

Vale of York Academy
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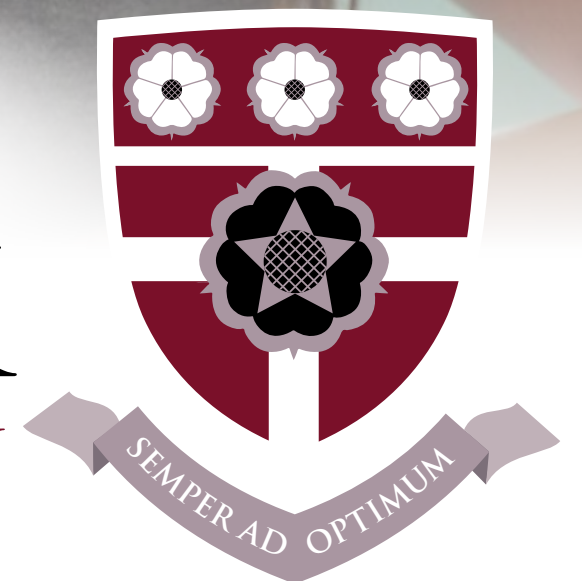
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Hope Learning
Trust, York

Principal: Mr Toby Eastaugh



VALE OF YORK ACADEMY



Prospectus 2020-21



A warm welcome to Hope

Vale of York is one of our schools within the Hope Learning Trust family. As a Trust we have a simple motto which is 'Serving others, growing together, living life to the full.' Living out this motto every day is crucial to the success of the Trust. All of our schools in the Trust are

committed to supporting each other and working together for the benefit of our children.

Vale of York Academy has many strengths and much to share with others and in turn, the school benefits from shared practice from other schools in the Trust. We are a big family, and we look after each other so that all of our pupils have the opportunity to thrive in a warm and welcoming learning environment. We are relentless in raising academic standards, whilst making sure that we develop the whole young person.

The team at Vale of York is passionate about enabling



every young person to flourish academically, as creative and moral young people and as citizens who can make our community a better place to live.

We want every young person and their family to believe that if they choose a Hope Learning Trust school, they have the best and most exciting education available.

Helen Winn
Chief Executive Officer,
Hope Learning Trust, York

'VALE OF YORK ACADEMY IS A WELCOMING AND FRIENDLY SCHOOL, IN THE HEART OF THE CITY OF YORK.' OFSTED REPORT, 2019

Always giving the best

I am delighted to welcome you to our academy. I am proud to be Principal of Vale of York Academy and of our achievements in recent years. Our prospectus provides an insight into what makes Vale of York such a special place and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Our motto is 'Always giving the best'. We know and value every child as a unique individual. Our aim is for all our students to flourish academically, to become responsible, resilient young people ready to make a successful contribution to our community. We uphold these values and aims on a daily basis, in everything we do.

As a parent myself of two teenage daughters, I fully understand the importance of making the right choice of school and how crucial their experience

is of a high-quality secondary education. I also understand how important it is for your child to be happy, feel safe and supported at school. Vale of York provides both.

Our journey of rapid improvement was recognised by our first Ofsted Report in November 2019 when the academy was judged to be 'Good'. We are proud of this achievement, but not complacent, we continue to strive for excellence in everything we do. Year on year, outcomes are rising and our reputation growing. As a result, Vale of York has become a school of choice for many more families.

We have high expectations. We want every child to achieve, to be the best they can be and our teaching, curriculum and student support services are designed to enable this. Our curriculum is rich in content and well thought out. Carefully considered systems and structures ensure good behaviour, reward success and address the needs of every child. At Vale of York there are many opportunities beyond the classroom for your

child to experience, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, residential trips and exposure to the world of work, further and higher education. Alongside these, we offer a wide range of sporting and extra-curricular activities after school.

The academy benefits from being a member of Hope Learning Trust in several ways. Links with Manor Church of England Academy allow us to retain breadth in our curriculum and a wide of range of option choices at Key Stage 4, whilst support from the central team allows us to focus resources upon our core purpose on teaching and learning. As a result, we are able to retain our relatively small size, something which makes the academy such a special place.

As a headteacher with extensive experience, I understand how important it is for Vale of York to provide the best possible opportunities for young people to flourish. It would be a privilege to share this responsibility with you in the years to come and I would relish the opportunity to help shape your child's future.

Toby Eastaugh
Principal, Vale of York Academy

'OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS THE SCHOOL HAS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY.'

OFSTED REPORT, 2019



**'STRONG, POSITIVE
RELATIONSHIPS
EXIST BETWEEN
TEACHERS AND
PUPILS.'**

OFSTED REPORT, 2019

A small, caring and close-knit community meeting the needs of all our students.

Challenged to be their very best

We are committed to ensuring that all our students fulfil their potential, are well prepared for adult life and the world of work and are able to make a positive and sustained contribution to the society in which they live.

DYNAMIC CURRICULUM

We offer a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which is dynamic and strives to meet the needs of all our students, regardless of ability. We use a variety of pathways to support and develop all our students. We believe that learning should be stimulating and enjoyable; staff employ a wide range of teaching strategies to accommodate the interests and needs of individual students, enabling every student to have fun and experience success. The progress of students is constantly monitored to ensure continued high standards of achievement and high expectations in terms of the quality of work produced.

SHARED OPTIONS

The partnership with Hope Learning Trust places the school in a unique position – students get the best of both worlds, since at Key Stage 4 we join together with Manor Church of England Academy to



For able, gifted and talented students there are extra opportunities within and beyond the curriculum

share option subjects across both schools. Parents therefore have the opportunity to send their children to a small, caring and close-knit community where every child really can be known as an individual and yet experience option choices that cater for over 350 pupils.

Courses on offer across the partnership include: English, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, German, French, Spanish, Computing, Religious Studies, IT, Art, Textiles, Media, Drama, Music, Graphics, Materials Technology, Food and Nutrition, Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Physical Education and Sport Science.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Students can access additional support through specialist teaching and a dedicated team of teaching assistants who focus on developing basic skills such as literacy, numeracy and science. For able, gifted and talented students there are extra opportunities within and beyond the curriculum including History of Art, Astronomy and Latin at St Peter's School. For the most able mathematicians the ability to undertake Further Maths as a twilight session is also possible.

POST-16 EDUCATION

At all stages, the curriculum carefully considers progression routes and ensures close links with both our primary partner schools and post-16 providers to support and enhance transition arrangements. Our students leave with the confidence and maturity for the next stage in their lives and we are delighted that they choose to build on their successes by moving on to post-16 providers within the city. The school has forged strong partnerships with York College, Askham Bryan College, local sixth forms and the city's two universities, to support these moves and ensure that students continue to succeed academically and socially when they have left our care.



**'PUPILS ENJOY COMING TO
SCHOOL AND LEARN A LOT.'**

OFSTED REPORT, 2019



An atmosphere of purposeful learning,
treating students as individuals.

Supported to be their very best

The welfare of our students is at the centre of everything we do, supported by the excellent professional relationships developed between staff and students.

ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT

Students are supported throughout the school day by Progress Leaders and a dedicated team of form tutors. The team provide a visible and accessible presence and are often the first port of call for both students and their parents to discuss any concerns, should the need arise.

Tutors are able to respond to the needs of individual students enabling them to flourish, both academically and socially during their time in school.

HIGH STANDARDS

We have very high expectations of all our students in every area of school life, including uniform and behaviour, and this leads to a caring yet ordered community with an atmosphere of purposeful learning. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and are treated as individuals. We recognise and celebrate their different abilities,

aptitudes and interests at every opportunity. Student leaders, elected from Year 10, represent the school at events and work closely with younger pupils, supporting our reading programme in Year 7 and assisting in tutor time and mentoring pupils in their free time.

MAKING THE MOVE FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Transition arrangements from Year 6 to Year 7 are very important to us. We have close relationships with our feeder primary schools and all children are visited in their primary setting before they join us in September. We offer a programme of master classes and transition events for Years 5 and 6 throughout the year. Year 6 also enjoy visits to school before starting in September so they are familiar with many staff and the school environment.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We strive to develop close relationships with parents and carers and encourage them to take a close interest in the progress of their children through regular communications



with school, including parents' evenings, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) drop-in sessions, interim and yearly reports and more informally through our various Twitter accounts.

We also encourage electronic communication and regularly use text and email to ensure parents are fully informed and supportive of the work of the school and are best able to support the individual needs of students to achieve the best possible learning outcomes and successes for them. We firmly believe that we grow stronger together and our aim is to always put people and partnerships with home first.

Students are supported throughout the school day by Progress Leaders and a dedicated team of form tutors.



Building confidence and self-esteem,
developing students' imaginations.

Inspired to be their very best

Our school is an exciting place to learn. It creates opportunities to broaden the range of courses and experiences available to our students to help build confidence and self-esteem and develop their imagination.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

We encourage students to discover and develop their talents, whatever they may be, and we provide a wide range of opportunities for all including European Day of Languages, Readathon and UK Maths Challenge, alongside poetry workshops, school productions, community days and sporting opportunities.

Many activities take place at the end of the school day and students can take advantage of a vast array of extra-curricular clubs, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and homework club, alongside a wide range of more traditional sporting activities.

BROADENING HORIZONS

The school has a well-established programme of visits both within the UK and abroad, including trips to various parts of Europe. Our partnership with the Hope Learning Trust has widened these opportunities further. We already

have in place a combined trip to see a Circus School in Australia; each Year 7 child is supported to attend an Outdoor Education trip to Lakeside to support integration; and every two years an expedition is planned – students will soon start working towards a month-long trip to Morocco in 2021.

An extensive programme of community activities support our school-based provision, most notably the City of York's Music Forum, based at the school. Students have the opportunity to work with York St John University through our Green Apples scheme, study Latin, History of Art and Astrology at St Peter's School, perform at the city's Dance Festival and participate in numerous enterprise challenges through the North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership.

INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY

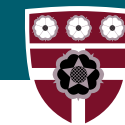
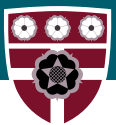
The school community also benefits from continued investments in school facilities which offer some of the most advanced technology for studying and working including an Apple Mac media room, alongside our full-size floodlit all weather pitch and the 'Cube', a specialist drama space.

Students can take advantage of a vast array of extra-curricular clubs, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, craft club and media club.

In all year groups students are encouraged to take on responsibilities and develop their leadership skills by acting as peer mentors, and junior leadership team representatives. Students in Year 10 are elected each year as prefects and our Head Students meet with prospective students and their parents or carers at Open Evening. They are our proudest ambassadors.

We believe that the most effective way of motivating students is by celebrating their achievements. Students draw great pride from each other's successes in weekly assemblies and through more formal occasions, such as our annual prize giving evening where awards are presented for attainment, effort and sustained contributions to the wider school life.

'THE WIDE RANGE OF EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENTS' SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS' Ofsted



Empowering students
by providing the best
possible curriculum

The quality of education

THE INTENT OF OUR CURRICULUM

Here at Vale of York our intent is straightforward - we endeavour to enable all our learners to live the school motto of "Always giving the best" into action. To achieve this, we offer the best curriculum possible, ensuring that it provides the breadth and opportunity for all learners to be continually challenged and inspired.



CURRICULUM DESIGN

Our ambitious and extensive curriculum is designed so that within the first two years of their learning journey at Vale of York, students will have the opportunity to learn and develop knowledge, skills and understanding in fifteen different subjects. This broad experience in Years 7 and 8 prepares and informs our students, ensuring they progress on to the most appropriate academic pathway as they start to consider their futures.

Students in Year 9 follow a selected pathway, focusing on mastering key skills and core concepts within each subject area. During this year, they also seek to gain the essential subject specific skill base that undoubtedly facilitates effective learning.

Our curriculum leaders are passionate about their subjects and want to instil a similar desire within our students. However, each leader looks

beyond the need to simply impart knowledge. Throughout the curriculum, opportunities are created to ensure our students build character and become a responsible citizen in the community in which they live.

TAILORING A BESPOKE CURRICULUM

Every pupil is an individual and as such needs a curriculum that provides them with the necessary components not only to succeed and achieve, but crucially open the doors of opportunity once they leave.

At Key Stage 3, most teaching is delivered in mixed ability groups with setting in some subjects. As students progress on to examination courses, some subjects retain mixed ability groups whereas other subjects move to setting.

Literacy and numeracy support is an integral part of some students' timetables, with

academic progress being reviewed on a regular basis. For those students who need additional support, appropriate intervention packages are put in place.

At Key Stage 4, students take responsibility for shaping their learning, and the academy provides four different pathways for students to follow through to examination: Enhanced, Standard, Supported and Tailored.

Across all five years of education at Vale of York Academy, the appropriate level of careers information, advice and guidance is delivered through the PSHE curriculum and various enrichment activities. We're proud to have been awarded the national Quality in Careers Standard by Prospects.

Our commitment to a tailored curriculum is exemplified by our able, gifted and talented programme and SEND provision. This ensures that learners feel supported and



challenged so that they can fulfil their own potential.

Crucially, we keep an eye on meeting the national skills gaps and local employment needs. We are constantly reviewing opportunities within our curriculum offer so that we can provide our learners with the most appropriate courses and experience, with extra prospects of successfully continuing into further education, training or employment.

'LEADERS HAVE PUT IN PLACE A CURRICULUM THAT IS WELL THOUGHT OUT.'

OFSTED REPORT, 2019



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

CORE SUBJECTS

Every pupil will study the following core subjects throughout their time at Vale of York Academy to meet the expectations of the national curriculum:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- RE/PSHE
- Physical Education

KEY STAGE 3 (KS3) SUBJECTS

Every pupil will study these subjects during KS3 and can decide whether to continue into KS4 when they choose their options in Year 8:

- Art
- Computing
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Languages
- Music

EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

The following subjects can currently be studied at KS4:

- Business Studies
- Dance
- Health & Social Care
- Media Studies
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Psychology



A place to thrive

WHAT TO EXPECT

Prior to joining school, your child will hopefully have taken some of the opportunities to visit us. Our prefects and Head Students will visit your child’s school on a number of occasions along with key staff, to build relationships, answer questions and provide peace of mind.

In July of Year 6, your son or daughter will visit Vale of York Academy at least twice to take part in induction activities and to start to form relationships with new friends and staff. As a parent you will be invited to the school to meet your child’s tutor, buy uniform and formally register.

On joining school, your child

will be placed into a tutor group with a fixed form room, alongside at least one other nominated friend from their primary school. They will be taught in broadly banded groups for English, Drama, History, Geography, and Science and RE. They are taught in sets for French and Mathematics and as mixed ability, mixed form groups for technology subjects – Art, ICT, Music, Product Design, Food, Textiles and PE. Your child will be issued a planner in which they will store their daily timetable and homework and staff will use this to communicate directly with you. In turn this will be your first port of call should you wish to contact school.

Each day your child will be able to buy lunch using a finger-print system which you can top up from home or they can bring a packed lunch. After school there are a multitude of sporting activities and other clubs, including a homework club in which your son or daughter can take part for an hour.

Each term you will receive a

written report about your child’s progress and as a Year 7 parent you will be able to attend two parents’ evenings throughout the year. Each half-term we will hold a drop-in which you are free to attend to have direct conversations with senior leaders.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an essential part of every child’s working week. It develops the skills of independent learning, self-sufficiency and determination. Homework will consolidate skills learned, or prepare students for their next lessons or support revision. It often provides the opportunity for the child to spend extended time on their learning and dig deeper into broader contexts. It will be set daily as per the homework timetable. Each child records homework in their planner and this will be checked by the form tutor weekly. Parents can also check their child’s homework using the MyEd app.

SCHOOL DAY

When the school joined the Hope Learning Trust, one of the significant advantages was the ability to offer our Key Stage 4 students the opportunity to share in courses on offer at

Manor CE Academy alongside those already offered here at Vale of York. To accommodate this, the structure of our school day looks slightly different for Key Stage 3 and 4 students.

**KEY STAGE 3 STUDENTS
YEAR 7 AND 8**

School opens	08.45
Registration	08.50 – 09.00
Lesson 1	09.00 – 10.00
Lesson 2	10.00 – 11.00
Break	11.00 – 11.15
Lesson 3	11.15 – 12.15
1st Lunch	12.15 – 12.45
Lesson 4	12.45 – 1.45
Lesson 5	1.45 – 2.45
Registration/Assembly	2.45 – 3.00
Pupils leave	3.00
Voluntary activities	3.00 onwards

**KEY STAGE 4 STUDENTS
YEAR 9, 10 AND 11**

School opens	08.45
Registration	08.50 – 09.00
Lesson 1	09.00 – 10.00
Lesson 2	10.00 – 11.00
Break	11.00 – 11.15
Lesson 3	11.15 – 12.15
Lesson 4	12.15 – 1.15
2nd Lunch	1.15 – 1.45
Lesson 5	1.45 – 2.45
Registration/Assembly	2.45 – 3.00
Pupils leave	3.00
Voluntary activities	3.00 onwards

UNIFORM

Uniform can be purchased in July at the induction evening or from our supplier, Keal Teamwear on Walmgate.

BOYS

- School blazer
- Sleeveless v-neck jumper (black for Key Stage 4, grey for Key Stage 3)
- White shirt and school tie
- Black trousers – must be straight legged, without zips or external pockets
- Black/grey socks
- Black shoes – leather/leather-look, not trainer style or canvas

GIRLS

- School blazer
- Sleeveless v-neck jumper (black for Key Stage 4, grey for Key Stage 3)
- School kilt
- White open-necked blouse (when worn with kilt, no tie)
- Black tights (with kilt. During summer term, white ankle socks may be worn instead)
- If trousers are preferred, they must be black, straight legged, not tight and without zips or external pockets. Worn with black socks
- If wearing trousers, girls also need to wear a white shirt, buttoned at the top, with school tie
- Black shoes – leather/leather-look flat shoes, not trainer style or canvas

PUPILS REPORT: ‘THE SCHOOL HAS A COMMUNITY FEEL TO IT’, AND ‘TEACHERS MAKE LEARNING FUN.’

OFSTED REPORT, 2019





Y7 students on this year's residential trip to Lakeside, Cumbria.



A smooth transition



We have a dedicated transition expert who works with our feeder primary schools preparing pupils for the move to secondary school. You can meet members of our staff at one of the parents'

'WE ARE GLAD THAT OUR DAUGHTER CHOSE TO ATTEND A SCHOOL WITH SUCH A CARING AND PERSONALISED ETHOS.'

PARENTS, YEAR 8 STUDENT

evenings at your own school or during one of the many taster events which we hold for the Year 5/6 students in our catchment area. Our transition expert will be your first point of contact throughout the transition process and into the Autumn term of Year 7. You can ask questions at any time by contacting our reception team.

Pupils quickly become part of the Vale of York Academy community. We encourage all our new Year 7s to attend

a residential trip to Lakeside Activity Centre in the Lake District during the second week of the autumn term, which allows them to get to know each other and the staff, whilst pushing themselves to try new activities and having loads of fun!

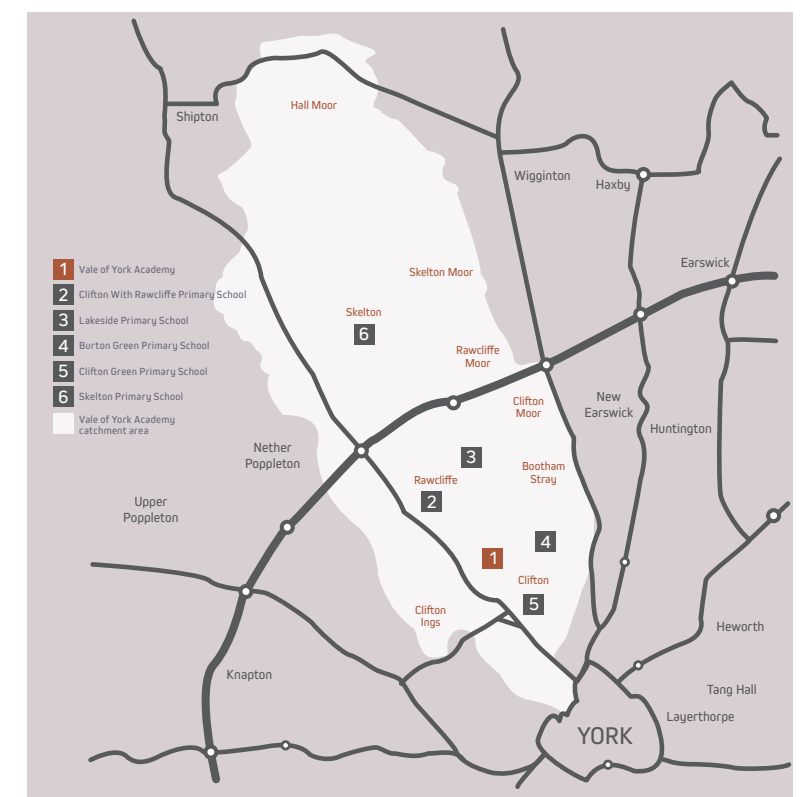
We have so much to offer, both inside and outside the classroom – whatever your child's interests, strengths or personality may be, there is something for everyone at Vale of York Academy.

We are delighted to welcome all students within our immediate catchment and those from beyond.

Admissions

The school has a designated catchment area defined by the Local Authority. City of York Council is committed to the principles of local schools for local people and all students living in this area are entitled to a place with us. We are delighted to welcome all students within our immediate catchment and those from beyond. Students outside this area and when the school is oversubscribed are allocated places according to the local authority criteria.

- ♥ **First priority:** children are in the care of the Local Authority.
- ♥ **Second priority:** children who live within the catchment area served by the school.
- ♥ **Third priority:** children considered by the Local Authority to have exceptional social or medical need which relates to the preferred school.
- ♥ **Fourth priority:** children with siblings at the school.
- ♥ **Fifth priority:** children who live closest to the school using the shortest safe walking route.



Parents can access the secondary school 'guide for parents' online at www.york.gov.uk/guideforparents. Parents need to make an online application or request a paper copy of the secondary common application form and return it to the local authority by 31 October 2020.

These are available at www.york.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Further information is available from the Admissions Team at the City of York Council where council officers will also be able to offer advice to parents on low incomes on assistance with uniform purchase and entitlement to free school meals.

'THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND THE SCHOOL IS CALM AND PURPOSEFUL.' OFSTED REPORT, 2019