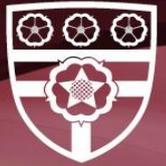


Voice

VALE OF
YORK
ACADEMY



THE VALE OF YORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 17 | 25th May

Message from the Principal

Firstly, I would like to wish Year 11 the very best of luck for their GCSE exams. I am very grateful to the staff who give up their time outside of school hours to ensure that every student benefits from additional input. Please remember that there is a Year 11 Revision page on the website, which also offers top tips for managing time and energy throughout the next few months and which includes resources from the Study Skills Evening.

I will remind parents that the planner is the main point of contact between home and school. It is important that you check and sign your child's planner at least once a

week, but ideally more often. The planner was developed to record homework, achievements and codes when the students do not meet expectations. As such, please could you discuss any strategies with your child for avoiding codes, where applicable?

Of the 524 students on roll, almost ten per cent have received no negative comments since the start of the academic year, which just goes to show that it is possible to be hard-working, organised, smart, polite, and punctual every day.

In addition to this, of the nearly 700,000 codes and merits awarded, 97 per cent of these have been

merits, something that demonstrates what a great set of children we teach here.

Year 10 have now finished two weeks' worth of Work Experience. I have been delighted to receive very positive feedback from many of our employers, and some of those students who really shone through and pushed hard have now been offered Saturday jobs. Well done.

Finally, please ensure you have a current live email address and mobile phone number registered to the school. In doing this, all letters and urgent communications will come to you directly from our Parentpay service. **Mrs H Dowds**

A guide to codes seen in planners:

H = Homework has not been completed
B = Behaviour has not met expectations or subject material missing
P = Progress in lesson has been below expectations: poor participation; off-task; incomplete work
U = Uniform infringement
L = Late to a lesson or to tutor time
E = Equipment missing
AS = Around school behaviour expectations are not being met.
These may be given out at break, lunch, between lessons or if a misdemeanour occurs out of school hours but in uniform

Year 11 exams have already begun, and students across the School will be able to show off their hard work and determination. In addition to this, subject teachers will put on extra revision classes in the days immediately leading up to this exam; these sessions will target exam technique and key topics, continuing the effort to achieve exam success. Good luck to all involved.

Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions will be taking place over the next few months for Bronze, Silver, and Gold students. These will test stamina, good humour, and create some fantastic memories.

Bike Safety

Bike Safety



The Highway Code has 23 sections that apply to cyclists: **Rules 59-82. Many of these are enforceable**

under law and are obligatory.

As we have a number of children who cycle to school, we have become increasingly concerned that some of our students are still not considering their safety, nor that of other road users. This is despite targeted assemblies and visits from the Road Safety team. Listed below are the key Highway Code rules that have caused us most concern recently, please take the time to talk about this with your child if they use their bike.

Rule 59

Clothing. You should wear

- a cycle helmet which conforms to current regulations, is the correct size and securely fastened
- light-coloured or fluorescent clothing which helps other road users to see you in daylight and poor light
- reflective clothing and/or accessories (belt, arm or ankle bands) in the dark.

Rule 60

At night your cycle **MUST** have white front and red rear lights lit. It **MUST** also be fitted with a red rear reflector (and amber pedal reflectors, if manufactured after 1/10/85).

Flashing lights are permitted but it is recommended that cyclists who are riding in areas without street lighting use a steady front lamp.

Rule 64

You **MUST NOT** cycle on a pavement.

Rule 66

You should

- keep both hands on the handlebars except when signaling or changing gear
- keep both feet on the pedals
- **never ride more than two abreast, and ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends**
- not carry anything which will affect your balance or may get tangled up with your wheels or chain
- be considerate of other road users, particularly blind and partially sighted pedestrians. Let them know you are there when necessary, for example, by ringing your bell if you have one.

Rule 67

You should

- look all around before moving away from the kerb, turning or manoeuvring, to make sure it is safe to do so. Give a clear signal to show other road users what you intend to do
- look well ahead for obstructions in the road, such as drains, pot-holes and parked vehicles so that you do not have to swerve suddenly to avoid them. Leave

plenty of room when passing parked vehicles and watch out for doors being opened or pedestrians stepping into your path

- be aware of traffic coming up behind you
- take extra care near road humps, narrowings and other traffic calming features
- take care when overtaking

Rule 68

You **MUST NOT**

- carry a passenger unless your cycle has been built or adapted to carry one
- hold onto a moving vehicle or trailer
- ride in a dangerous, careless or inconsiderate manner
- ride when under the influence of drink or drugs, including medicine.

Rule 69

You **MUST** obey all traffic signs and traffic light signals.

Rule 71

You **MUST NOT** cross the stop line when the traffic lights are red. Some junctions have an advanced stop line to enable you to wait and position yourself ahead of other traffic

Rule 79

Do not ride across a pelican, puffin or zebra crossing. Dismount and wheel your cycle across.

Thank you for your understanding.

Celebrating success

World Championships in Dublin

Harvey Fisher, year 8, has just qualified for the Martial Arts World Championships to be held in Dublin. Great achievement.

Karate Champion

Continuing the martial arts trend, Oliver Lines has beaten other contestants around the UK and won the National Karate Competition, Kumite, based in Leicester.

A writing success story

Huge congratulations to Leonor Teixeira who will be representing York in the finals of the National Young Writers' Awards 2018, having beaten hundreds of other York applicants to take the place. Actor and author, David Walliams, will now judge her 500-word story on heroes. Fingers crossed!

Most Valuable Player

Joseph Hodge was awarded a trophy for the 'Most Valuable Player' at the York School Boys presentation evening, following "four years of consistently excellent performances".

Cheerleader takes on the World

2016 leaver Jessica Bilton joined the England team for Parapom and won an international gold medal from the International Cheer Union championships last month. Now studying at York College, she trains regularly with Fantasy Cheer at the Vale of York Academy. Huge congratulations to our international champion!

X-Martial Arts Championships

Congratulations to Jacob Gledhill in year 7 for winning the X-Martial Arts Championships. Out of around 100 participants, our Jacob showed off his moves and came out on top!

York City Knights

We were very grateful to Adam Prentis, from York City Knights, who brought in The Challenge Cup for our students to experience. The Knights are having a fantastic season, and students enjoyed learning more about their team.

No rest for the young leaders

As ever, our young leaders have been busy this term. We were delighted to support the Quadkids Outdoor Athletics event, run by York Sport, and our year 7 leaders have been helping out at the Tour de Clifton annual cycling event, held at Clifton Green Primary School. Well done to all involved.

Calm before the exams

Finally, many thanks to holistic therapist Ruth Tarr, who worked with year 11 students on stress relief ahead of their big exams!



Best of the bands

On 16th April, students took part in the Battle of the Bands event at the Royal Opera House. The band, *Dead Services* performed really well and demonstrated hours of commitment and dedication.

VOYAGE

We have just had our fourth instalment of our Gifted and Talented programme, VOYAGE. This time, the year 5 students from our local primaries were back and busy working on their science; they were looking at the element of water.

Once again, everyone involved was extremely impressed with their knowledge, curiosity, and problem-solving skills. We only have two more sessions to go before they 'graduate' in the final week of the summer term.

Thank you to Mr Orr and to the local primary schools for giving these students the opportunity to challenge themselves even more.

Keeping busy

Get your boots on!

Well done to our Silver Duke of Edinburgh students who have just completed their Silver Practice weekend. The year 11 students started at Grosmont Station and walked through Robin Hood's Bay and Lythe during the sunny bank holiday weekend. This was a fantastic opportunity to practise their navigation skills further. Mr Rampling and Mrs Robinson were very impressed with the determination of the students, and look forward to their assessed venture in July.



Bootleg Beatles

GCSE music students enjoyed a fantastic evening of live music at the Barbican on 18th April, watching the Bootleg Beatles perform. Two hours of favourites by the Fab Four were a great treat for the GCSE music students involved.

Key dates

4th June – Vale of York Academy reopens

14th June – World Cup Day

27th June – SLT drop-in, 4-6pm in the library

Year 6 Transition - key dates

3rd July – Year 6 'Meet Your Tutor' open evening

16th-18th July – Transition Week

York Independent State School Partnership



As part of our ongoing work with the York ISSP, we have

been made aware of a free Public Science Lecture this term at St Peter's School which you might be interested in, details of which are below.

Professor
Martin Hendry:
Ripples of
Gravity,
Flashes of Light



Friday 15 June, 7.00pm

Part of York Festival of Ideas 2018. Join LIGO scientist, Professor Martin Hendry, as he explores the amazing technology behind the detection of gravitational waves, and what their discovery might soon tell us about some of the biggest unsolved mysteries in physics and astronomy.

Tickets are available via:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Back down to Earth

Year 8 pupils had a great opportunity to discover space travel recently, thanks to the Samsung Space Descent Bus. The whole event took place on a specially-converted double decker bus, with students experiencing Tim Peake's descent to Earth in virtual reality, and learning more about the practicalities of living in space from an interactive training mission. They learned all about Tim Peake's return to Earth from the International Space Station, and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to be astronauts for a day. Hopefully this has inspired some of you into delving further into space science.

Joseph and the gang

The Drama department is proud to announce its latest offering of student theatre: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Students will be performing the Andrew Lloyd Webber firm favourite on the 11th and 12th July from 7pm.

Tickets will be available from 11th June!

