Welcome to the final newsletter of the year! I’d like to thank all the members of our community for their support throughout this very rewarding and exciting year. We have much to be proud of. The transition to Vale of York has moved the school into new territory, with new systems, expectations and a desire to be the best. As Principal, I feel certain we have made significant steps to success and are fast becoming a popular local school. As ever, this newsletter is crammed with brilliant events and exciting opportunities involving our young people. This couldn't happen without the dedicated efforts of our great team of staff, willing to give up their free time to enrich the lives of all those that take part. The MFL trips, the school show, D of E expeditions, Sports Day, Enrichment days and Rewards trips are just the tip of the iceberg in a multitude of wider experiences available for all the children. As the year closes, I would like to give my thanks in particular to staff who are moving on to pastures new; Mrs Johnston (Vice Principal), leaves for a post at Mount St. Mary's in Leeds. She has been an unswerving champion of the school for a number of years and I know parents will want to wish her well. Also leaving are Miss Busgeeth (Head of English), Mr Foster (Science), Mr Anderson (Progress Leader), Toby Everett (Teaching Assistant) and Mr Norwood (Cover Supervisor). A special mention must go to Mrs Varlow who leaves us after 30 years service to the school as Food Technician. Recently we also said goodbye to Mrs Browes (MFL) and Mr Fella, one of our site team. We wish them well in all their endeavours. I am pleased to inform parents that we are fully staffed for September without any supply staff – a first for a number of years – a real sign that the school has turned a corner. Mrs McDonagh will lead English, Mrs Ward will lead Maths, also joining are Mrs Myers (English), Mr Elwell (Maths), Mr Vine (Science), Miss Slingsby (MFL) and Mr Metcalfe (English). As the holidays approach, I take this opportunity to ask parents to stock up for their children so they are fully prepared for September. Keal teamwear on Walmgate holds full stock of all of our uniform. When purchasing footwear please remember that only formal shoes are permitted, nothing soft soled or canvas based. When buying trousers, particularly for girls, these should be tailored and loose fitting. As a guide, a 50p piece should be able to fall down the leg if dropped from the waist. Socks should be plain black, grey or white only, thank you. Please also equip your child with a strong bag, pens, pencils (multiple of each), a ruler, calculator and a reading book; these are essential items everyday. By being fully equipped, children are then able to concentrate on the important parts of each day – high quality lessons. Please remember that if you have a son or daughter in Year 11 that they will be able to collect their GCSE results from 9:00 am in the library on Thursday 24th August. Term starts on Tuesday 5th September, 8:50 am for new Year 7 and 11:00 am for all other years. Please see Newsletter 10 for the new school day times – also available on the website. May I wish everyone a restful holiday and I look forward to working with you again in September.
Key Stage focus

**Key stage 3**
We have been reflecting on what went well within each year group throughout the year. Year 7 lead on reward points but need to improve their organisation skills. Year 8 have the best behaviour record but need to focus on improving participation in lessons. Year 9 have seen improved behaviour but now need to improve their attendance to 96%.

**Key stage 4**
Year 11 had a fantastic send off at their Prom on the 30th June; the students looked amazing, arriving in style and enjoying a fun night at the Fairfield Manor Hotel. The next time we see most of them will be on results day on 24th August.
Year 10 have completed their mock exams and are now working hard to prepare for next year. On the 12th July they had a very informative careers day, filled with speakers and advice from post 16 and higher education establishments. Next year, there will be more post 16 advice to help Year 10 prepare for their next steps. Year 10 also had an afternoon of the Stock Market Challenge, where they learnt about the exciting world of stocks and shares in a fun and interactive way. As the year comes to a close and Year 10 prepare for the pressures of Year 11, it is important to reflect on their hard work and successes this year. We wish everyone a lovely Summer; enjoy the break and come back refreshed and ready for the new term.
**Partnership News** Bringing the community together

Our links with the community continue to go from strength to strength here at Vale of York Academy. In June, it was an absolute pleasure to be part of the Clifton Get Together, a picnic on Homestead Park in memory of MP Jo Cox. On a gorgeous, sunny day, it was great to see many familiar faces from the local area.

There was also a community feel about this year’s Year 6 transition day. We were delighted to welcome in our friends from Door 84 Youth Group, York City Knights, Accessible Arts (who are based at Burton Stone Community Centre) and also the RAF, led by Gav from Rawcliffe. We were hugely impressed by the attitude and energy shown by Year 6 and can’t wait for them to arrive full time in September!

We were very fortunate to welcome into the school a group of Chinese delegates who were visiting from Hong Kong University. As well as observing lessons, the delegates held a question and answer session with two Year 9 English classes about life and education in Hong Kong. Our students made them extremely welcome, asked some superb questions and the whole morning was extremely positive for all involved.

We had a wonderful afternoon supporting Burton Green with their Summer Fayre. It was a lovely atmosphere with children and parents all coming together and having fun. As the academic year draws to a close, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the primary schools, parents and organisations from the local community who have supported events at Vale of York Academy. We are a school at the heart of the community and we will continually strive for opportunities for our pupils.

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**Dates for the Diary**

**School Reopens** - Tuesday 5th September at 8.50am for year 7 and 11am for years 8, 9, 10 & 11.

**Weds 13th Sept** Year 6 Residential trip to Lakeside

**Thurs 21st Sept** Year 7-10 school photos

**SLT Drop In**
Meet the Senior Leaders:
Your chance to bring things to our attention
Tues 26th Sept 4pm to 6pm in the Library

**Eurofest 2017**

Last month, 13 Year 8 students were lucky enough to take part in York St John’s University Eurofest event. This annual competition is designed to show that foreign languages can be used in a variety of career pathways. Students competed with other schools in the trade competition. We had three groups where they had to sell a product they had designed. The girls decided to make cupcakes, bookmarks and brownies which they had to sell in French. In the afternoon, we all learnt some Italian and BSL before we walked away with the prize for style.
Share the successes of the school on a daily basis and keep up to date with the latest news:
@ValeYorkAcademy

Contacting school:
The quickest way to contact school is through reception:
Call: 01904 560000 or
Email:
reception@valeofyorkacademy.org

Take a look at... Our trip to Germany!

“Die Klasse 9 Reise nach Deutschland: Wir haben Koblenz, Köln, Boppard und Phantasialand besucht und haben auch eine Bootsfahrt und Sesselbahn gemacht. Es war klasse!”
Mrs Haig

“We had a fantastic trip. This has been one of the best weeks of my life. I’ve enjoyed every moment of it, especially the food!”
Fay Clark

“A Night at the Musicals

“Week 2, Day 2 – I felt a bit sick going on the rollercoaster. It was a bit scary, but we had a great time!”
Mrs Haig

A huge congratulations to everyone included in ‘A Night at the Musicals’. The show was a complete success and we are so proud of every single one of you!

Mrs Brady and Miss Nicholson