

Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 13 | 27th October 2017

Message from the Principal

I want to start by thanking everyone for their terrific efforts in making our Open Evening this year so successful. We have been delighted with the level of positivity shown by our visitors. Here are just a couple of quotes left by parents on the feedback sheets: *"I have done a full U turn. Very impressed with the dedication of the staff and what they can offer". "Lovely, polite pupils and friendly teachers and excellent facilities. Welcoming school and love the inspirational posters everywhere"*.

If you weren't able to make Open Evening but would like to view the presentation, it can be found on the News and Events tab on the website.

If you get a chance please do look at the new school video, now available on the website, alongside the video of the Pic 'n' mix event. Both these newly commissioned videos really do show what a strong school Vale of York has rapidly become; we are, as I said only recently, "York's best kept secret".

As we approach the colder and darker nights please can I ask parents to remind children about the benefit of wearing a proper coat – not a hoody, and also the sense in being seen on their bicycles? Our uniform, being black, does not lend itself to being seen, so good lighting, a helmet and a reflective band are a must for your child to be safe. After half-term, boots may be worn to school provided they are



completely plain and can be tucked under the trouser leg.

For those parents of Year 11 pupils please remember that Mock Examinations take place in the *second week back to school*, as such it is essential that students spend a good proportion of this break studying, thank you for your support in helping them to achieve.

Mrs H Dowds, Principal

Calling All Linguists!

Did you know that students can now access Linguascope to support their MFL learning at home? All Languages students should have recorded their username and password in their planners, as well as details for how to access the Active Learn package.

The MFL department will also be running a Year 7 Languages Club on Tuesdays from November 2017. Students will have the opportunity to watch French films, enjoy French games and activities and practise their French speaking skills in a fun environment. *Ms Haig and Ms Slingsby, MFL Department*

5* Service at Vale of York

Congratulations to the catering team, who were awarded the top 5* rating in their recent Food Hygiene Certificate check.

Statistic Spot

74,000 merit stamps for positive actions have been given out since the start of this half-term...and there are still more to total up!

Atlas Festival 2017 – the adventure begins...

On Wednesday 27th September 2017, 18 year 9 and 10 students hosted a music festival to raise money for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Morocco.

The ATLAS festival took place at school and visitors were treated to a selection of live bands and solo artists from the academy and the local community, whilst enjoying a barbecue, cake stalls, face-painting, bouncy castle, a raffle, stalls and music workshops.

Some of York's local community groups including Rock Church, Accessible Arts and Door 84 supported the event by providing workshops and activities. This was fantastic and visitors loved having their faces painted and trying out

different music instruments.

The festival was held to raise money for students currently in Years 9 and 10 who have signed up to take part in the Moroccan expedition in 2019.

Students will have the chance to learn about the Moroccan culture and climb Mount Toubkal in the Atlas Mountains, as well as spending a week in a Moroccan school where they will help to build key infrastructures.

Mr M Rampling



Sports Clubs – Let's Get Moving!

Year 7 Girls' Football – starts 16th October. Every Monday evening from 3-4pm with Mr Rampling.

Year 7, 8, 9 Girls' Rugby with England rugby – every Tuesday evening after school.

Year 8,9,10 Boys' Rugby – every Wednesday after school with Mr Rampling.

Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 Girls' Trampoline – every Monday 3-4pm with Mrs Colville in the Gym.

Year 10 Bronze DofE – every Thursday evening with Mr Rampling in G23.

Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Basketball – every Friday with Mr Halifax 3.15pm - 4.30pm in the Sports Hall.

Thank You For The Music (and Drama) - Autumn Concert A Great Success!

The Autumn Concert was a resounding success - students did a fantastic job and we had a variety of drama sketches, solo performances and group pieces. There was a fantastic atmosphere and the Hall was packed. Many thanks to the Vale of York Society for providing refreshments; they were much appreciated.

The Music Department would also like to say a huge thank you for the piano which was recently donated to the school. It had its first tuning recently and three students used it for their concert performances.

And looking ahead, there will be a Christmas Concert & Carols at Clifton Parish Church on Wednesday 20th December at 7pm. Come and join us for a community festive start to the Christmas holiday. Mince pies and refreshments will be served.

Ms Brady and Ms Nicholson, Music and Drama Departments.

Teenagers Translated

Ever feel like your teenager is speaking a different language? Janey Downshire, a trained counsellor, is here to help.

Janey, author of Teenagers Translated: How To Raise Happy Teens, will be offering parents practical advice on how to raise children to be well-adjusted and content, plus tips on getting through difficult periods.

Janey will speak on Thursday 9th November and 5:30pm at Shepherd Hall, St Olave's School, YO30 6AB. The event, which is offered as part of the St Peter's Public Lecture series, is open to all and is free to book. Log on to stpetersdownshire.eventbrite.co.uk for further details.

Ms Ashcroft-Hawley

Ms Hudson: In The **Spotlight**

Ms Hudson is SEND Lead at Vale of York Academy and is a nurturing and supportive presence for many of our students. Vale Voice wanted to find out more...

Can you tell us a little bit about your career to date?

Of course! I'm not a teacher but have worked in education for over 20 years in different roles. I worked as a Pastoral Support Worker at another school in York before taking up a role at Manor as Inclusion Support coordinator alongside Sue Counter.

Over the years, I've worked with lots of young people with a wide range of needs and also liaised with their families.

What made you want to get involved in SEND work?

I've always wanted to be able to help young people have the best education they can, to be tolerant of each other and to encourage help and support between young people so that they can develop into successful independent learners.

I believe Inclusive Education can work for everyone and help young

people overcome learning barriers to be able to use in adulthood.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I actually wanted to be a police officer.

I applied and got into Hendon Police Training College at 17 but withdrew to work in a bank.

What's your favourite TV show?

I'm currently catching up on Game Of Thrones.

Do you have a recommended read for us?

I'm currently re-reading Harry Potter.

Who would be your five dream dinner party guests?

That's really difficult!

I think I'd go for David and Richard Attenborough, Joanna Lumley, Dawn French and Sting.

What do you owe your parents?

My parents gave me the courage to try. They taught me never to give up even when things are hard and feel overwhelming; they told me



that there's always a solution and an answer.

What's the trait you most deplore in yourself?

When I am feeling stressed or overwhelmed I don't always listen fully and have to revisit/re-ask questions.

What's the trait you most deplore in other people?

Rudeness.

What's been your proudest achievement working in schools?

Generally, seeing the children I oversee grow into adults after overcoming many obstacles.

Diary Dates

With thanks

Community and Partnerships

We were delighted to welcome ten primary schools from across the city to participate in this year's Quikstix hockey competition. Organised by Kevin Davies, School Sport Manager for York, there was a real buzz around our all-weather pitch, with spectators treated to excellent play and good sportsmanship.

The Sports Leaders from Vale of York showed real confidence, organisation and knowledge, allowing for an all-round positive event. Top work, guys!



In a similar footballing event at Clifton Green, some of our Year 10 Sports Leaders were fantastic when refereeing all of the fixtures. Oliver Lines, Marshall Townsend, Ellis Carter, Joe Hodge and Chris Prophet did such a good job that they have been asked to officiate the finals! Well done, lads.

Within the Academy, our new Rewards System has really begun to take off. A phenomenal 74,000 stamps have been given out in the first half term for a range of reasons including progress in lessons, supporting peers and staff, commitment to the extra curricular programme and going above and beyond expectations.

A special mention for six students who have done incredibly well to get over 300 in the first half term - Arun Haley, Suyork Pari Rai, Emily Wright, Tanureet Kaur, Holly Cairns and Emily Smith.

Other students have started to 'cash in' their house points for a range of rewards that are available. These have included tickets to watch York City FC and a day out at York Sport Village in Heslington, with its fantastic swimming, cycling and fitness facilities.



Finally, the Vale of York Society, our wonderful parents' group, have their AGM on 7th November in the Library at 18.30.

They would be delighted to welcome anyone who is interested in getting involved with supporting the school, in whatever capacity, so please feel free to come along for a cuppa and a chat!

*Mr R Orr and Mr M Rampling,
Community Co-ordinator & PE
Department*

Sports Roundup

The last few weeks have seen the start of the girls' indoor cricket season. Organised by Rachel Hildreth from the Chance To Shine programme, our ladies team from Year 7 and 8 travelled to Millthorpe to play the hosts and Manor. With very limited experience, the girls did really well holding their own against two teams with much more experience.



We were very proud, despite two defeats and look forward to seeing the progress as the season goes on.

Vale of York also recently took part in a rugby festival against other local schools and 16 of our Year 7 and 8 students participated.



The team did really well and the girls learnt a lot that we can work on before the next festival. The girls were a credit to the school and we are very proud of them!

Contacting school:

The quickest way to contact school is through reception

Tel: 01904 560000 or Email: reception@valeofyorkacademy.org

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