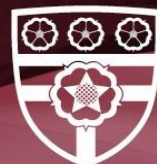


Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 20 |wb 1st October

Message from the Principal

Welcome to 2018! It has been a real pleasure to welcome to school over 120 new pupils ready to begin their secondary school careers. This Newsletter has some smashing pictures of these children getting to know each other as part of our annual Lakeside event.

We have been especially pleased this year to start to see the fruits of our labours as a new Academy, achieving the best results we have seen for five years. We were particularly pleased that 60% of our Year 11 pupils gained at least one A grade (grade 7) or equivalent and even more so that 26 grade 9s – the highest grade possible – were achieved. Only the top 3% in the country are awarded grade 9 in any given qualification. You may have also seen in the press that our Head Boy – Joseph Stancliffe and our Head Girl – Holly Cairns achieved 22 grade As or above between them, a truly outstanding accolade.



At the start of each year we always warmly welcome new members to our team, as a growing school it is a pleasure to once again be fully staffed with experts in every area. This also includes Mr Kumar – Assistant Vice Principal, Student Welfare who replaces Ms Scaum; in addition joining the team we have:

Miss Appleyard – English
Miss Elder – English
Mrs Bose – MFL
Mr Belyeu – Science
Mr Norwood – Science
Mr Wilson – Seclusion
Miss Plowman – Maths

Please remember that all senior staff and middle leaders can be contacted directly via email from the Academy website:

www.valeofyorkacademy.org

Simply click on the staff name in blue and a hyperlink will take you to your email address in situ.

Can I take this opportunity in advance to thank all parents for the rapid completion of the student details form sent home this week. It is essential that in all cases we have the most up to date information for you so that you can receive texts

and emails that will keep you fully informed.



Very shortly you will get information about an app called MyEd. This app will allow you to get real time access to your child's timetable, their attendance, their homework set and their reports – if you don't have an email address listed with us, most of the functionality of this service will not be available, so please return your information as soon as possible via your child's form tutor.

Also in the newsletter are the dates ahead; may I take the liberty of drawing your attention to:

Open Evening
6pm – 9pm
10th October

We welcome all parents with children in Year 5 and 6 and thank you too for allowing your sons and daughters to act as guides on this most important night.

Helen Dowds.

Meet Mr Kumar

We have been fortunate enough to appoint Gavin Kumar as Assistant Vice Principal in Student Welfare. Along with this appointment, we have changed how the morning and afternoon registrations are run, in order to support the students more explicitly in their progress at the Vale of York Academy. In addition to this, form tutors will be running Raising Achievement discussions with various students to ensure that students are making progress in one of the following areas: attendance; behaviour; academic achievement. As always, we appreciate if you could have similar conversations with your child to ensure cohesion.

Celebrations

What an ACE day!

As mentioned in our Summer Newsletter, we held Active Community Engagement Day in July. It was aimed at showcasing all the opportunities available to our young people right on the doorstep. Please find on the website the

Key dates

10th October - Open Evening
School closes at 12.15pm. Late opening **11th October**, school opens at 9:50pm

23rd October- Autumn Concert

24th October - Year 11 parents evening

14th November - Year 7 Form Tutor parents evening

28th November - Awards Evening

30th November - School closed to students – training day

contact details of our community partners who very kindly gave up their time to work with Vale of York Academy, and who we thank very much for the workshops they put on. The students got to grips with everything from circus skills to dancing, and had a fantastic time getting to know what opportunities there are.

If you are at a loose end now the nights are drawing in, have a look online and take part in one of these amazing clubs.

English Rugby League

We were delighted to have been accepted by the English Rugby League to become accredited as an official Talent Pathway School, due to the opportunities available for students at our school to play the sport. The PE team would like to thank Adam Prentis and his team from York City Knights who have supported us for over a decade and continue to do so, ensuring our youngsters have access to high quality Rugby League training.

York Mystery Plays success

Students from the school were fortunate enough to take part in this year's York Mystery Plays, hosted by the Guild of Freeman, City of York. Four girls took part in 'The Fall of Man', a story of Adam and Eve's fall from grace.

The piece was brought together with puppetry and some comedy to allow audiences to witness the fall of man and decide who was to blame. Miss Nicholson would like to thank the team and everyone who supported them in this experience.

Winning at the Races



Well done to Ryan Brookes (year 8) who entered the Designa Racecard competition for The Press' Family Raceday at York Racecourse. Ryan came top out of many young people who entered the competition, and managed to win a pair of tickets to the event, as well as having his artwork published on the front of the official racecard.

Musical success

Ben Case (year 11) passed his Grade 6 Piano exam with merit. A huge massive achievement, Ben, so well done and keep working at it.

Rollover rewards

For the returning students this year: please keep in mind that you are able to roll over your PD points from last year and earn even greater rewards when you decide to cash them in. The rewards include anything from chocolate bars to York City football tickets and prom tickets. Keep an eye on how many points you have and please refer to the new rewards menu or ask a member of staff.

Year 7 take on Lakeside

100 year 7 students embarked on a three-day residential to YMCA Lakeside, Newby Bridge in the Lake District. This took place during their second week of the first school term to allow the students to make new friends, learn things about themselves and get to know staff a lot better. Students took part in eight activities over the three days ranging from canoeing and raft building to climbing, high ropes and team based activities.

The groups enjoyed a wide range of activities from archery to crate-building, working together in groups with core members of staff, including their form tutors and heads of year. They spent the evenings around a campfire with the rest of the year, singing camp songs and dodging the weather!

The students were extremely well behaved and it was excellent to see them return with new friends and feel positive about their time at the Vale of York Academy. Staff who organised and attended the trip were all proud of how well the students managed over the course of the trip.

Big thanks go to the families of these students for preparing their sons and daughters for the trip, to the staff who joined us on the residential, and to members of staff back at school who kept everything running smoothly. Thank you also to the team at Lakeside for all of their help with the activities and keeping the kids engaged in the fun.

This was another big success for the school, enabling all of our new students to establish themselves as Vale of York students and make new, hopefully life-long, friends.

***Morocco Night at the Races***

The Morocco team organised a fantastic night at the races for everyone on Friday 28th September, to help raise funds towards next year's incredible trip to Morocco.

We welcomed people to the event at York City Football Club where they had the chance to win prizes whilst raising money for the trip.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event. We raised over £1000! Huge thanks to Mr Orr for hosting the evening, the team at Clifton Catering for the fabulous food and the team at Bootham Crescent for the venue. Most of all thanks to all our amazing students who put so much time and effort into making the event so successful.

*What's on?***Mental Health Champions**

Our Mental Health Champions are continuing their training as they work their way into year 10, and will soon be ready and equipped to support the rest of our students. Keep up the hard work.

A Christmas Carol

The English Department are going to take a group of year 10 and year 11 students to Leeds Playhouse on Tuesday 4th December to see a production of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. This text is an important part of their GCSE curriculum. For more information, please speak to a member of the department.

Learn something new

Students interested in learning a new instrument should contact Mrs Brady over the next few weeks. We have tutors available to teach Drums, Guitar, Bass, Woodwind, Piano, and Singing. All abilities are welcome to join in.

Get involved after school

After school clubs have kicked off again, and will include a wide range of activities to keep you going after school. Singing club will take place every Friday with Mrs Brady; see if you can beat Miss Plowman in a game of chess on Wednesday nights; get involved in one of our many successful sports teams and see your name in lights.

Speak with your teachers about the exciting opportunities available after 3pm.

For the love of reading, an open letter to parents and students

We all know the many benefits of reading and research shows that students who read regularly gain higher results at the end of secondary education. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-24046971>)

As part of our drive to get the whole school reading and promote reading for pleasure, all students are expected to carry a reading book in their bags at all times. This means that whenever a member of staff decides to have a quiet time reading, students will be prepared and will not have to waste lesson time finding something to read.

Please find time to discuss reading with your child what they like to read. There is a large selection of books in the school library, or students can bring a book from home. I'm also available in the library to advise them.

Thank you for your support in this, Mrs Betts

KS4 Information evening

Many thanks to all of the families who braved the cold and rain to join us at our first KS4 Information Evening. It really was fantastic to see you all there, supporting the students in the most important years. We had an excellent night, full of information and revision help that should set students up for the next few years. For further information and for any unanswered questions, please see the website for more details. Thank you to the staff who helped out on the night too - it could not have been done without you.

Reading around the World

In the summer term we set the year 6 students a challenge: could they, as a year group, read around the world? Working in conjunction with the library, we are focusing this half term on broadening students' knowledge of the World through the books that they read.

Both fiction and non-fiction books offer us many opportunities to visit

and explore places that might not otherwise be accessible. This summer, Mrs Doust's reading has taken her from the coast of Sydney to solve a murder to the peak of Everest as she witnessed incredible heroism in the face of extreme forces of nature.

We will shortly be asking our Year 7 students to tell us all about their literary summer journeys and encouraging them to pack their bookmarks, their suitcases and their imaginations as they embark on new adventures.

Could you be a VOYA FBI agent?

Mrs Betts and the Library team are looking for Fantastic Book Individuals to help ensure that our library is a calm, welcoming, and exciting place for all. FBI agents undertake a number of missions and have an active role in our school community. Other perks include first serve of new books, board games, and DVDs. The position demands commitment, reliability and trust, but it is also a lot of fun. Pick up an application form from the library if you think you could be the next FBI agent.