

Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 21 | 26th October

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year, it's hard to believe we are already 20% of the way through the school journey. As you will have come to expect this newsletter is full of the many successes of the last few weeks.

If you are a parent of Year 11 we are now only three weeks away from the Mock Examinations, please ask your child for their timetable and also take the chance to access the revision support on the website. A quick image of this link is shown here:

The website itself is very much a live site, the pages are refreshed weekly if not daily; a new resource recently uploaded of particular interest is how to deal with stress and how to manage positive mental health. The tips on this page are of particular help when facing examinations, but are equally applicable to daily life.

This week some of our students have been assisting in interviews. The Trust are currently recruiting for Principals to join our ever expanding Secondary team and the school itself has been recruiting too, to the post of Head of Modern

Foreign Languages. The students as ever have done us proud in representing the Vale of York, advocates of this rapidly improving and successful school.

Are you a parent who has the capacity to support the Vale of York in a leadership role? We are about to open the applications for the post of Parent Governor. Our governing committee, made up of highly committed individuals from all walks of life, reports to Hope Learning Trust and are central to holding the school to account, maintaining and improving standards and ensuring a high quality education for all the children in our care. If you are interested in applying please look out for the information directly after half term.



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The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu (HOME, NEWS + EVENTS, PARENTS/CARERS, STUDENTS, HIRE US, CONTACT) and a search icon. The main heading is "GCSE Exams and Revision". Below this, there is a section for "Year 11 mock exam timetable" with a link to "View the mock exam timetable". A "TWITTER" section features a tweet from @ValeYorkAcademy dated 6:49 pm - 17/10/2018. A "RECENT POSTS" section lists "ISSP - Human Rights Activism with Impact", "ISSP - Enigma & Complex Maths", and "Year 11 Parents' Evening letter 2018".

At this time of year, as Halloween and Guy Fawkes night approach, please ensure that you are safe at all times, remember that fireworks are best seen through organised displays and that 'Trick or Treating' should be done in organised groups and never alone.

Have a happy half term, we return at 8:50 on Monday 5th November.

Helen Dowds

Trips and events

Muddy in Malham

This term saw the intrepid Year 11 Geographers brave the elements in Malham to complete their river and town study as part of their GCSE course. The weather was kinder on the first trip with all of the Year 11 students getting stuck in and bringing Geography to life. The second trip was not as kind, as Mr Halifax donned his shorts and Cornish rugby socks to soak up the Yorkshire rain. The students took it all in their stride and showed real effort and enthusiasm.



'Bin it' roadshow

Thank you to the team members from 'Bin it' roadshow who held an assembly for our year 7 students on all things litter. The students really enjoyed learning about why people litter and what we can do to keep the streets clean.

Autumn Concert

Once again, the Vale of York Academy hosted a fantastic student-led event, raising money for the drama and music

departments, and giving friends and family a glimpse into the hard work that goes on behind the scenes throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who came and supported our efforts. We will be back again next year.

Commemoration efforts

Our year 8 Student Council have been very busy designing and creating a special memorial poppy that is to be laid as part of the commemorations, remembering 100 years since the end of World War One. This will form part of a ceremony that will take place on the 11th November, close to the Rawcliffe Recreation Pavilion. One of the main features is the coordination of the lighting of fire Beacons, 1000+ Nationwide at 7pm. The Vale of York Academy will be represented, along with our local primary schools, and we encourage everyone to join in this special remembrance event.

Pick and Mix day

We were delighted to welcome 230 Y6 pupils in to take part in a dozen different activities run by Vale of York staff. It was an extremely positive event and we were hugely impressed by the attitude, resilience and teamwork of all who attended. We are already looking forward to welcoming them to the school for real in September 2019!

A Christmas Carol: The Trip

The English Department are going to take a group of Y10/Y11 students to Leeds Playhouse on Tuesday 4th December to see a production of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles

Key dates

14th November - Year 7 Form Tutor parents' evening

28th November - Awards Evening

30th November - School closed to students – training day

4th December - Enrichment Day 1

21st December - End of term

Dickens. This text is an important part of their GCSE curriculum and should be a very enjoyable and enriching trip.

On a similar note, the Vale of York Academy Christmas Carol service will take place on Monday 17th November 7pm at Clifton Parish Church; everyone associated with the school and local primary schools, are warmly invited to join us.

Morocco fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported our Morocco Night at the Dogs race night. We raised over £1000 for the students and everyone had a great night. The students involved would also like to say a big thank you to Mr Orr for organising the fundraiser, Dave at Clifton Catering for the fantastic food, and the team at Bootham Crescent for hosting.



Sporting success

Quikstix Hockey Tournament

It was a fantastic evening of hockey at Vale of York Academy as we hosted the city-wide QuikStix Primary Hockey tournament for the third year running. With sixteen primary teams competing to qualify for the county stages, the atmosphere was electric due to the high quality of play and support. Our amazing Key Stage 4 Sports Leaders were on hand to run the whole event and as ever, did the school very proud. Congratulations to Lakeside, Huntington and Sand Hutton Primary Schools for qualifying.



Year 7 Football

Our year 7 boys worked hard as a team and came just shy of winning the York football tournament at Bootham, losing 2-1 in the final. They were all in high spirits on the way home and we are looking forward to some excellent games in the future.



Rugby team

We are all impressed with the year 8/9 boys who played in their first rugby matches of the season, beating both Archbishop Holgate's School and Joseph Rowntree School, and only losing against All Saints School. They did extremely well and are certainly a team to watch out for.

Football team

What a fantastic effort from the year 11 Football boys who took some time away from their (busy!) school schedules to draw 2-2 with Tadcaster Grammar School. What a cracking game and good luck for the future home and away matches. Keep up the good work.



What's on?

KS4 Exam Success Evening

This term we held our KS4 Exam Success Evening for the first time, and what a success it was. A huge thank you to everyone who attended the event to find out more about how their child can succeed over the next few years, and as ever, thank you to the team who helped make this a possibility.

If you still would like advice, please have a look at the KS4 section on our website for exam and preparation tips.

York ISSP get writing

York ISSP have established an online publication, run and edited by students, for all young people in York to publish their fantastic work online. This includes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, artwork, scientific research, maths puzzles, etc. It can be work produced in or out of school, not necessarily written specifically for the online journal. Visit the website - insightful-imaginings.com - to submit your work, or see Mrs Askham for more information.

Vale of York Society AGM

The Vale of York Society, our hard working and committed parents group held their AGM recently and it was wonderful to see some new parents attending and offering support. It was a very constructive meeting where we began to make plans for the Christmas Fair on Thursday 6th December. If anyone who would like to be involved with

Upcoming public science lectures

You may find the following open lectures of interest. See Mrs Askham for more details.

Dr David Edwards: Adventure, Geography, and the Environment at Nature's Extremes - Wednesday 7th November, 7pm

A fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, Dr Edwards has encountered adventure and peril all over the world. From self-rescuing after breaking both legs in the Cairngorms to escaping an erupting volcano in Montserrat, few can claim to have a better understanding of nature at its most extreme.

The Science Society Christmas Lecture: Science QI - Tuesday 11th December

The St Peter's Science Department will be sharing some of their favourite 'quite interesting' facts from the world of science in their ever-popular Christmas lecture. Be prepared for whizzes, flash-bangs, and the occasional klaxon.

The Vale of York Society or even just lend a hand at some of the School's events, you would be very welcome and should contact Mr Orr by email r.orr@valeofyorkacademy.org.

Open Evening success

A huge congratulations and thank you to everyone who made our Autumn Open Evening a reality. Dozens of students represented their school by leading tours and supporting subjects.

Special mention goes to the Drama team who put on a show, Ben Case for his brilliant busking display and Natasha Potts and Ebony McCartney for their singing before each assembly. The staff and students took great pride and pleasure in hosting such wonderful families from all over York, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

If you have any more questions regarding new starters, please have a look at the school website.

