

Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 14 | 30th November

Message from the Principal

It has already been an incredibly busy half-term and this Newsletter is crammed full of fantastic events and celebrations that many of the children have taken part in. As Principal I am really proud of the commitment so many pupils are now showing to their studies and the wider life of the school. This is clearly supported by the wider community, since Vale of York saw the second biggest increase in first choice preferences from Year 6 parents picking their secondary school of choice across all schools across the city.

We will be rounding off this half-term with our annual trip to Meadowhall –



Celebrating success, commitment and hard work with the Christmas trip to Meadowhall

pupils who get to school on time, every day and work hard to maximise their chances, participate and get reward stamps.

It was a real pleasure to meet many of the Year 7 parents at their tutor evening, the feedback was extremely positive, it is clear Year 7 have made an excellent start.

The term is not over yet! There are many excellent events ahead, including the Christmas Fair and Christmas Concert, please look out for the details of these on the pages to come.

Mrs Dowds



Year 8 Option Choices

Very soon Year 8 will be invited to their Options Evening – a chance to find out about the process for choosing courses for Key Stage 4. It is time to start talking with you about which options your child may like to take, please encourage your child to talk to staff that teach these subjects and also talk to other students taking the subjects to find out what they are like. It is important that they start planning for their future successes now.

Debate Win

Holly Cairns and John Tuffen represented Vale of York in the ESU Mace Debate this week. They competed against Manor in a debate on whether e-sports should be included in the Olympic Games and won! Both students were very impressive. They are through to Round 2 (the only state school from York), along with St Peter's School, Ampleforth College and Bootham.

400 Word Story Challenge

Congratulations to Ryan Brookes in Year 7 who beat off older pupils to win the 400 word story challenge – well done!

Sporting Successes

MARTIAL ARTS - Harvey Fisher (8MR) competed at the World Martial Arts Championships in Orlando between the 6th – 15th November!

Harvey returned home with a **silver medal!** He fought some of the best martial arts for his age in the world and just missed out on the Gold. Even more inspiring is Harvey had tonsillitis on getting to America and was not well for his fights – but



showed true grit and determination and he powered on for a world

silver! We have a Great Britain champion in our school!



FOOTBALL - Year 7 girls played in the York Schools football tournament on 16th November and **won** the tournament beating many of the schools in the city! The girls played fantastically and are so chuffed with winning! The team were - Nuncia Gonzalez, Rebecca Morell, Tia Smith, Charlotte Lines, Mia Strickland (Goal keeper), Isabella Crabtree, Ellie Stimpson, Robyn Nicholson.

CROSS COUNTRY - We entered 12 Year 7 runners in to the York Cross Country event and Elvina Vassell came 5th out of over 100 Year 7 girls in York! We are very proud of Elvina

and she will now trial out for York at a further event to perform for the city. Fantastic work from Elvina and from all the other 11 students who did their best too.

BOXING - Matthew Ficco (8EM) has won his first Boxing fight. Matthew is working hard to develop his fitness and strength in Boxing and won a great trophy for winning his first fight! Keep up the hard work Matthew – plenty more titles to be won.



ISSP Breakthrough Event

Ten Year 7 students took part in the annual 'ISSP Breakthrough Event' in November, along with students from other York schools. In teams, they debated about the greatest breakthrough moment in history. After comparing various events, such as the development of the written word and the first planted seed; scientific thought was voted as the winner. It was great to hear how much fun our students had. They particularly enjoyed being able to meet students from different schools, listen to their ideas and develop their own personal judgements.

Year 10 Charity Challenge raising money for the Yorkshire Foodbank

Year 10 made the socially conscientious decision to support the York Food Bank in the run up to Christmas. As many within the City are struggling to put food on the table, York Food Bank is working hard to ensure that no one is hungry this festive period. Year 10 form representatives are visiting every form group this term to collect any goods that the rest of the school wish to donate. We would ask if you can afford to, please donate what you can to help support others within the City. All food will be sent to the YFB in the last week of term.

"I am so proud of Year 10 for coming up with the idea of York Food Bank and the fact they wanted to make sure everyone has food in their house this Christmas" says Mr Bailey, Progress Leader, Year 10

YFB are short on a number of items listed below, but are happy to receive any donations – items requested are:

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES; DRIED MILK; LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE / SQUASH; JARS OF COFFEE; BISCUITS; SPONGE PUDDINGS; SWEETS / CHOCOLATE; CLEANING PRODUCTS

Thank you for all your support with this charity initiative.

Community Spotlight

Yet another busy few weeks for our students and staff here at the Vale of York Academy. Mr Orr and his team of Student Leaders had the pleasure of visiting all five local primary schools to launch Santa's Apprentice, our annual Business Enterprise competition. The competition leads towards primary teams of Year 5 and 6 making and selling products at our Christmas Fair. It was a huge success last year and with fifteen teams entering this year, it should be even better!



We also welcomed Clifton With Rawcliffe Primary school to our Year 5 Science Showcase afternoon. A fun and educational afternoon saw a range of different experiments take place. We were very impressed at how engaged the primary students were and the quality of the bath bombs they made and took home with them!

Our Year 9 Student Council were invited to take part in a prestigious, city wide event at West Offices in York city centre. The event, organised by Clifton Green Primary's John Hattam, allowed young people from all parts of York to have their voice heard on a range of topics including budgeting, construction and politics. Emily, Ellie, Kiyon (Year 8), Abi and Lucy were superb and represented the young people of our catchment brilliantly!



This month also saw the school enter the York Civic Trust Public Speaking competition for the first time. In the team were Leonor, Imogen and Charlotte from Year 7 who prepared and delivered an excellent and unique speech on what future generations would think of York today. They spoke with confidence, variation and big smiles on their faces, doing the Vale of York proud!



We are all very excited about our Christmas Fair on 6th December 18.00 - 20.00. Organised by the fabulous Vale of York Society, our parent group, the event promises to be a fantastic evening with over thirty festive stalls, a full line up of entertainment, competitions, prizes and as mentioned, the finals of Santa's Apprentice. Talking of Santa, I can guarantee that he will also be making an appearance! A full report to come in the next edition.



- | | |
|------------|--|
| Fri 1/12 | – School closed to pupils |
| Tues 5/12 | – HOPE Carol Service at the Minster 7pm |
| Weds 6/12 | – Xmas Fair 6pm-8pm |
| Weds 13/12 | – Year 10 GCSE Drama Showcase |
| Mon 18/12 | – School Trip to Meadowhall |
| Weds 20/12 | – Christmas Concert & Carol Service at Clifton Parish Church 7pm |
| Fri 22/12 | – School Closes at 12:15pm |
| Mon 8/1 | – Training Day school closed |
| Tues 9/1 | – School re-opens at 8:50am |



National Treasures project 2017/18

Natasha Potts and Joshua Hussein were two out of six students from the Hope Learning Trust that were selected for the National Treasures project run by the charity 'Everything is possible'. How did Josh and Natasha get picked? The project was launched in the Y9 assembly last year. Every student in that year group could have applied. Only five students dared to make the leap and handed in an application explaining why they thought they were the most suitable candidate. After lengthy discussion and interviews, Josh and Natasha were picked from our school.

The project is a partnership between four countries, Brazil, Sweden, Australia and the UK.



The partner in Brazil is called 'Acer Brazil'. This is a school in a favela in Sao Paolo, helping young adults to come off the streets and learn, through performance and football. The partner in Sweden is called IFall and is helping to integrate refugees into Swedish society. The Australian partner is called Westside Circus and is a circus school and the partner in the UK is the Hope Learning Trust (Vale of York Academy and Manor CE together).

Each country sent six delegates to meet up in Australia at the Westside circus. During the week in Australia students participated in different workshops hosted by each partner - Brazilian drumming, some drama workshops from Sweden and a circus activity from Australia. The UK was leading a sports themed workshop. The week concluded with a half hour performance bringing all workshops together and all students from every country participating. It was so great to watch. What I found amazing and made me proud of our two students was how well they integrated with the other nations. Although initially scared and unsure they soon created close friendship bonds, where language barriers did not matter at all. Certainly a trip they will remember for the rest of their lives!

Ms Zulkamain



We have been really pleased to welcome representatives from the Samaritans into school. They have been visiting Year 7-10 PSICHE lessons to talk about mental health and well-being. We have received really positive feedback around their visit and were praised for being the first Secondary school in York to use this team and take up their offer of support.

Contacting school:

The quickest way to contact school is through reception

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

Vale of York Academy

Rawcliffe Drive

York YO30 6ZS