primary School for the Free Trade Chocolate Challenge.

It was a superb afternoon with lots of ideas, initiative and creativity shown by all, whilst the Year 8 helpers also did a great job!



Some individual success to report on next.



We were excited to hear that Year 8 student Louis Yeomans had won the York Magician of the Year Award!



Louis works hard at his magic and this award is fully deserved. Well done lad!

Finally, some collective success. Congratulations to Rawcliffe Under 13 Ladies FC who completed a marvellous league and cup double. Many of the squad attend VOY and we are proud of their achievement!



## Dates for the Diary

School opens after half term  
Monday 5th June 8.30am

June 20th - Year 7 Parents' Evening

### SLT Drop In

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

Library 3.30-5.30pm

Thursday 8th June

## YEAR 11: HALF TERM REVISION



**Tuesday 30th May**

9am—12pm Geography Revision

**Wednesday 31st May**

9am—11am Science Revision

1pm—3pm Maths Revision

**Thursday 1st June**

9am—11am Health and Social Care Revision

1pm—3pm Business Studies Revision

**Friday 2nd June**

9am—11am English Revision

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITIONS

Continuing on from the Year 11 Silver students Duke of Edinburgh success earlier, over 30 Year 10 Bronze students completed their practice expedition (20th-21st May).

This took place from Stillington to Husthwaite on Saturday and back to Stillington on Sunday via the opposite route. Students were phenomenal, battling through interchangeable weathers to work as teams to walk, camp and cook.

**Mr Rampling is very proud of the students and looking forward to their assessment.**



## YORK INDEPENDENT STATE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP (ISSP)



The Vale of York Academy is proud to be part of York Independent State School Partnership (ISSP). York ISSP provides academic challenge through opportunities which schools cannot provide alone. Their events are designed to push York's most able and interested students through engaging and stimulating activities.

Since 2008, students from the school have participated in a range of events that have enhanced their learning in a fun, but challenging way. Over the next few

months, there are many more opportunities for Vale of York students to participate in.

Following the success of last year's summer school, there are two new summer schools this year for Years 7-8 and Years 9-10. The summer school will be held at Manor CE Academy from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Students will attend an extended masterclass studying one subject (of their choice) over the four days.

The Year 9 Brathay Residential will also take place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The launch meeting was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, but any parents of current Year 8 students who are interested in the residential can still contact Miss Ashcroft-Hawley for information.

A 'Girls and Science' workshop for Year 7-10 girls and their parents will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This will involve practical activities and a guest speaker, Dr Fleur Loveridge, who will be speaking about her career in science.



A number of Vale of York students have had the chance to learn and gain a GCSE qualification in Latin and Astronomy over the last few years. More information will be provided later this term for current Year 8 students interested in this opportunity. As you can see, there are many excellent opportunities for Vale of York students to be involved in over the next few months. Students are required to book a place at each event. For help with this, or if you require more information, or would like to register an interest in any of these events, please email Miss Ashcroft-Hawley ([f.ashcroft-hawley@valeofyorkacademy.org](mailto:f.ashcroft-hawley@valeofyorkacademy.org)).

## BEHAVIOUR UPDATE: FIDGET GADGETS

We are banning all students from using fidget spinners in school as we consider them a health and safety risk. ALL spinners will be banned from site; any student using one in class or around school will have them confiscated and a comment placed in their planner.



Whilst we appreciate that the fidget gadgets can bring relief to anxiety for some students who have a specific medical need, we are concerned with the disruption that these items are bringing to students within the classroom, and that students are using them as a distraction rather than a concentration aid.

As a result, we have made the decision to ban fidget gadgets (such as the fidget ball or cube) within the classroom, unless the student has a specific medical need, such as ADHD diagnosed by a medical professional. These students within school will have a sticker in their planner signed by the SENCO, Pastoral and Welfare Manager or Vice Principal Welfare, which will allow them use of these in specific situations within the classroom.

Any other student using these gadgets within the classroom will have them confiscated and a behaviour comment placed in their planner.

If you have any queries about this, please contact  
Mrs Johnston: Vice Principal:  
Student Welfare.

## STUDY FOCUS: ENGLISH PIXL EVENT

With the exam season well underway, some students in Year 11 were given the opportunity at the end of April to take part in the PIXL English Conference at Harrogate International Centre. The event allowed students to join with many other schools across North Yorkshire to get specialist advice and tips from examiners about how to approach the GCSE English Language exam papers.

Our students did the Vale of York proud and worked hard to glean new strategies for tackling challenging questions. It was an invaluable day for all involved!



## STEM DAY: 19 MAY 2017

Twelve Year 8 students, Mrs Davis and Mr Everett travelled to York University to compete in the Regional School Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Activity Day.

The day was designed to raise students' enthusiasm for STEM subjects and to encourage them to continue in their study after they leave school. The twelve students were selected by Mr Rampling and Mrs Davis for excelling in Science and Technology so far this year.

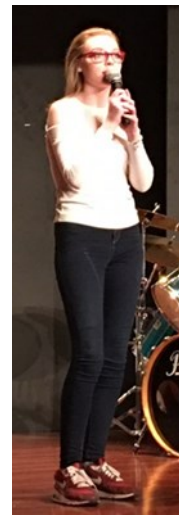
The students engaged in four activities during the day, where they had to work as a team to complete the challenges to the best of their ability. Damian Idzinski and Arun Haley won with their group during the day on one of the activities. A great day with great success for VOYA!



## TAKE A LOOK AT... OUR SPRING CONCERT SUCCESS!



We had a fantastic hour of music and drama performances at the Spring Concert on May 10<sup>th</sup> in the Hall. Students from Years 7-11 entertained us with a variety of solo and group performances from singing to African Drumming. The Year 9 boys were a huge success with their performance of *Seven Nation Army* by The White Stripes and we enjoyed a very poignant and thought-provoking drama sketch on the theme of dementia by Ellis Ismail and Kiyan Eiles and some lovely vocal performances from Chelsey Foster. We would like to thank the Vale of York Society for organising refreshments and



Mr Norwood for his technical support. We are looking forward to building on this success!

*Well done to everybody who was involved!*

## EXCITING MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

### York Music Service



A growing number of students are now receiving instrumental lessons via the YMS. If your son/daughter is interested then please search online or get in touch with Mrs Brady for more information.

It is recommended that any student continuing music at GCSE level should receive instrumental tuition to support their studies. Some financial support is available in certain circumstances; please ask Mrs Brady for further details.

### Planned Music Trip

Due to the success of the Spring Concert, students have been invited to express their interest in a potential music trip planned for summer 2018. This will be dependent upon numbers and will require a commitment to participate regularly in music activities.

These trips are huge fun and involve concerts as well as sightseeing, excursions and activities. Please contact Mrs Brady for further information.



## AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME ... MOROCCO 2019

**Year 8 and 9 students** have been invited to sign up for a lifetime experience in Morocco during the summer of 2019. The Academy has teamed up with Outlook Expeditions to take students to Morocco for 2 weeks, sampling the culture of a vibrant African country.

Students had an assembly the first week back after half term, informing them of this opportunity, followed by a parents' evening which was held in the library to cover the finer details of the experience.

A booklet all about the expedition was given to students who attended the parents' evening; if you haven't got one and are interested in this visit, please see Mr Rampling.



This trip is like no other. As such, part of the experience is for students to fundraise the £1795.00 to get themselves to Morocco. Not all of the money has to be raised, but the emphasis is that all students have access to this opportunity and they will appreciate the trip so much more by raising the funds in this way.

Morocco is an amazing place and students are able to tailor their experience so they complete as much as they want while away. Mr Rampling will be heading up the staff team in Morocco and at present, there have been between 25-30 students keen to participate.

**An idea of the itinerary for the trip is below (students will be able to put their own spin on this)**

**1-2 days**—Acclimating with the country and spending time in Marrakech.

**3-4 days**—Attempt an amazing trek up Mount Jebel Toubkal (the highest peak in North Africa!)

**4 days**—Support with a Conservation/Volunteering project in an African school.

**2 days**—Rest and relaxation, sampling Camel treks and Moroccan coastlines.

Students who sign up to this expedition will be looking to fundraise and over the next 2 years, in the build up to us going, there will be a number of events. If you are able to support or can offer something that might support the students in their task to raise the funds, please let us know.

**Students can now sign up for this expedition online at [www.basecamp.outlookexpeditions.com](http://www.basecamp.outlookexpeditions.com) and the deposit of**

**£125.00 is due by 1st June 2017. If students or parents need any further information, please contact Mr Rampling.**

### EXTRAORDINARY EXPEDITION EXPERIENCES

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

##### ITINERARY

Itinerary Development Day

Expedition Development Day

Final Preparation Day

TRAINING

Expedition Training weekend in the UK with your Expedition Leader.

LINK TEACHER TRAINING

Leader Team Training event including first aid.

LEADER TEAM COMPOSITION

At least 1 Link Teacher and an Outlook Expedition Leader.

##### FLIGHTS

International flights.

##### INSURANCE

Comprehensive overseas insurance.

##### TRANSPORT

All overseas transport.

##### ACCOMMODATION

All food and accommodation. All group activities including any entrance fees. All R&R activity.

#### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Spending money for gifts / souvenirs whilst on expedition.
- Inoculations, prophylaxis and personal medicine. (All participants based in England and Wales receive 10% discount at Nomad Travel).
- Visas and passports - please see page 3 to see which visas are required.
- Personal belongings insurance (this may be covered by your household / contents insurance).
- Cancellation insurance.
- Personal equipment (e.g. rucksack, sleeping bag, waterproof clothing); all participants receive 10% discount at 'Cotswold Outdoor'.
- Transport to and from UK-based training courses, to the Final Preparation Day venue and from the airport.
- Food and accommodation in the UK, unless specified.



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

## Changes to the School Day from September 2017

When the school joined the Hope Learning Trust one of the significant advantages was the ability to offer pupils in Key stage 4 the ability to share in courses on offer at Manor School alongside those on offer at Vale of York.

From September 2017 our current Year 8 will be the first year group to be able to take advantage of this and I am delighted to inform parents that we have over 50 pupils across both schools who have asked to be part of this exciting curriculum development.

The practicalities of this mean that for 4 hours each week (two blocks of two hours) some pupils will be travelling to Manor School for their lessons and in return some will be coming to Vale of York. To allow this to happen, it has been essential to line up part of every school day with the timings at Manor School. It was agreed that this would be period 1 and 2 each day, thus requiring period 1 to start at 9.00 a.m., a fifteen minute delay to the current structure.

Since a change was already essential, the school saw this as an opportunity to consider the structure of the school day as a whole. As the school grows, the demands placed upon our Dining Hall and also the lack of indoor space available when cold or wet meant the school staff and student council wanted to consider how lunch could be taken. Equally, the introduction of the Positive Discipline programme requires greater tutor input and we have also given consideration to the amount of tutor time each day.

The new format allows us to make changes to all of these things and ensure we have the most productive learning environment possible. Whilst lunch itself is shorter, there will be less students to serve. There will be no PE classes taught over lunch

and period 4 and this will allow the Sports Hall and Gym to be saved as indoor spaces for those pupils not wishing to go outside. The increase in tutor time, allows the form tutor role to have greater impact as they now can top and tail each day and support pupils to be better engaged and prepared for each new day.

Following staff and governor consultation, the school day will change as follows for September 2017. Parents wishing to talk about this further are asked to attend the next SLT drop-in where a member of the SLT will be on hand to answer any queries.

### Key Stage 3 Students—Year 7 and 8

<b>Pupils on site</b>	<b>8.45</b>
<b>REG</b>	<b>08.50 - 09.00</b>
<b>P1</b>	<b>09.00 – 10.00</b>
<b>P2</b>	<b>10.00 – 11.00</b>
<b>P3</b>	<b>11.15 – 12.15</b>
<b>1st Lunch</b>	<b>12.15 – 12.45</b>
<b>P4</b>	<b>12.45 – 13.45</b>
<b>P5</b>	<b>13.45 – 14.45</b>
<b>REG/Assembly</b>	<b>14.45 – 15.00</b>
<b>Pupils Leave</b>	<b>15:00</b>

### Key Stage 4 Students—Year 9, 10 and 11

<b>Pupils on site</b>	<b>8.45</b>
<b>REG</b>	<b>08.50 - 09.00</b>
<b>P1</b>	<b>09.00 – 10.00</b>
<b>P2</b>	<b>10.00 – 11.00</b>
<b>P3</b>	<b>11.15 – 12.15</b>
<b>P4</b>	<b>12.15 – 13.15</b>
<b>2nd Lunch</b>	<b>13.15 – 13.45</b>
<b>P5</b>	<b>13.45 – 14.45</b>
<b>REG/Assembly</b>	<b>14.45 – 15.00</b>
<b>Pupils Leave</b>	<b>15:00</b>