

Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 25 | 19th July

Message from the Principal

It is a pleasure to write this end of year report, knowing that Vale of York has enjoyed another successful year. In many ways, the summer term is the busiest in the school year. Our year 11 students undertook their GCSEs with commitment and maturity; I hope their efforts are rewarded in August. These students then returned for their Prom on 27 June and had a fantastic time celebrating the end of their journey.

As one cohort leaves, another joins. We welcomed our new intake in early July for the start of our transition process; they will be our largest year group to date, reflecting the growing preference for our Academy. Our new year 7 students spent one day

familiarizing themselves with one another and their new environment, followed by three days of rather more 'academic' activity.

Across the other year groups, there has been a wide range of activities that you will read about in this edition. For me, some of the memorable highlights would have to include the Summer Arts Showcase, success in a city-wide athletics competition for our students, and the ongoing work we do with feeder primaries such as the Quad Kids event at the end of May.

We say goodbye to two members of staff at the end of this term. Miss Slingsby leaves us to work for Explore Learning and Mr Elwell to take up a position in an international school in

Kenya. We wish them every success for the future. Joining us in September will be Mr Martin (Geography), Ms Gillard (MFL) and Mr Filba (Maths). We will also welcome a new Parent Governor, David Seddon, father of two children studying at the Academy.

On a personal note, I would like to thank students and parents for the welcome I have received and support offered during the past six months. As a parent of teenage children, I understand the significance of a change in leadership at the secondary school phase and, with your support, the transition has been very smooth.

Enjoy the summer break.

Mr Eastaugh, Principal

Junior Maths Challenge winners 2019

30 Year 7 and Year 8 Vale of York students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. This challenge happens every year and involves 300,000 students nationally, looking to put their mathematical problem solving abilities to the test with questions and puzzles.

Of the students completing the challenge, the top 40 per cent receive a certificate. This year, our students have done exceptionally well, with 17 out of 30 gaining a certificate (nearly 60%). One student achieved a gold certificate, three students achieved silver certificates and thirteen students achieved bronze certificates. This is a fantastic achievement and the school is very proud of everyone who took part in the event.

We would like to invite budding musicians of all ages across Vale of York Academy to sign up for music lessons beginning in September 2019. Bursaries are also available from York Music Hub. Please contact Mrs Brady for more information or sign up for the lessons at www.yorkmusicservice.co.uk.

Year 10 work experience success

Year 10 students successfully completed two weeks of work experience at their chosen places of work. The feedback from staff, teachers and students was overwhelmingly positive and Ms Ward would like to congratulate the students for working so diligently at this time. A great insight into future working life.

York Primary Cricket Festival

Our year 8 Girls Active Team were in fine form as they led the York Primary Cricket Festival at York Cricket Club. From umpiring to scoring, playing to training the younger pupils, the girls were a credit to our school and have been praised by the event's coordinator, Rachel Hildreth.



Quadkids Athletics

We were delighted once again to host the Summer Quadkids Athletics primary school event here at Vale of York Academy and it could not have happened without our amazing student leaders.



Students from year 8 and year 10 took centre stage to run every event leaving the organiser and Schools Sports Manager, Kevin Davies, nothing to do other than to say what a huge asset these students are to our school community.

Army rewards event

153 students from year 7 to year 9 who had not received a single homework code during half term were invited to take part in a rewards event delivered by the Army.

The students took part in a range of practical problem-solving activities which developed teamwork and communication skills.

Myles above the rest

Congratulations to Myles in year 7 who was the overall champion of the Dyl Rowlands Memorial Multi Competition 2019, a water-skiing competition. The event took place at Hazelwood Ski World, Lincoln, and he returned to York a deserving winner.



Jazlyn bounces to victory

Jazlyn attended her first national trampolining competitions recently in Brighton. The event took place in Brighton and Jazlyn impressed judges and competitors alike with her routine. Hopefully, this bouncer will be able to help out in future school trampolining events too.



Duke of Edinburgh

37 year 10 students are about to sign off on their Bronze Award, having completed their practice and assessed expeditions. They also were expected to complete three/six months of voluntary

work, as well as learning a new skill and working hard on a physical activity over the year.



Moving onto the next stage of their Duke of Edinburgh journey, year 11 students have also successfully completed their practice expedition, finishing the assessed expedition on 1st July 2019. They all enjoyed working towards this goal.



Last, but not least, ten of our gold Duke of Edinburgh Award students collected their final awards from Buckingham Palace in May, having completed a series of challenges. These included two four-day expeditions, a week long residential, and twelve months of volunteering. This was an amazing achievement for our former students, and is fully deserved by all.



If you're interested, please apply for the Duke of Edinburgh Award next year.

Made it to Morocco (almost)

Over the past 18 months, students in year 10 and year 11 have fundraised over £25,000 to make it to Morocco. Staff, students, and Families involved have worked extremely hard to turn this dream into a reality for the group of keen adventurers.

The students, along with Mr Rampling, Ms Zulkerarnain and Mrs Cooper, will be travelling to Morocco with Outlook Expeditions. During their time in the country, they will climb Mt. Toubkal, visit the Cascade d'Ouzoud, and complete a charity project.

One such project will take place at Avon Academy, a charity school founded in 2008 on the edge of the Sahara desert. The main aims of the project are to improve schools and students' knowledge of languages. The project also hopes to encourage cross-cultural understanding amongst youth groups worldwide. The students and staff will be renovating classrooms, building pathways, constructing gardens, and repainting dormitories.

York City Football success

Congratulations to Summer in year 7 and Lily in year 10 who have made it through three trials to get into York City Football Foundation, Tier 1 RTC. York is proud to host one of only twelve elite football-training grounds in the country, so this is a huge achievement. The girls will not play against teams such as Manchester United, Manchester City, and Sunderland.

Nuncia in year 8 currently plays for Leeds United under 14s. Nuncia is currently part of the FA girls national performance camp which is one level away from playing for the England women's team. Particularly against the backdrop of the England football team in the women's World Cup event, this is



a tremendous achievement for Vale of York Academy's female footballers.

North Yorkshire Athletics

Students from year 7 to year 10 took part in the annual North Yorkshire schools Athletics Competition at the University of York. In total, twelve schools participated in the event, and students from the Vale of York Academy did very well. All of our students who made it through to the final event are listed here. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Eleanor Corley – 2nd in 100m

Sam Harrison – 2nd in 100m

Elvina Vassell – 2nd in 800m

Jake Scott – 1st in long jump

Grace Bickersteth – 4th in 200m; 4th in long jump

Alfie Purvis – 3rd in discus

Drew Sullivan – 1st in discus

Year 7 girls relay – 6th place

Year 8 girls relay – 3rd place

York ISSP Summer Term

It has been a busy term for students involved in ISSP events. A number of our students have signed up to begin a Latin or Astronomy GCSE from September 2019, and have already attended trial sessions in these subjects. Maths Excellence club has continued to provide challenge to our year 8 mathematicians. The ISSP lecture this term was led by Rachael Maskell MP, who explained why politics matters, hopefully inspiring many of our students as they move towards GCSEs. The highlight of the term was perhaps a year 10 visit to Oxford University. The visit involved a tour and Q&A session with undergraduates, which increased knowledge about student life and challenged misconceptions about applying to Oxford and similar universities. The final event of the year is yet to come - the hugely popular summer summer will be taking place in July.

Parent Governor post

"I have lived in the Rawcliffe and Clifton Moor area for over 25 years and owned Clifton Catering for 16 years. In this time, I have seen many changes and developments in the area. One of the big changes has been the transformation of Canon Lee School to the Vale of York Academy. I have a daughter in year 10 and a son in year 7. The change over the last four years while my daughter has been at school has been fantastic. I feel that the opportunity to be a parent governor would be a great platform from which to give something back to the School and the local community."

- David Seddon

Grease is the Word

A fantastic evening was had on a balmy June evening to see Grease the Musical. It was a brilliant show and we enjoyed singing along to all of the well-known and well-loved songs. The actors were amazing and there were plenty of laughs to be had during the performance.

Even Peter Andre put in a cameo appearance as the Teen Angel. We Will Rock You is coming to Leeds this November so keep your eyes peeled for further details of the upcoming trip.



Insightful Imaginings

York ISSP's online journal, Insightful Imaginings, publishes fantastic work produced by York students. This includes work produced in school, at home, or at an ISSP event. The work

ranges from fiction to non-fiction, poetry to scientific research. Students do not need to attend an ISSP event to be able to publish their work on the website. Please see the website for more information on how to submit work, and to view the brilliant work already published: www.insightful-imaginings.com

Fun at the seaside

As part of the GCSE Geography course all students need to conduct fieldwork. On 19 and 20 June, year 10 students ventured out to the East Coast to study coastal erosion at Hornsea. After a journey full of slow-moving traffic, we eventually arrived in a drizzly Hornsea.

Students studied cliff collapse, coastal defences and measured groynes. Eventually the sun came out and some brave students even managed a paddle in the sea. A wonderful day out of York.



Students let loose in Leeds

GCSE Geography students also need to complete fieldwork in a human environment. Both year 9 and year 10 students have visited Leeds to look at the opportunities and challenges offered by the city. They visited five locations and conducted field sketches, pedestrian counts, environmental quality surveys and questionnaires. Despite the poor weather on the trip, students collected all of the necessary data and the trips were both successful.

Taking Maths Further

Miss Plowman took twelve hard-working and motivated students on an

educational trip to York St John University. Most of the students will be studying the Further Maths GCSE.



The day consisted of a wide range of talks and challenges exploring the Mathegraphical Domain, thinking in Taxicab Geometry, and exposing the students to a great deal of challenging problem-solving activities.

Our students offered some impressive and thoughtful ideas, and were excited to get stuck in with all of the action. Three of our students even won the lunchtime quiz.

Peer Maths Tutoring

After the success of the Peer Maths Tutoring launch in March at Burton Green Primary School, we have started to work with a second school in the Hope Trust – Skelton Primary School. Our excellent year 9 tutors are stretching and challenging year 5 children of different abilities each week.

This has been a popular addition to our transition programme and we will continue the tutoring throughout the 2019-2020 academic year.



If you would like to be involved in peer tutoring from September 2019, please contact Mr Orr.

Prom 2019





Congratulations and goodbye for now

Congratulations to our year 11 students for all of their hard work, commitment, and dedication during the past five years, and especially over the exam period. Staff at Vale of York Academy have been particularly impressed with how well behaved and calm all of the students were during the exams, leading to a very smooth (and hopefully very successful) exam period. Attendance was higher than last year and we are encouraged by how resilient the students were, particularly on the days with three or four exams booked in. We wish you every success in your future life paths, and hope to see you all soon on results day.

Pride in York

For the third year running, Vale of York Academy was represented by staff and students alike at York Pride 2019. Despite the rain, a very positive day was had by all who attended the event which is organised by York's LGBTQ+ committee. York once again had a large turnout of people supporting our LGBTQ+ community, and we were proud to be a part of this.

The Big Deal event

Ten year 10 students were invited to attend a marketing workshop held at the London campus of York St John University. They completed a branding challenge in school and then received results and feedback from the Vice Chairman of York St John University. The students were all ambitious, determined, and a credit to the Academy.

York literature festival wins

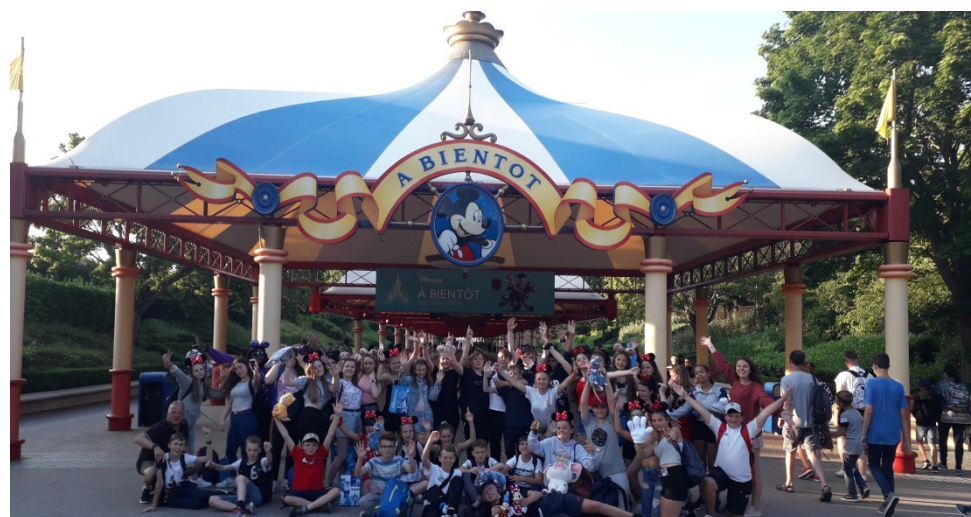
Vale of York Academy students have won praise at the York Literature Festival 2019. The following students were shortlisted out of 120 entries from schools around the country for their story or poetry entries to the recent 'Space' competition: Daisy Mitcham-Harding; Amber Winter; Grace Warrington; Caiden Jack; Tegan Hynes; Aleah Mills; Georgina Pallister.

Great Yorkshire Show

Once again, Ms Zulkarnain took students from year 10 and year 11 to the Great Yorkshire Show, an annual food and drink festival. The students, who all study food technology at GCSE level, were invited to sample some local produce and national bestsellers.

Au revoir Paris

An excellent weekend was had by year 8 students and staff in Paris, France, visiting the Eiffel Tower, Fontainebleau and Mickey Mouse at Disneyland Paris.



Sports Day 2019

Sports Day returned to Vale of York Academy and the teams were in high spirits as each form group raced, threw shotputs, and played tug-o'-war to win the most points for their team. The overall winners from each year group are as follows:

Year 7 – 7MP

Year 8 – 8SV

Year 9 – 9HC

Year 10 – 10AW

Well done to everyone who participated in the events and thank you to the PE department for making this event run as smoothly as possible.



Year 5 Girls in Science

On Wednesday 19 June, the science department hosted 40 budding scientists from Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School who came over to investigate the role women have played in science. We looked at the work of three scientists: Rosalind Franklin; Jamie Link; and Ruth Wakefield. Franklin's work on X-Ray crystallography was instrumental in helping Watson and Crick model the structure of DNA. In our session, we successfully extracted DNA from peas.

Jamie Link was a student working on silicon chips when she accidentally discovered that tiny parts of a silicon chip could act as a sensor. Our year 5 scientists looked at how we can use sensors to detect salt levels in a solution.

Finally, Ruth Wakefield discovered the chocolate chip when she ran out of her normal cooking chocolate and opted to use semi-sweet chocolate instead. The girls investigated different melting points of chocolate to see if they could replicate her work. All of our primary school children showed great investigative and teamwork skills, and thoroughly enjoyed their morning.



Social skills at St Johns

Year 7 students are taking part in a pilot study led by York St John University focusing on social skills and relationships. This project is part of research into early intervention for behaviour and wellbeing in young people. The students undertake a range of physical and creative activities while completing therapeutic work on relationships and emotional regulation. The group will run until the summer holidays and hopefully we should see something similar in the autumn term next academic year.

Key dates: autumn 2019

2 September – Training Day

3 September – Phased return for year 8 to year 11

11-13 September – year 7 residential trip to Lakeside

19 September - year 7 and year 10 school photos

24 September – Open Evening; school closes at 12.15pm

16 October – year 9 and year 10 GCSE Information Evening; year 11 revision skills event