

July 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Summer Term Update from the Academy

As we come to the end of another productive and exciting summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the key events and achievements that have marked this period. It has been a term filled with hard work, dedication, and memorable experiences for both students and staff.

Last Day Arrangements Friday 19 July – finish 1.30pm (please see summer closure information on p2)

Students will be

- celebrating their achievements with an alternative timetable for the day.
- taking part in a festival to raise money for local charities and, for some activities, we will ask for a small donation to take part (**students wishing to support this should bring money, coins rather than notes please**). Festival includes sporting activities and inflatable assault course (students must be dressed appropriately to take part).
- optional non-uniform or PE kit day with a charge of £1, payable on the gate.

Exam Season

This term saw our Year 11 and Year 13 students undertaking their crucial examinations. We are immensely proud of their hard work and resilience. The dedication they have shown in their studies, despite the pressures of the exam season, has been commendable. We are confident that their efforts will be reflected in their results, and we eagerly await the outcomes in August.

A Level and GCSE Results Days

The academy will be open **9am to Midday for students to collect their results** at the following times:

- **Thursday 15 August – A Level**
- **Thursday 22 August – GCSE**

Trial Examinations for Year 10

Our Year 10 students participated in trial examinations, giving them a valuable insight into the demands and rigours of next year's GCSEs. These trials were an important step in their academic journey, allowing them to identify strengths and areas for improvement. The feedback received will be instrumental in their preparation for the final exams.

Annual Sports Day

The annual Sports Day was a tremendous success, showcasing the athletic talents and sportsmanship of our students. It was a day filled with competitive spirit, teamwork, and fun. From track events to field activities, the enthusiasm and participation were fantastic. Special congratulations to all those who set new records, were awarded medals and to the form teams that claimed the overall trophies for their year group.

Residential Visits

This term also featured several residential visits, providing students with enriching experiences outside the classroom. These trips aimed to develop independence, teamwork, and a sense of adventure. Whether it was the outdoor education at the Year 9 visit to Dallowgill, Post 16 visit to Disneyland Paris or the cultural immersion trip to the Loire for Year 8, the feedback from both students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. These experiences are invaluable in shaping well-rounded individuals.

Enrichment

This term our students have been involved in a number of experiences, trips and visits out of the classroom including visits to:

- Paris (residential)
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- Ripley Castle and Dallowgill (residential)
- Y11 and Post 16 Proms
- District Athletics
- Elsham Golf Leaders
- Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- Science Mavericks
- Orchard Court Music Visit
- Scunthorpe Music Festival
- Hornsea and Flamborough
- Grimsby Institute
- Lincoln University
- Delta Poetry Competition finals
- Loire Valley
- Wimbledon

Summer Closure

We will be maintaining our normal arrangements up to Thursday 18 July and **on Friday 19 July the academy day will end at 1.30pm, after lunch** and students who walk/cycle home will depart at 1.30pm. A number of buses are also able to collect students at that time but some, due to being shared transport with Nelthorpe, will leave at the usual time at the end of the school day **those buses are the 403, 405 and 422S**. Students who usually use the X4 service bus could take a number 4 bus at either 1.40 or 2.40pm.

The academy will re-open (8.45am) on

- **Wednesday 04 September 2024 for Y7, Y11 and Y12 only.**
- **Thursday 05 September 2024 - all students (Y7-Y13).**

Latin Excellence

Studying Latin offers numerous benefits, including a deeper understanding of language structures, improved vocabulary, and enhanced critical thinking skills. It also provides a unique insight into ancient cultures and their profound impact on modern society. I would like to congratulate the students that have been part of the Latin Centre for Excellence programme, they have worked really hard and their dedication was rewarded by having their fable published. This is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and exceptional talent. Well done on this remarkable accomplishment!

Communication and Payment

All communication with parents is via the My Child at School app. If you haven't already activated your account please contact our reception team. Also, please follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) at @TVABrigg where you can keep up to date with life at The Vale Academy. We also now have an active Facebook page, please follow us at www.facebook.com/TVABrigg. Both platforms will be used to share key updates during the summer break.

Uniform & Equipment

The supplier is **SPT Uniforms**, based in Garforth Leeds. You are very welcome to visit their shop or, to order online, please follow this link [The Vale Academy | Product categories | SPT Uniforms](#). We are hosting a **uniform 'pop-up' shop** in the summer holidays on **Thursday 08 August 10.30am-2.30pm at The Vale Academy** where you and your children will be able to come into school, select and purchase uniform items.

We are still phasing in the the uniform changes made last year so the new style items are for the new Y7 intake and current Y7 (going into Y8), Y9-11 will remain in the old style uniform. This information is clear on the SPT Uniforms website.

Can I please request that parents/guardians support us in ensuring students adhere to the uniform expectations below:

- Blazer - Academy blazer
- Trousers - Plain style, black tailored trousers
- Delta Skirt – pleated black knee length skirt
- Shirt - Plain style, white shirt buttoned to the neck
- Jumper - v-necked plain black knit (Optional - to be worn under blazer)
- Shoes - Plain style, black polishable shoes. No embellishments. Boots are not permitted.
- Socks - Plain style black. Tights - Plain style black
- Academy tie to be always worn
- Plain black belt, with standard buckle only
- Delta PE kit should be brought in on the appropriate days
- No Jewellery/earrings/Apple watch or equivalent
- No make-up/false eyelashes/false nails/nail polish
- Planner
- Black pen/green pen/pencil/ruler/calculator in a pencil case
- Coloured pencils

We would like to remind you that we have a school uniform recycling initiative to help families in need and promote sustainable practices.

Why Donate?

1. **Support Our Community:** Your gently used uniforms can make a significant difference to another family.
2. **Promote Sustainability:** Recycling uniforms reduces waste and helps protect our environment.
3. **Help Your School:** Contributing to this initiative fosters a spirit of generosity and community within our school.

How to Donate:

1. **Clean and Pack:** Please ensure that uniforms are clean and in good condition. Pack them neatly in a bag.
2. **Label:** If possible, label the bag with the sizes and types of uniform included
3. **Drop Off:** Bring your preloved uniforms to the designated drop-off point in the main reception area.

We will sort and distribute these uniforms to families within our school community.

Need a Uniform?

If your family would benefit from receiving preloved uniforms, please contact us by emailing Info@valeacademy.org.uk We are here to help and ensure every student has what they need for the upcoming school year.

Key Dates (Autumn term):

- 5th September Year 5/6 Open evening (more information to follow)
- 19th September 5:30 – 8:30pm: Year 5/6 Open evening (click here to book a ticket <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-vale-academy-open-evening-tickets-871868009687>)
- 25th September: Flu vaccinations
- 7th-18th October – Y11 trials
- 30th October – Y11 Pie and Pea evening
- 14th November : Y7 Settling in evening
- 27th November: Y10 Parents evening
- 25th November -13th December – Y11 trials

At the end of term we have a number of staff retiring or moving on to new challenges; Miss Brown, Mrs Whitworth, Mrs Jackson, Mr Tierney and Mr Williams. We wish to thank them for all the support they have given to students and their families and the considerable contribution they have made to the academy over the years, I'm sure you will join us in wishing them all the very best for the future.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We are committed to providing a supportive and stimulating environment that nurtures the academic and personal growth of each student. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents and guardians for your continued support and cooperation. Your involvement is crucial to our school's success, and we look forward to your ongoing partnership.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully



Sarah Stokes
Principal

Staying Safe This Summer

As school closes for the summer, we like to wish you a great holiday and remind you how important it is that you **stay safe and healthy**.

We all need help and advice sometimes. Whatever the problem is, talking about it can be the first step to solving it. If there is an adult you can trust like a parent, carer or a professional, talk to them. There are also lots of agencies you can contact for extra support, advice and guidance.

Stay Safe Online

Remember:

- **Check your security settings on your devices**
- **Never share your address, phone number or tell anyone you don't know where you are.**
- **Never agree to meet anyone you don't know.**
- **Don't go on private chat areas**
- **Block unwanted contacts if you feel uncomfortable**- at any time.
- **Report anything you are worried about** – you can do this anonymously.
- **Never send naked pictures of yourself or send pictures of other people.** This is unsafe and is also illegal.
- **Check out the ZIPIT app** which has been designed with you in mind to take control of your online chat
- **A really good place to find out more about apps online is the NHS Apps Library here:** www.nhs.uk/apps-library
- **Be aware of live streaming** – don't be pressured to do or say something you wouldn't do if you were actually with the person.

You can get support and advice for you or your friends from CEOP, if something has happened online which has made you feel unsafe, scared or worried.

The CEOP Thinkuknow website also has information and advice to help you to stay safe online.
www.ceop.police/safety-centre

Look After Your Emotional & Mental Health

Your emotional health and wellbeing is important. Talk to a trusted adult or friend about how you are feeling or about any concerns or worries. Childline have a number of resources and activities that could help. Support from ChildLine is available **online and by phone- ANYTIME.**

Lots of advice and information is available including:

- **Bullying, abuse, safety and the law**
- **Your feelings, friends and relationships**
- **Home and family issues**

More of a TYPER than a talker?

You can access support via the Childline web site – log on for 1-2-1 support, e mail or call their helpline free on 0800 11 11 (9am-midnight). You can access counselling live on line too
www.childline.org.uk



The CAMHS eClinic app is a free instant messaging service for young people to self-refer, book appointments and talk to a CAMHS Practitioner. The app can be downloaded via android or IOS.



Look After Your Physical Health

It is important to look after your physical and emotional health- you are important.









When you are out and about in the holidays, remember to look after your skin and wear sun cream and drink lots of water.

Try to keep a routine. Sleep is important for your health. Try to go to bed at a regular time. This will help when you return to school or college or start work in September. Have some treats but remember to eat healthy food too. It will help keep your body healthy and make you feel better. Remember to keep safe, follow these simple rules:

- **Try to do 60 minutes of physical activity a day**
- **Try and maintain a balanced diet** – poor nutrition can cause long term health problems
- **Try to get at least 8 – 10 hours of sleep each night**
- **Have time away from your devices**, especially just before you go to sleep
- **Don't walk alone at night**
- **Never take a short cut through an isolated area**
- **Stay safe near roads**, be sensible, don't take risks
- **Don't wear earphones when cycling** – you can't hear the road
- **Report any concerns or incidents about road or rail to the British Transport Police** on 0800 40 50 40 or text 61016.

Check your academy website for updates about school and to access more safeguarding links and information.



<p>Mental health support online:</p>  	<p>If you worried about your safety or care or that of someone else you can call Childline 24/7.</p> 	<p>If you have questions and/or concerns about drugs and want to talk to someone anonymously you can TALK TO FRANK.</p> 
<p>Forced marriage is illegal in the UK, if you need help and support around this issue, you can contact Childline on 0800 1111.</p> 	<p>Keep yourself and your friends safe from exploitation! Here's our top tips!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trust yourself, you know when something seems wrong. 2. Don't trust people you don't know. 3. Don't be tricked or tempted to do things that are unsafe. 4. Talk to a trusted adult if you feel unsafe. 	<p>Ways to REPORT any CONCERNS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Box in Miss Harding's office • Online 'Tell Us' button via pupil safety • Talk to any member of staff in the Academy • Report directly to Miss Broughton (DSL) or any other designated member of staff shown in all rooms.
<p>Stay safe online and report grooming and abuse using CEOP.</p>  <p>ceop.police.uk or look for the CEOP button online</p>	<p>LGBTQ+ support service and chat 0300 3300630</p>  <p>For support with positive changes around lifestyle, drugs or alcohol concerns you can chat anonymously online at</p> <p>www.changegrowlive.org</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the regular student voice sessions • North Lincolnshire Children's Services: 01724 296500 