



January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Principal at Vale of York Academy. I am delighted to be taking on this role and look forward to working with you to ensure we provide your child with the best possible experience during their time with us.

My experience is broad. I am in my fourteenth year as a serving headteacher and have held senior leadership roles across schools both in London and the Yorkshire and Humber region for over twenty years. This experience has provided me with a thorough understanding of how schools bring about improvement and enhance young people's life chances. Although I have only been in post here for a few days, I can clearly see not only the improvements which have been made thus far, but the huge potential of our children and the capacity the academy now has. We are blessed with a student body that is well-behaved and ready to learn and a staff committed to doing the best they can for the students.

Joining mid-year has its benefits; it allows me time to take a good look at how the school operates and where changes could be made to improve things further. Many of the existing systems and the way in which the academy operates on a daily basis, are very effective and do not require significant change at this point. However, I am very keen that we do not stand still and my hope is that together we can continue on this rapid journey of improvement. My key priorities moving forward are:

- Focussing on our core purpose of delivering high quality teaching to ensure our students make excellent progress.
- Developing confidence and resilience in our students, encouraging them to never give up and learn from their mistakes.
- Our students are capable of amazing things; we must nurture their ambitions, give them exposure to the opportunities available in the world of work, at college and university, or by engaging with the growing number of apprenticeships.
- Providing them with memorable experiences beyond the classroom, such as the Archbishop of York and Duke of Edinburgh Awards, team sports, visits and residential trips.
- Continuing to build the reputation of the academy in the community. This September, we will enrol a full cohort of Year 7 students for the first time in many years.
- Making every effort to ensure our students are safe, happy and enjoy coming to school.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our forthcoming events. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to meet or discuss any matter.

Yours faithfully

Mr T Eastaugh
Principal

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