

Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 15 | 22nd December - Bumper Christmas Edition!

Message from the Principal

What an amazing term! Vale of York is a real credit to the City and the local community. This was amplified in three amazing events in which all the staff and pupils have worked incredibly hard. Our Christmas Fair has raised just short of £2000 this year and even though it said "6-8pm" was still going strong at nearly 9pm – an incredible effort by everyone.

We were honoured to be asked by the City of York to host the York Shine Awards. I felt very humbled to be amongst over a hundred people who continually give their time and humanity to help serve others within our City.

Finally, for the first time in over 15 years the school has come together for a Christmas Service in the Church at Clifton – I am truly grateful to the local Parish for allowing us to use the Church, but also to all of you who supported us in a magical evening of carols and performances. I hope that this will be a new tradition for Vale of York for the years to come.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mrs H Dowds



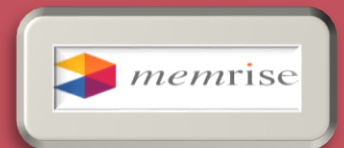
DANGER!

We have been made aware that a small number of children in our community have used the cold weather to go to the Lake at Rawcliffe, without supervision, in the evening time and have been venturing out onto the ice. PLEASE KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE AT ALL TIMES, I would hate for a child from our school to lose their life due to mis-adventure.



Recommended App to support learning –

Great for fact learning across many subjects



Staff – Moving to New Opportunities

I would like to thank Mrs Naylor for all her support with numerous pupils in school and wish her every success in her new role as a Social Worker. We welcome Mrs Stewart to the role of Pastoral Support Worker after Christmas.



FANCY MAKING YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS BISCUITS?

WHEN - Wednesday 20th Dec 3.00 'til 4.30pm
WHERE – Food Technology F2
COST - £2.00 (to cover ingredients)



Book NOW - See Miss Zulkarnain to book your place.
Limited places.....spaces for 15 bakers.
Ideal Christmas gift, or hang them on your tree to share.
(Or just eat them yourself!)



Thanks go out to the Design and Technology team who have worked really hard with some pupils to make Christmas biscuits. Look out for these in your Christmas pressies!

Message from the Progress Leader team

Bike safety – there have in recent weeks, been issues raised about how students are riding their bikes to and from school given the darker mornings and evenings. Please ensure that students bikes are well lit, and also that bikes are not being ridden in a dangerous manner on the road, single file please!

Attendance – Whilst attendance has been steadily improving, it has not been as strong as it could be. We realise that there are times when pupils are unwell and need to be off school, but we do ask that this is supported by medical evidence and in the case of appointments for medical reasons ask that where possible these are arranged outside of normal school hours. Equally ALL holidays MUST be taken in school holiday time. Parents who do not do so should expect to be fined.

VOYAGE – Vale of York Able and Gifted Enrichment



We were delighted to launch our brand new programme for Gifted and Talented Primary school pupils in our catchment called VOYAGE. Aimed at high performing Year 5's, Vale Of York Academy Gifted Enrichment consists of six 90 minute sessions leading up to the Summer. In these sessions, the pupils are given very challenging problems to solve in the fields of Science and Computer Science. Based on their performance, they will be accredited a pass, merit or distinction for each session, leading towards a graduation event in the Summer. The students from Clifton with Rawcliffe, Clifton Green, Burton Green and Lakeside made an

outstanding start, with pupils, parents and staff alike giving great feedback about the scheme. Updates will follow throughout the year.

A privilege to support the Shine awards at Vale of York

We were also delighted to host the Lord Mayor's Shine Awards here at Vale of York. Individuals and organisations from all over the City gathered to celebrate their achievements for a range of fantastic contributions and projects involving young people. Our very own Holly Cairns, Phoebe Kilvington, Lewis Rhodes and Mr Rampling all picked up awards, presented by the Mayor. A huge thank you to Tim Waudby and his team from the council who organised the evening.



Minster Carol Service

Did you see the York press article about the HOPE schools Minster Service?
[http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/15714711.York Minster carol concert for new choir/](http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/15714711.York_Minster_carol_concert_for_new_choir/)

It was a real pleasure to represent the school at this terrific event; I was joined by two of the Teaching Assistant team – Miss Harland and Mrs Edwards – who both sang in the HOPE community choir. Inspirational.



Community Spotlight

Our Christmas Fair on 6th December was a huge success and as such, dominates the community section of this edition! We have never seen so many people attend an event at the school and it was wonderful to see so many different parts of the community in attendance.

After being welcomed by our very own Santa Claus, guests were treated to a full programme of entertainment including the York Music Centre Brass Band. Playing well-known party hits, these young musicians brought a real touch of class to the occasion and added value to the excellent contributions from our own musicians from Vale of York Academy.

Because of the entertainment, the



main hall was buzzing with a very upbeat and festive vibe - the perfect location for the external stallholders to sell their fantastic products. Also in the Main Hall were our very own Morocco Fundraisers. They too produced some exciting products, showed excellent customer service and got that little bit closer to their big target!

Outside our Main Hall were even more stalls for Morocco and our very own Christmas art gallery. Students from Year 7 had worked hard to produce a piece for the fair and visitors got the opportunity to vote for their favourite. The winner will receive a £10 voucher in our Christmas Assembly.

The stars of the show though were our Santa's Apprentices. Back in November, each of our five local primary schools entered into a business competition where teams of six were given £10. The aim - make as much profit as possible at the Christmas Fair! With help from their teachers, the teams worked their socks off to produce a range of products including mocktails, pom-poms, cakes, decorations and ornaments. On the night, they were given a stall and had two

hours to make as much money as possible and they did just that! We had 16 teams in the dining hall and incredibly, they made a combined £670 profit. There had to be a winner though and Merry Madness from Lakeside took the honours making over £90 in profit. They and the top scoring team from each of the other primaries now move on to the next phase - Santa's Den, where they will get the opportunity to pitch for investment from local businesses.

As you can see, a superb night and the Vale of York Society, our parent group who put the whole night together, wish to thank everyone who attended and contributed. Big thanks must go to the generous businesses and organisations who donated raffle prizes and they are listed below.



Monday 8/1 – Training Day School closed

Tuesday 9/1 – School re-opens at 8.50am

Friday 19/1 – Year 11 Photos

Wednesday 24/1 – SLT Drop in 4pm to 6pm

Tuesday 6/2 – Year 10 Parents Evening 4pm to 7pm

Tuesday 27/2 – Year 8 Options Evening 5pm to 7pm



We couldn't have done it without you! With thanks to:

York City FC, Yorvik Centre, Ten Pin Clifton Moor, Swallow Hall Wheldrake, Stephanie Hackett, Glow beauty, Clifton Moor, Michelle Todd (VOYS), Dalby Bike Barn, Tesco Clifton Moor, Mulan Clifton Moor, Domino's Clifton Moor, Tony Neary Clifton, National Trust, York Sports Village, Studio 56 Micklegate, Yorkshire Air Museum, Wagamama



Upcycling in DT

Following a good sort out in the Food Technology crockery cupboards, we thought that rather than throwing away all the unloved and unwanted 'vintage' miscellany, why not upcycle the oddments and create some handmade gifts for the Christmas fair: We all have a responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint and upcycling old items is an ideal way to contribute, rather than filling up our landfill sites. It is also a great way for students to turn unwanted items into saleable goods to raise money for their Morocco trip in 2018.

We turned plates and glasses into decorative cake stands, saucers into candle holders, and cups into pin cushions and tempting reindeer hot chocolate mugs. All at a very minimal cost. A favourite at the Christmas fair was the cup and saucer sets upcycled to create attractive mini plant holders. In the DT workshop off-cuts of wood were made into tea-light



holders of varying shapes and sizes, and decorated with festive ribbon. They looked amazing.

It is our intention in the future to run a regular after school club where students can come along and create some of their own upcycled



items, where they will be able to use our resources and have access to the laser cutter. Watch this Space!



Sporting Successes

Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 netball team competed in their second fixture against Archbishop Holgate on Thursday 23rd November. After drawing the away fixture 5-5, we were keen to show our improvement as a team in the home fixture. The girls worked really hard, playing well as a team and were a credit to the school throughout. The final score was 8-1 to Vale of York. The next fixture will be after Christmas

Year 7 Swimming

Jazlyn Smith 7SV – Participated in a swimming gala in Bridlington on the 11th November, competing in 100m Freestyle, 100m Individual Medley and 50m breaststroke. There were competitors there from Bridlington, Scarborough, York and Thirsk. Jazlyn had a very successful day achieving the gold medal for her Freestyle, Silver for the Individual Medley with a personal best time and 4th place for the Breaststroke but again achieving a personal best time. Jazlyn has more galas coming up so we will keep you informed of her progress.

Year 8 Boxing

Matthew Ficco (Year 8) continues to move from strength to strength and has now won his 3rd fight in a row since the last newsletter! Matthew is really working hard at his boxing with a committed approach and is seeing great success.



Football Updates

Year 7 boys played football matches against Sherburn away, winning 7-5 and then Millthorpe at home winning 11-5. Great successes coming from these lads! Year 7 girls won the recent York 5 aside competition and have now been given the date for the next round of the cup. This will take place on 16th January at Boroughbridge High School where the girls will represent the City of York in the North Yorkshire round. If we win – we go forward to represent the county. Good luck girls!

D of E – 37 year 10's (Bronze), 11 Year 11's (Silver) and 10 Year 12's (at local sixth forms – Gold) are working hard on their volunteering, skills and physical sections of the award. They are supporting and giving up their own time to help at afterschool clubs, in local nurseries, lifeboat crew centres, homeless shelters, community groups like Scouts, Guides, Door 84 etc. and in sports clubs across the City.

These students make a huge difference to the City and we are proud of the time and dedication they give to help the community.

The expedition section will take place after Easter where the students will spend a number of days walking and camping with Mr Rampling and staff.

Carol singing in the Community

Students spent time visiting residents at Minster Grange and Morrell House care homes providing some festive cheer. We sang Christmas songs, chatted to the residents, played games and even managed some dancing! Our students were exceptional and treated the residents with respect and dignity, whilst enjoying themselves and having fun. We were treated to hot chocolate and cupcakes and had a lovely time.





Morocco

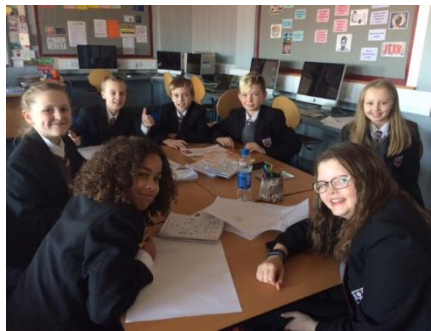
20 students in Year 9 and 10 are still working relentlessly to raise their £1800 to go on the Morocco 2019 adventure. This involves them doing a 5 day trek up the Atlas Mountains, 5 days in a Moroccan school working on a community project, 2 days to rest and relax by some great waterfalls and a day or so in Marrakech. I wanted to say a huge well done to them for their passion, drive and determination to raise every penny they can through a whole host of fundraising initiatives. Lots more to follow after Christmas so please support where you can.

Enrichment Day

All students in the school were off timetable last Friday to follow various activities designed to support development through the enrichment programme that we offer here at the Vale of York. The Year 7's participated in the 'Chocolate Box Challenge'. This is an enterprise activity designed to allow the students to experience putting a business idea together by designing and marketing a chocolate bar. The winning team are pictured.

The second activity was engineering based. The students were tasked with designing and building a balloon tower. This was a very entertaining afternoon for all the

students proving that education can be fun!



Year 9 were involved in a series of workshops focussed on keeping themselves safe. This included a first aid workshop, road safety talks and a session on sexual health.



Drama Showcases

Year 11 students have completed their Devising Unit this term. Each group worked on their own theme chosen from a stimulus and created a play exploring their ideas. I am very proud of the work they have done and look forward to their scripted exam next term.



Year 10 students have taken part in their first public performance exploring Devising Drama. They have explored their own ideas to create a variety of interesting plays. They are an outstanding group of students and I look forward to seeing what they come up with next.



A polite reminder

Please remember that phones may not be used in school for any reason. Children who are unwell can contact home via reception if required. Under new data protection laws coming into action in the New Year it is essential that no child takes any photo or video whilst in school.

Christmas Fair snapshots



Year 11 Support and Intervention

Year 11 have had their Mock Results and their written report home this half term. They have also had an individual senior staff interview to discuss next steps and aspirations. We are now moving on to the next stage of focussed intervention to support our Year 11, maximise their potential and achieve personal goals. We have the following intervention timetable that is open to all year 11 students, but some students have been asked to attend as a matter of need, to improve their progress. Teachers are putting on these extra sessions to support your children, so please support us, and them, by encouraging them to attend these extra learning opportunities. We are all working towards a very successful 2018.

Period 6 Timetable for Year 11 starting January 2018				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Food & Nutrition	Maths	History	Business Studies	Health & Social Care
Geography	English	Spanish	Geography	P.E. & Cambridge Nat Sport
Triple Science	Science (Combined)	French	Product Design	Art
Drama		ICT		Computer Science
Media				
German				
Computer Science				

Spotlight on Art

We have been really pleased with the work produced by the year 11's in their mock exam. Students had an 'Under the Sea' theme and had to link their work to observational studies, combined with the stylisation of the artist Dave White. Students had 5 hours to produce their piece of work from scratch and the results show a high level of skill, focus and creativity. We cannot wait to see what they do for their final exam!



Year 8 have recently completed giant work for their Pop Art Project. Their homework 'Little made Big' asked students to take a small household object and to imagine it larger than life and then to make it in 3D. We are sure you'll agree that the effort that has gone into this is very impressive and clearly a lot of parents have got involved too which is great to see. This work links to the pop artist Claus Oldenburg whose giant sculptures can be found in most cities around the world and shows that the smallest thing can have great impact.



Contacting school:

The quickest way to contact school is through reception Tel: 01904 560000 or Email: contact@valeofyorkacademy.org

To report an absence please call 01904 560057

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