

Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 23 | 22nd February

Message from the Principal

This half term has flown by, with many successful and memorable events taking place that you shall read about in this edition. Students at Vale continue to be busy; with Year 7 enjoying the recent STEM experience, Morocco preparations ongoing, and Year 11 entering their second round of mock examinations.

Our work with the community goes from strength, with two hundred Year 5 pupils attending our science showcase and our VOYAGE programme continuing to offer bespoke opportunities for some of our more able. The Staff and Community Quiz Night held this month was a great success and very enjoyable; funds raised by the Vale of York Society make valuable

contributions to support our students in a number of ways, and I am very grateful for the work they do. Rightly, the reputation of the Academy is improving, and the number of parental preferences made for September 2019 is the highest yet. We now expect to recruit 150 pupils into Year 7 later this year.

The academy benefits from being a member of Hope Learning Trust in many ways. The opportunity to recruit newly qualified teachers through the Ebor Hope Teaching School is a real advantage. We have already recruited specialist teachers to several subject areas ready for September and I look forward to introducing you to them later in the year. With regard to our current staff, I am sure many of you will be

delighted to know that Ms Nicholson gave birth to a baby boy earlier this month, both are very well!

I also would like to mention the Independent State Schools Partnership (ISSP), of which we are a member alongside most of the York state secondary schools, The Mount, St Peter's and Bootham School. This partnership is recognised nationally as one of the most successful of its kind and provides some fantastic opportunities for our students. Please take the time to read more about it in this edition.

Enjoy our newsletter, and I look forward to meeting many of you at our forthcoming parents' evenings.

Mr Eastaugh, Principal

Creative writing competition

Following the success of the 'Torn from Home' competition which led to several students becoming published poets, the English Department is encouraging everyone to take part in York's Literature Festival Creative Writing competition. This year's theme is Moon/Space. The competition is open to anyone aged 18 years and under.

The closing date for entries is Friday 22nd April. Shortlisted authors and poets will be invited to read their work at a special prize-giving event at The Mount School York on Saturday 4th May.

The English Department would encourage anyone who is interested to speak to them and find out more information.

Expedition 2021

With the Morocco Expedition just around the corner, Mr Rampling and the team are looking ahead to the next expedition. Dates and adventure location to be confirmed, so watch this space and look out for further details.

Year 11 mock exams

Year 11 have just come to the end of a smaller set of mock GCSE exams, allowing them to reflect on their own practice and revision. Please ensure they are revising at home and attending P6 and Therapy Sessions in the final months. Look at the School's website for further tips and information.

BAE Systems Education Roadshow 2019

Year 7 enjoyed a visit from The BAE Systems Education Programme Roadshow - delivered in partnership with the RAF and the Royal Navy, celebrating all things STEM. Pupils were able to watch an inspiring performance entitled "Are you talking to me?" which looked into how mobile phones connect people around the World, how computers communicate with each other in the modern world, and how we interact with our devices such as Bluetooth technology. Students were introduced to the real-life application of some of the most recent communication technologies within BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy. We look forward to hosting this team again in 2020.



Science Showcase returns

We were delighted to welcome all of the Year 5 pupils from the local area for our ever-popular Science Showcase.

Youngsters from Clifton Green, Burton Green, Skelton, Lakeside and Clifton with Rawcliffe were wowed by some brilliant Science workshops that included microscopy, chromatography and Bunsen burners. Supported by our outstanding Year 10 Leadership group, Ms Pickering and her Science team put on an afternoon the children will remember for a long time. Thank you to everyone who was involved!



Try a new club this term

Clubs are in full swing each week after school for all year groups. These are available on the school website under the 'after school curriculum information'.

Extra-curricular activities become an essential part of job applications while you are still in school, and allow you to achieve even more in your own time. We have plenty of clubs for students to get involved in, from chess club to badminton club. It would be fantastic to see more students attending these clubs, getting involved with new hobbies, and making new friends.

Year 8 Carbon Footprint Manifesto

Top set year 8 scientists were set homework to pitch their own manifesto for the Prime Minister explaining how we would cut down carbon emissions, reduce global warming, and protect our atmosphere.

After having introduced their ideas, the class debated and eventually chose the top five ideas to pitch to the Government.

- 1) Smart timers – all houses to have smart timers fitted for appliances, which charge items and once charged will turn off to save power.
- 2) Zero waste policy – all things have to be recycled, all companies must produce packaging that is renewable or biodegradable, for example seaweed or potato starch packaging.
- 3) Cut down on carbon fuel - grow more crops for burning to reduce the amount of carbon fuel needed.
- 4) Plant more trees – for every tree cut down, a further two trees should be planted. The size of land would determine how many trees and plants you should have grown.
- 5) Capture CO₂ emissions – this is dehydrated in to a liquid then put in to rocks and dissolved.

Mr Rampling was impressed with the huge amount of ideas the class came up with and after much debating, the class had reflected on which strategies would be most effective, both in terms of cost and time. Mr Rampling said that it was fantastic to hear such well-considered thoughts and ideas, and to see how engaged everyone was in this important problem-solving task. It is encouraging to know that these are the young people who will turn into the leaders of tomorrow.

GCSE options

This term is defining for many year 8 students who will be deciding on their GCSE options. As options fast approach, students have been learning how their choices now will affect their future. All of the teachers are looking forward to Year 8 Options Evening, where you will be offered insight into some of the subjects available and the course itself. This is then followed by a parents evening where you are able to discuss these options in more depth with subject teachers, before a Year 8 taster day to try them out.

York ISSP opportunities

York ISSP is a partnership between twelve schools in York. It provides opportunities that schools cannot provide alone, designed to challenge York's most able and interested students. Students from Year 7 to Year 11 have been involved in a range of exciting York ISSP events so far this year.

During October half term, three Year 9 students went on a residential trip run by the Brathay Trust in Cumbria, taking part in masterclasses and adventurous outdoor activities. In November, a group of Year 7 students visited St Peter's School to debate which was the most important 'breakthrough moment' in history.

There was an archaeology lecture on the 'superpowers' needed for archaeologists to rediscover the lives of past societies. In January, Year 7 and Year 8 students attended a lecture by Damien Cruden, artistic director of York Theatre Royal. He explained how the Theatre brings York's stories to life and the role it plays in the community.



Some Year 8 students have joined the Maths Excellence Club and are tackling tricky mathematical puzzles, supported by undergraduate students from the University of York. Year 9 ISSP students have joined a new debating club, learning new skills and holding debating events with students from across York. GCSE Latin and Astronomy classes have also continued this year.

This year has seen the launch of York ISSP's online journal, *Insightful Imaginings*. The aim of the journal is to

publish fantastic work produced by York students. This includes work produced in school, at home or at an ISSP event. The work can be fiction, non-fiction, poetry, artwork, scientific research, maths puzzles etc. Please see the website for more details:

<https://insightful-imaginings.com>



There will be many more ISSP events for Vale of York students to take part in during the rest of the year, such as masterclasses and summer schools. If you would like to find out more about York ISSP please contact Mrs Askham.

French PIXL Conference

Year 11 students attended a French GCSE conference hosted by PIXL. The aim of the conference was to equip students with revision techniques and resources to complement the hard work and effort they have already put in this term.

Mr Mulhearn, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, was impressed with the resilience of the students, and valued the effort they had put into the day. Chloe, a student who attended the event, added that "it was very educational, helpful, and developed her confidence in speaking".

BBC Earth Mission Project

Year 7 students are taking part in the BBC Earth Mission project, which is part of the BBC Ten Pieces. All classes are creating a group composition titled 'Earth', which will be recorded and submitted to the BBC as part of a national project. If one of our pieces is chosen, it will be performed on BBC Radio 3 on Earth Day (April 22) and it will also be available on the BBC Ten Pieces website. This is a very exciting opportunity for everyone involved, and

will allow our students to show off the skills they have learned.

Please complete the form your child will bring home regarding permission and return to Mrs Brady. Good luck.

Community Quiz Night

We recently held our Vale of York Society annual quiz, which is open to staff, our colleagues at the local primary schools, and our partner organisations in the community. The Vale of York Society is our parent group who work hard to raise funds for in-school projects and to raise the profile of our school in the local area.

Colleagues and friends came together in what proved to be an eventful evening, with our own Maths Department winning the tiebreak question, much to their delight. Mr Orr would like to thank the staff at Clifton with Rawcliffe and the crew from Q Church who supported the event. If you are interested in the Vale of York Society work or if you would like to get involved with the organisation, please contact Mr Orr.



Key dates

6th March – Options Evening for Year 8 students

13th March – Year 8 Parents Evening

14th March – Year 8 Taster Day

9th April – Spring Concert

Year 11 Rugby

The Year 11 rugby team played in their last rugby tournament for the Vale of York before leaving in June. This took place on Thursday 7th Feb and all the 11 students played really well. First game was against Manor CE Academy in which we lost 30-0 to a very strong side. However, the team came back fighting during the second game against All Saints School to win 35-0.

Mr Rampling said that the students have been a pleasure to coach and that he was extremely impressed by their attitude and resilience. "We have a really great team at the moment, and I am looking forward to future matches against the local schools".



Girls Active Leaders

We enjoyed hosting the Primary Dodgeball Competition again in January that saw 6 teams for Lakeside and Clifton with Rawcliffe battle it out in a game of dipping, ducking, diving and of course, dodging. The event was special as it was the first event run by our Girls Active Leaders, and what a fantastic job they did.

Badminton Club

Badminton club has enjoyed a successful first year so far, welcoming pupils from all years and abilities on Monday afternoons. So far, the pupils have been learning about rules, enhancing their positioning and stance in both doubles and singles, and working on serving. The club is on every week in the Sports Hall and we are always happy to see new faces.

York Music Service

All in-school music tuition is currently provided through York Music Service. Visit the website for more information or ask your student to contact Mrs Brady in person. Everyone is welcome to give it a go.

