

Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 24 | 12th April

Message from the Principal

As you will read in this edition of our newsletter, there has been a wealth of activity beyond the classroom. Students have represented the School in a fantastic way during many events and competitions, both locally and internationally. I am very proud of all of the hard work and effort the students put into their work and extra-curricular activities.

For me, special highlights would have to be the Community's Got Talent show where we witnessed a rich variety of performances from our local primary feeders, and the York ISSP masterclasses. I was fortunate enough to visit a number of sessions alongside our students, and students from across York. Once again, I was

impressed by their ingenuity, curiosity, and willingness to learn.

As Principal, I am very aware that our school governors play an important part in monitoring the work of the Academy and ensuring that it is making the right decisions and prioritising the most important aspects of school life.

As such, all of the governors play a key role in school life, and help to contribute positively to the school experience overall. I would like to officially extend this invitation to any parents looking for a larger role in the school community. If anyone is interested in becoming a parent governor, please contact my PA Mrs Bogue by email at j.bogue@valeofyorkacademy.org

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, Mr Bailey, geography teacher and year 8 progress leader will be leaving the school to work at Holy Family Catholic School in Carlton. We wish him every success in all of his future endeavours.

Finally, if you have a child in year 11, please take the time to look at the Easter holidays revision timetable on page three of the newsletter. Revision sessions will be held over the course of two weeks to further help your child achieve in the upcoming GCSE examinations.

Mr Eastaugh, Principal

World Book Day

We held a fantastic World Book Day at the School, enjoyed by many staff and students. Year 8 students learned about earthquakes through fiction texts in science lessons and year 7 students visited the library during a maths lesson to estimate numbers of words, measure bookcases, and record frequency of specific letters. Miss Doust would like to thank everyone who was involved in the preparations and book-based lessons on the day. A special thank you to Mrs Mascoll-Betts, our school librarian, for her hard work in putting together activities in the library. It was great to see so many students being actively involved with reading in their various subjects and engaging with the school library in such an unconventional way.

Please can we request for any uniform that has been outgrown by students and is unwanted, to be donated to school through the main reception. We have a small stock of uniform that is loaned to students but any donations would be greatly appreciated so that we can support other families who are part of our community.

Mock exams

Year 10 and year 9 have just finished mock exams in many of their subjects and should expect to receive the results at the beginning of the next term. Please ensure that your child is continuing to revise as often as possible and encourage them to speak to subject teachers for further help and guidance at this time.

ISSP masterclasses in York

A series of York ISSP masterclasses took place this half term, based around the big question 'What is Human?.'

Students from year 7 and year 8 experienced a range of different subjects, such as psychology, philosophy, history of art, robotics, maths and science. This offered them the chance to participate in some interesting activities: dissecting a sheep's heart; learning how cans can crush themselves; and discovering which planets can support life.

Year 9 and year 10 masterclasses focused on one subject. Some students from Vale of York Academy chose to specialise in classics, learning about gods and heroes. Others opted to develop their art skills, creating huge sculptures of heads. Vale of York Academy teachers were also involved, as Mr Wilson, Mr Padgham, and Mr Norwood led masterclasses.

Morocco bag packing

We have made some great progress with recent fundraising, including our bag packing adventure at Tesco Clifton Moor. £488.46 raised in four hours and from the school collection. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.



AMSP Maths Feast

Congratulations to year 10 students Suyork Rai, Lucy Jones, Alessio Kolliyiil and Damian Idzinski who came fifth out of ten in a maths competition at Bootham School last month. They

competed against other year 10 teams from many nearby schools including Fulford School, Bootham School, St Peter's and Harrogate Grammar to name a few. Ms Ward is very proud of everyone's effort and determination. Watch this space for further maths events and challenges to get involved in.

Boxing Success

Matthew Ficco once again returned from his travels as a boxing champion. Matthew fights for Legions Gym and he left Denmark as a Gold medal winner of the International Hvidovre Box Cup. The final was a tough fight against an unbeaten Cypriot champion. Congratulations to Matthew for this incredible achievement.



Green Apples at university

Year 10 students involved with Green Apples were able to visit the University of York at the start of the month to find out more about higher education and opportunities within our home city. Students attended lectures, student societies, and sports clubs during the two-day residential, sleeping in student accommodation overnight and getting a real taste of university life.

Thank you to Mrs Mapplebeck and Mr Wilson for organising, and to the University for being such warm hosts.



A taste of Morocco

Morocco students had a lovely meal at Los Moros on Weds 13th February to sample some of the foods we may encounter when in Morocco in July. The students tried lamb, chicken and butternut tagines, different breads with dips, Moroccan spring rolls and very tasty chicken wings.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Ceremony

Congratulations to the fifty students from the Vale of York Academy who have completed Bronze, Silver, and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards over the past academic year. The students put a huge amount of effort into their walks, volunteering, and activities, and were ultimately assessed by an external Duke of Edinburgh assessor on their final walks. On Friday 15th February, friends, family and the local community celebrated these achievements at an awards ceremony. They received their awards from the Lord Mayor of York. During the evening, the students delivered an eight-minute presentation to the guests and awardees. It was a fantastic event and a joyous way to celebrate how far these students have come in their Duke of Edinburgh journey.

Basketball season review

As a result of fantastic attendance to Friday afternoon training sessions, two squads were entered into the York and District leagues, the under-14s and under-15s respectively. Both squads were handed tough league draws, battling hard all season and finishing fourth in their leagues. The under-15s squad made the play-offs. Both teams have improved greatly over the course of the season, and Mr Halifax would like to commend all players for their commitment and willingness to learn. The most valuable player award goes to Will Webster and Alfie Jones, with the most improved player accolade going to Matthew Dawes, Alex Scadding, and Alessio Kolliyil.

Further to this, it is pleasing to see so many year 7 pupils attending training on a Friday and how quickly they are picking up key skills, ready to enter competitions next year.

British Science Week

As part of British Science Week, Mr Norwood went to Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School to teach year 4 about electrical circuits and saltwater. The students enjoyed making circuits to test the conductivity of different liquids and solve the mystery of the salt factory disaster by the river. Many thanks to all

of year 4 for a great afternoon and to Mr Mitchell for organising it.

Shine Awards

We were delighted to host the Lord Mayor's Shine Awards in February. The awards evening serves to recognise the voluntary contributions made by and for young people of York. The Lord Mayor and his Civic party were in attendance to hand out the awards. Our very own Tilly and Molly in year 7 opened the proceedings with a brilliant introduction and last year's Head Girl, Holly Cairns, co-hosted the evening alongside the organiser, Tim Waudby.

We were particularly pleased to see Miss Nicholson and Mrs Brady recognised for their services to the performing arts by winning the Anne McKeown Award. Mr Orr would like to thank the staff, students, parents and organisers who helped to make this event so successful. Congratulations to everyone who was recognised for their efforts.



Community's Got Talent

After last year's success, Community's Got Talent 2019 had a lot to live up to and it certainly delivered. The talent competition, involving all five of our local primary schools, saw over 200 children audition for a place in the grand finals, held at Vale of York Academy on 29th March.



In a packed Main Hall, the audience was treated to a wonderful night of song, dance, gymnastics, and comedy. The eventual winner, decided by our panel of judges, was Scarlett Gordon, a year 6 pupil at Clifton Green. Her fantastic rendition of a KT Tunstall number mixed in with her own work wowed everyone.



The evening celebrated the talent of this community. Amanda Hatton, Director for Education in York, described the evening as the "best of its kind". High praise indeed for everyone who took part. Well done.

Year 11 Easter revision sessions

MONDAY 15 TH APRIL	TUESDAY 16 TH APRIL	WEDNESDAY 17 TH APRIL	THURSDAY 18 TH APRIL	FRIDAY 19 TH APRIL
History 9.30-12.30 FA/HJ	Chemistry 9am -12noon TN	Photography 10-1pm MW	Maths Higher PF 9.30- 12.00 noon	GOOD FRIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED
Food & Nutrition 10-2pm MZ	Art 10am-1pm	Computer Science 1-3pm DP	Maths Foundation TE 9.30-12.30pm	
Media 9-12noon PD	Media 9-12noon PD	Media 9-12noon PD		
Maths Higher Set 1 12.30-3pm JK	English JG 10-1.00pm (with a break)	PE 9 Paper 1 HC/RO 9.30 – 12 noon		
English JG 10-1.00pm (with a break)		French TM/AS 9-12noon		
MONDAY 22 ND APRIL	TUESDAY 23 RD APRIL	WEDNESDAY 24 TH APRIL	THURSDAY 25 TH APRIL	FRIDAY 26 TH APRIL
EASTER MONDAY	Art 10-1pm MW	Photography 10-1pm MW	Psychology Paper 1 EH 10-12 noon	PE Paper 2 9.30- 2.30pm HC/RO
SCHOOL CLOSED	Biology 1-3pm CB	Maths Foundation 9.30-1230pm AW	Music 9.30-3pm PB	German 9-12noon
	Maths Higher set 2 + any 5/6 grade students 9.30 -12.30pm AW	Biology 1-3pm CB	Cam Nat Sport RO 9.30-2.30pm	
		Physics 9-12noon SW	Business Studies PF 12.30-3.30pm	

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has hit the ground running this term with 45 year 10 students and fifteen year 11 students starting their Bronze and Silver Awards respectively. Mr Rampling is very proud of all of the students involved.

Bronze Award students will be heading to Byland Abbey and Osmotherly to practise their map and compass skills, before completing their practice and assessment weekends in the Stillington and Castle Howard areas.

This year, the Silver Award students will be orienteering around Osmotherly or Slingsby, before completing their final walks in the Robin Hood's Bay area and Settle.

All students are advised to speak to Mr Rampling if they have any questions regarding the Award or any of the walks.

Morocco update

With fewer than 100 days to go until 15 students from year 10 and year 11 travel to Morocco for two weeks, the details have now been finalised and an itinerary has been handed out to the fundraisers.

Briefly, the team will be travelling to Marrakech on Wednesday 17th July 2019. They will spend time at the Avon Academy in Ouarzazate before travelling to Toubkal National Park for the final week and climbing Toubkal Mountain, the highest mountain in the Atlas Mountains range.

Morocco 2021 will also be available to current year 8 and year 9 students and more details will be available soon. Please start to consider how you would fundraise for this trip in advance of the initial meetings or speak to current members of the Morocco team for more information.

