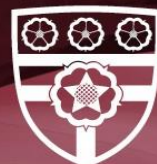


# Voice

VALE OF  
YORK  
ACADEMY



## THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 19 | 20<sup>th</sup> July

### *Message from the Principal*

Another very successful year flies by and we reach the final newsletter of the year. Thank you to everyone who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the progress of everyone in our care is maximised. I think we are all ready for a good long rest.

In the last week of June the school undertook an external Healthcheck – it was essential I felt, as Principal, to recognise the work undertaken since I joined in September 2016; to recognise the efforts that everyone in the community has made and put down a firm marker of where we are. I am very pleased to say that the report we have received has been extremely strong, a really encouraging affirmation of the progress we have made to date.

The National Leader of Education, Simon White, who undertook the inspection, stated *"Students, staff, leaders and governors were able to discuss the impact of new systems and procedures that were positively impacting on progress; enhanced quality assurance systems, a consistent Positive Discipline system, revised marking and feedback procedures and positive student engagement. As a result, the embedding of the improvement journey has made good headway."*

*The Head Teacher is clearly focused on providing the best learning environment for all students and is applying a robust and systematic improvement strategy that was evident in books, classrooms and the school. Her expectations are high and this aspiration for excellence is being embedded."*



In this busy term, we have also appointed our new Head Boy and Head Girl, Karl Bovingdon and Mia Edson. They have already been put in the spotlight at our Year 6 Transition Evening. My thanks go to Joseph Stancliffe and Holly Cairns for their excellent work in the year gone.

We celebrated all the successes of the Year 11 leavers at the Prom in June, at the Hilton in York. More photos can be seen within this newsletter – boy, did they scrub up well! We look forward to seeing them for the last time on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 9.00am for GCSE results.

It is with gratitude and no small amount of sadness that we say goodbye to a small handful of staff this year, may I wish each one the very best of luck in their new endeavours: Mrs Foster (MFL); Miss Parker (Science); Ms Scaum (Assistant Vice Principal); Mr Metcalfe (English); Mr Calderwood (Maths) and Mr Nironi (Teaching Assistant).

In return we will welcome to school in September; Miss Appleyard (English), Miss Elder (English), Mr Belyou (Science), Mr Norwood (Science), Miss Plowman (Maths), Mr Wilson (Seclusion Manager), Mrs Bose (MFL) and Mr Kumar (Assistant Vice Principal-Student Welfare).



School opens for the Autumn Term 2018 on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September: 8:45 am for Year 7, 9:50 am for all other year groups.

May I wish you all a happy and restful holiday! **Helen Dowds.**

## Extra-curricular events

### Food and nutrition trip

York College kindly hosted a catering day for year 9 GCSE Food and Nutrition students.



Students were working together in the hospitality and catering kitchen. They created a three-course menu: a vegetable soup, followed by chicken wrapped in bacon and a chocolate orange mousse to finish.

All of the students worked extremely well, coached by the York College staff, and spent the day helping each other. They learned how to plate and serve the meals on time and enjoyed a three-course lunch at the purpose-built restaurant.

Afterwards, students got a tour of York College. They were impressed by the size of York College and the opportunities available after GCSE.

Overall, this was a fantastic day and a great opportunity for our year 9 students. We would like to thank Mrs Maddison who has helped the school forge links with York College.



### Football awards evening

The Year 10 football team had a fantastic season this year only losing one game for the top of the league clash. The students enjoyed an awards evening held during the England versus Panama game with pizza and plenty of football cheer.

There were 12 awards with students winning 'expensive' trophy ware, the main awards given to Ellis Carter (Manager's Player) and Myles Harrison (Players' Player). Everyone worked hard over the year, and were absolutely deserving of such a treat! We are proud of these lads and look forward to next season. Big thanks go to Mr Metcalfe for being a great coach this season.



### The Great Yorkshire Show

Students from years 8-10 were treated to a trip to the Great Yorkshire Show last week to discover more about the journey of our food from farm to fork. The group were delighted to learn more about food and nutrition in the real world.

During the 160<sup>th</sup> Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate Showground, students were able to watch live cookery demonstrations, sample fresh and local produce, and discover more about the farming

way of life. All of the students had a great time at the Show and learned a huge amount.

### Vale of York goes to Germany

Mrs Foster and the team took a group of year 8 students to Germany last week, where they stayed in a beautiful hotel overlooking the Moselle River. The students were treated to a tour around a chocolate factory, a visit to Burg Eltz castle, and a boat trip along the Rhine River. They also made a day trip to Phantasialand, home to Europe's fastest rollercoaster. The students represented our school incredibly well and had an amazing time. Many thanks to the staff who helped both on the trip and back at home.

### Flamingo Land trip

Students with positive attendance and good behaviour were invited to spend the penultimate day of school at Flamingo Land as an end of year rewards trip. Keep up the good work!

### Key dates

**4<sup>th</sup> September** – School re-opens

8.45am – year 7

9.50am – all other year groups

**12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September** – Year 7 residential to Lakeside

**18<sup>th</sup> September** – Year 10 trip to Malham

**20<sup>th</sup> September** – School photos, years 7-10

**28<sup>th</sup> September** – Morocco fundraiser, Night at the dog racing

## *A successful end to the year*

### ***Athletics final***

Students from the Vale of York Academy were able to represent the school in a regional final on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Everyone who competed worked extremely hard, and we came home with some fantastic results. Elvina Vassell (year 7) came first in the 800m race, Lily Standcliffe won 1<sup>st</sup> in the 300m sprint, and Drew Sullivan came first in Discus. These are brilliant achievements from all involved, so well done.

### ***Sports day***

All students who competed in the annual sports day did incredibly well with the top forms in KS3 and KS4 being 7SV and 9RN respectively.

### ***What a Wicked trip***

Over 40 staff and students enjoyed an evening at Leeds Grand Theatre watching Wicked on June 27<sup>th</sup>. It was an exceptionally warm evening and the theatre was packed but we all enjoyed the story of the wicked witch of the west with amazing scenery and stunning costumes, as well as some mind-blowing vocals. Definitely one to see if you get the chance.

### ***Mental Health Champions***

A group of Year 9 students have taken part in a Mental Health Champions course, in which they have been training to build an increased awareness and understanding of mental health issues and how they might identify signs of someone who needs some extra help.



Marcus Hoyle, one of the students involved, spoke highly of the program: "I think it is very helpful to understand how people with poor mental health feel and to be able to put myself in their shoes".

### ***Blood Brothers Showcase***

Year 10 GCSE students performed their scripted showcase looking at our drama set text 'Blood Brothers'. Each student performed more than one part in several scenes and every one had worked hard to highlight their talents. A thoroughly enjoyable performance, well done to all involved.

### ***Aviva Masterclass***

A group of year nine girls had a great day at the Aviva building, learning all about how to be successful in business. The students attended a series of workshops based around different skills and attributes, and learned plenty of 'tricks of the trade' in how to get

ahead in the cut-throat world of business. A very positive day that will certainly help the girls with their future studies and careers.

### ***Hooked on Humanities***

Mrs Peters and Mr Bailey put on a fascinating event called 'Hooked on Humanities', in which over 100 year four pupils were challenged with Fair Trade problem-solving. Mr Wilson, a teacher from Burton Green, spoke of the event "Thank you for inviting us to the workshop yesterday. The kids really enjoyed it and got a lot out of the session - looking forward to the next one!"

### ***Pride 2018***

This year, we were able to welcome in Will from LGBTQ+ Forum to talk about what LGBTQ+ stands for and some of the issues faced today. Then on 9<sup>th</sup> June, students and staff from the school were able to celebrate Pride together and join thousands of other people marching the city streets in support.

*Final thoughts***Silver Duke of Edinburgh**

Our silver Duke of Edinburgh students did exceptionally well, walking for three days, at some points in 29-degree heat. They made their way from Malham to Ingleton, via Pen-y-Ghent on the second day. Mr Rampling, who coordinates the award in school, was incredibly pleased with the students' resilience and determination, adding that they certainly deserved the ice cream at the end of the final day.

**Prom at the Hilton Hotel**

Year 11 leavers celebrated the end of their time at the Vale of York Academy with a prom organised by Miss Farag and the prom committee. A three-course meal at the Hilton Hotel in York was followed by awards and dancing into the early hours. We would like to say a final goodbye to the Year 11 students and wish them every success in their journeys from this point onwards.

**What an ACE day**

Many thanks to all of the community groups and services who came in to support our Active Community Engagement day. The students enjoyed a morning of activities including graffiti art, dance classes, and finding out about the fire service. The aim of the morning was to inspire students to try new hobbies and find new groups that they would not necessarily consider otherwise, to increase engagement in the community. More information to follow in September.

