



Voice

THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 22 | 21st December

Message from the Principal.

It is very hard to think that this is my last newsletter for the school. Every day I have worked here has been an absolute pleasure – the opportunity I have been given to support and shape the future of so many wonderful children and to transform this school into a successful, vibrant learning community is one that I will always treasure. “No man is an island” and the successes we now celebrate would not have been possible without such a dedicated and experienced Staff, nor without the support from one of the best Governing bodies I have had the pleasure to work with. I will continue to be working with many

members of this community as I start my new role in January, I feel very fortunate not to be leaving the Trust and will watch from the sidelines knowing that we will continue to go from strength to strength.

As you would expect this Newsletter celebrates the efforts of so many staff and students, the Christmas Fayre for instance, was the biggest and best yet. Our Carol Service this week with a theme of Remembrance, reminds us of those less fortunate at Christmas time and how we can join together to give support and love at this time of year to those in need.

As we conclude the Christmas term, we thank those staff who are

leaving us: Miss Nicholson will leave us temporarily to have her baby, we send her our thoughts at such a special time; we welcome Mrs Ellis to the team in her place. Mrs Hudson has gained a promotion in the Trust and also moves on, as soon as we have news on this post we will let you know. We welcome to the team Mr Mulhearn – our new Head of Modern Foreign Languages and also Ms Atchinson, our new Finance and Admin assistant.

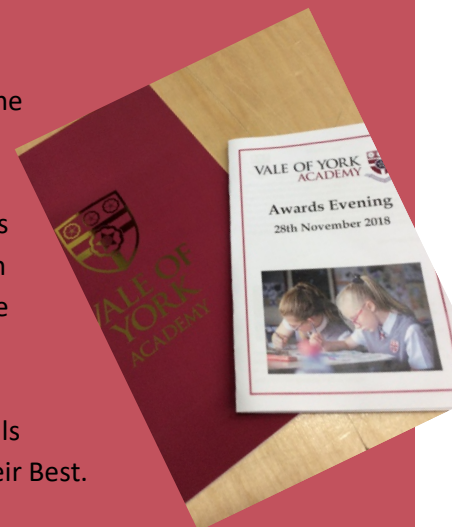
May I wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and a successful and peaceful New Year.

Mrs H Dowds



Have you signed up to the MyEd app yet? Your one stop shop for keeping up to date with your child's homework, timetable and attendance.

Many thanks to all the wonderful students who were rewarded on Awards night; this very special occasion is the highlight of the school year as we come together to celebrate those pupils who Always Give their Best.



Sporting Successes

Football – Year 11 took on Stokesley in the County Cup (13th December) to qualify to the next round.

All year groups have played well in their matches – all playing good football and achieving a variety of results.



Rugby – Training is on each Wednesday evening and it would be great to see more students come along after Christmas. We hope the weather will be more kind! We also entered the rugby festivals in Sept/Oct and students played well – more to follow after Christmas.

Netball – Year 8 won 14-0 against York High and 12-3 against Archbishop Holgate's. Great results from our ladies!

Cricket – Our students have enjoyed a number of fixtures in the indoor cricket competition this term, with varied success.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 10 are fully underway with their Bronze DofE award. The students have had to select what they would like to do for each section of the award (Volunteering, Skills and Physical). Students manage this on an online portal and can track their progress through the award.

We have 45 students in Year 10 doing Bronze which is 35% of the year group taking on the award.

Year 11 Silver students have made a start this week too, after completing their Bronze last year and we have 14 students taking on this award whilst doing their final exams.

Last year we had 10 Gold, 12 Silver and 29 Bronze students complete their awards through the academy and we look forward to seeing them receive their awards on Friday 8th February 2019 in the city. Invitation letters will follow after Christmas from the local authority. Well done to all those awardees!!

Finally, a big thank you to the staff, parents and students who make this award run so smoothly, this has so much benefit to the students within our care.



On Friday 9th November the singing club joined hundreds of other York school children in '100 years, 1000 voices' at the University. A commemorative event remembering York's involvement in WW1. This was an afternoon of readings and wartime songs with a large number of performers and a small audience including the High Sheriff of Yorkshire and the Civic Party. Our students were exceptional and represented the school impeccably. We had lots of fun and it was a wonderful experience to sing with so many others in one venue.

Trips and Visits

Theatre Trips: The English Dept took a group of 45 Year 10 and Year 11 learners to Leeds Playhouse Pop Up Theatre to see 'A Christmas Carol'. The trip was a huge success – the pupils were a credit to the school and they had the invaluable opportunity to see an excellent production of one of their key GCSE texts.

In addition to this, learners from Year 7 and Year 8 have had the opportunity to enter a city-wide poetry competition to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme was 'Torn from home' and encouraged learners to think creatively on this theme in relation to the Holocaust and in light of more recent issues such as that of refugees from Syria.



Public Speaking: We once again took part in the York Civic Trust Public Speaking Competition at King's Manor in late November. Schools from right across the city were invited to send a team of two to talk for up to 8 minutes on a range of topics. Our amazing speakers, Imogen Brown and Leonor Teixeira, presented on the 'Value of old buildings vs new in York' and did a wonderful job too! Class acts girls!



Year 4 Visit: We were also delighted to welcome around 200 Year 4 pupils to Vale of York when we held our very popular Creative Arts workshops. Taking

part in either music or art, these youngsters really showed the potential they have and their ideas and presentations were very impressive! Well done everyone!

Carol Service at Clifton Church:



For the second year we warmly welcomed students and parents to our Carol Service at Clifton Parish Church. It was a heart-warming event, with a message of remembrance celebrating 100 years of the Great war. Thanks go to Mrs Brady and all the other staff who worked hard to make this such a success. Special thanks go to the Food Technology department for a wealth of mince pies and also the staff of Clifton Church for letting us use this special venue once again.

Start of term for students: 8th January 2019 at 8.45 am
Year 11 Photos: 18th January 2019
Academy closed for training: 4th February 2019
Year 11 Mocks, 2nd round: Week commencing 11th February 2019
Year 10 Parents' Evening: 20th February 2019



Community Spotlight

Christmas Fair: We were very excited to hold our annual Christmas Fair on 6th December, organised and run by our fantastic parent group the Vale of York Society! With around 40 different stalls and a host of entertainment, the atmosphere in the school was absolutely buzzing.

As part of the fair, we were delighted to welcome children from our feeder primary schools who had entered a team in this year's Santa's Apprentice. This competition involves teams in Year 5 and 6 being given £10 only in order to develop a business and launch it at the Christmas fair. We had 15 teams this year, with products and services ranging from reindeer buns and sweet cones to mocktails and baubles! Most importantly though, every one of them did their school proud by making a profit, which their school gets to keep to buy the participants a treat!

All in all, the evening was a massive success and our thanks again go to the Vale of York Society for all of their hard work. Anyone wishing to get involved with their work would be very welcome and should contact Mr Orr on r.orr@valeofyorkacademy.org

Morocco Trip: Our hardworking students who are raising funds for their trip to Morocco in 2019 were also at the fair.

15 students who are going to Morocco in July 2019 to support in a Moroccan school have been madly raising funds for the experience. They worked very hard to run a variety of stalls from guess the number of sweets in the jar, gift jar tombola, guess the birthday of the teddy, lollipop pick and mix and a craft table to make Christmas plates and baubles. Two students also spent days in the lead up baking cakes and biscuits with a festive theme, which also sold well on the night.

The students have a further 4 months to raise the final funds needed for Morocco and are clawing at every penny they can to meet their target!

Event list:

- 1) **Meet the expedition Leader – Jan 2019**
- 2) **Food tasting evening (Moroccan Restaurant) - Wednesday 6th Feb 2019**
- 3) **Morocco Training Weekend – Friday 15th (evening) – Sunday 17th March 2019.**
- 4) **Bag packing – Tesco Extra (York), 23rd March 2019 (10am – 2pm).**

The final itinerary has been published which sees the team leave on Wednesday 17th July and return on Thursday 1st August.

I am immensely proud of their efforts, dedication and hard work.



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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