

Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 18 | 29th June

Message from the Principal

Congratulations to year 11 for getting to the end of your GCSEs with such determination and drive; we could not have asked for any more from you. I wish you every success for the future.

It seems a lifetime ago now, but I would very much like to thank the volunteers and the local community who shared the Royal wedding with us at Vale of York on 19th May. The event was completely free and could not have happened without the fantastic efforts of our local church communities. Thank you.

As we approach summer, I would like to remind parents that school closes at 12:15pm on 20th July.



There are a number of exciting events yet to come: Sports Day; the rewards trip; and transition events, but I always pride myself on the staff delivering high quality focussed lessons all the way up to the end. As such, please make sure your child attends school each day. Regarding school policy, any holidays taken during term time will invoke a fine. Many thanks for your cooperation in this.

Uniform changes: If you have a child moving from year 8 into year 9, remember that they will need to attend school in the KS4 uniform in September. This includes a black and red tie and a black slipover.

Congratulations go to Ms Scaum who has secured a Vice Principal role at Manor CE Academy in September and I would like to welcome Mr Kumar who will fill the position here.

Mr Kumar is fortunate to be joining us once a week throughout this half term to ensure that all the children are known and that there are no gaps in support as the transition comes into effect.

Mrs H Dowds

Lake safety

During the school holidays, and particularly in warm weather, increasing numbers of children put themselves at risk of drowning. Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous. Learn to spot and keep away from dangers. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you will be able to swim in cold water.

Large areas of water are not a safe environment for play and you should stay out of them at all times. It is very easy to get into difficulty when you are in the water, and with no lifeguards or lifesaving equipment, the consequences can be devastating. Please make sure you are keeping yourself safe!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The Drama department is proud to announce its latest offering of student theatre: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Students will be performing the Andrew Lloyd Webber firm favourite on the 11th and 12th July from 7pm. Tickets are now available from reception. £5/£4 concessions.

Congratulations to all of our year 11 students who have now finished their exams and can enjoy a well-deserved summer! Photos from Prom, held at the Hilton Hotel will be published in the next newsletter.

Transition time

A taste of technology

Earlier in the term, we welcomed pupils from our feeder primaries to the technology department where they had the opportunity to get a taste of design and technology or food technology.

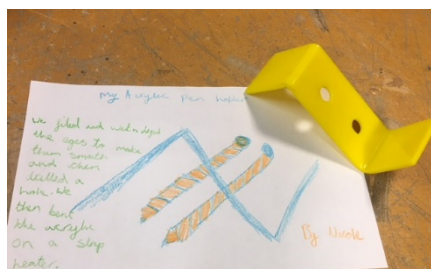
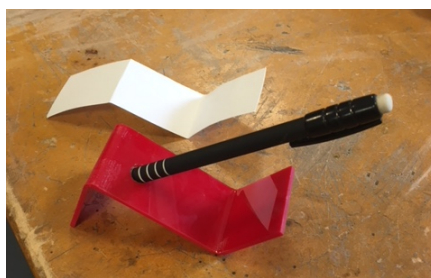
The pupils can see what these classroom environments are like to work in and how to handle some of the tools and equipment we use in these lessons. More importantly, they were able to make a product that they could take home and show to family and friends.

The students in design and technology modelled their own acrylic pen holders. They had to use a file, a pillar drill, and then bend the acrylic using a strip heater.

In food technology, the pupils competed in a 'muffin challenge'. Pupils worked in teams to create different flavoured muffins. At the end of the session, we tasted the muffins and voted for the favourite one.

Both activities resemble the activities students will be engaged in once they begin their studies at the Vale of York Academy, so this was a great opportunity for them to find out more.

All of the year 5 pupils engaged well in the activities and walked away with a finished product. We thoroughly enjoyed delivering the lessons to such keen cooks and designers, and look forward to seeing them again.



New year, new year 7

Mr Stancliffe, the Pastoral Leader for year 7, has been visiting each of the feeder primary schools in turn, and helping them to prepare for their upcoming transition days.

Following the great success of last year's trip, the incoming year 7 students will be attending a residential trip to Lakeside Activity Centre in Cumbria. As well as plenty of group activities, students will be taking part in kayaking, abseiling, and crate-building challenges.

Mr Stancliffe has expressed his delight in such an engaged, active year group, and hopes that they will make the most out of these next few weeks so that they feel completely prepared for the big move in September.

Incoming year 7 students are invited to attend a welcome evening to meet their new form tutor and fellow pupils on **3rd July 2018, a transition day on 4th July**, and the transition week at the school starts on 16th July 2018.

Transition Day

The future year 7 students will be first visiting the school on 4th July for their initial transition day. Throughout the course of the day, they will be attending taster sessions that are all linked to the World Cup theme. They will be able to earn house points for their team and qualify to the next stage of school life.

The transition week will then follow on 16th-18th July, giving students a real taster of the different subjects and the way the school works. At this time, the behaviour system will be in place and students will gain invaluable insight into the expectations that uphold the school. They will meet their subject teachers for the first time, and will be able to make friends in time for their first official day in September.

Pastoral roll up

From 15th July, all year groups will be moving up in into the next year in time for September. Where applicable, they will be meeting and spending time with their new form tutors.

Key dates

6th July – Active Community Engagement and Sports Day

19th July – Flamingo Land trip

20th July – School closes for summer

Year 6 Transition - key dates

3rd July – Meet Your Tutor evening

4th July – Transition day

16th-18th July – Transition Week

Events and trips

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students spent the 9th and 10th June walking in the area surrounding Sherriff Hutton. They worked hard through muggy conditions and all reached the campsite in time to set up their tents and cook up a storm in their Trangias, before a spot of rounders with Archbishop Holgate's School students.

Mr Rampling and the team would like to say well done to all of the year 10 students who completed their qualifying expeditions, beating their predicted times by two hours, and working incredibly well as part of a team. We look forward to seeing you on the Silver course next year.



Trip to Oxford University

On Thursday 14th June, five year 10 students visited Oxford University. Joining students from eight other York secondary schools, as part of a trip led by York ISSP, they learned about the process of applying to university. A tour of Mansfield College, a computer science lecture, and lunch in the 19th century hall helped to give them an insight into university life. They also took part in a Q&A session with university undergraduates, including some former students of York schools. This helped to inspire the students and show that Oxford University "is for ordinary people like us." The highlight of the day was a walking tour around the city, including visits to other colleges and university departments. The students gained a lot from this visit, stating that it made them think more about their future options and realise that Oxford University is not out of reach.

Helping out on sports day

Year 8 students have been representing Vale of York Academy very well after they were asked to help at the Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School sports days on 12th and 14th June. They worked incredibly hard, organising the sports teams and ensuring the event was a success.

Year 7 goes to York

On Friday 15th June, year 7 students took part in a humanities trip to York city centre where they visited York Minster to study its history, travelled on the York sightseeing bus to study the geography of York, and learned about the proposed flood defences for York.

This was a highly energetic day, filled to the brim with activities, and the students were able to gain new insight into the historical city.

Geography fieldtrip

Some year 11 students were invited to spend a long weekend at Boggle Hole Youth Hostel in Whitby. While

they were here, they focused on revision of core subjects – maths, English, science. The students worked very hard over the weekend, sitting mock exam papers and reflecting on the topics with which they were confident.

Many thanks to all of the staff members who gave up their bank holiday weekend to give these students further focused revision.

Women in science

On 19th June, 45 year 5 girls from Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School attended Vale of York Academy to explore the work of famous female scientists. They looked at the work of Ruth Wakefield, who invented the chocolate chip, Jamie Link, and Rosalind Franklin whose work on x-ray crystallography was the inspiration behind Watson and Crick's model of DNA. They worked in teams to carry out practical work, but also to develop their skills as budding young scientists. Thank you to the volunteer students who took the time to inspire all of the students and help on the day.

Final thoughts

Getting inspired

Students enjoyed watching Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Leeds Carriageworks Theatre on 6th June. They ended up with many ideas for their own version and everyone enjoyed singing along at the end.

ISSP School Ambassadors

Five students from years 8 to 10 have volunteered to be ISSP Ambassadors at Vale of York. Their role is to promote York ISSP within school and encourage wider participation in ISSP events.

York ISSP provides academic challenge designed to push York's most able and interested students through engaging and stimulating activities. They deliver courses and hold events such as the trip to Oxford University. If you would like to find out more about York ISSP, or the role of ISSP Ambassadors, please contact Miss Ashcroft-Hawley.

Food lovers Festival

One of our year 7 students, Imogen Brown, was offered the chance to volunteer at the Malton Food Lovers Festival this year. She maximised this opportunity, helping with a cookery demonstration in front of a large audience, serving food samples, and ferrying the equipment between venues.

Gilly Robinson, who runs Malton Cookery School, was delighted in her hard work and efforts, and she has represented the school well.

Year 11 leavers

We are sorry to see our year 11 students fly the nest as they move onto the next exciting chapter of their lives, and as with any send-off these days, Mr Rampling has decided to get the staff involved in a goodbye video. This is now available on the Vale of York Academy's Youtube channel.



Year 11 students 2017/18



Final PE lesson for year 11



Busy at Boggle Hole