

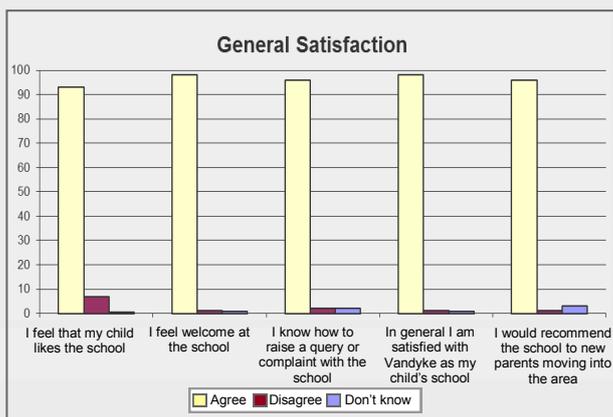


Annual School Survey

This is the 23rd year of our annual school survey. Several years ago we changed the way the survey was conducted from a paper-based survey to an electronic version using a survey tool completed on-line. Through the survey we seek the views of students across all year groups, parents, support staff and teaching staff. It is conducted anonymously and collated in a form that is then published. Questions have been kept broadly the same to facilitate comparison over time. It deliberately takes place mid-way through the school year and in the “darkest days” of the winter as we always done.

All parents were invited to participate and 162 chose to do so, with each year group evenly represented as it turned out. Students were asked to undertake the survey in tutor time or Life Skills lessons. 449 responses were received. A broadly even spread of students across year groups was achieved, but with slightly more Year 9 responses. Support staff and teachers also completed the survey.

Overall responses are very positive in each group, especially parents.



The survey is extensive and responses are grouped into a smaller number of categories. The survey also includes an opportunity for respondents to make additional comments using free text. The survey generates many comments and these are always interesting and are all carefully read.

We have wanted our student survey to focus on matters besides social time and toilets. Results in important sections such as Teaching and Learning continue to be especially encouraging. This year, 83% of student respondents expressed satisfaction with the marking of their work and the feedback they receive (82% in 2016). This particular measure continues to rise and I believe reflects the significant work undertaken in school to improve written feedback.

A small number of parents continue to respond with “Don't know” re the work of governors, although the figures improved further this year. A great deal of work is done by governors to engage with parents, including the production of a termly governor newsletter.

Overall satisfaction with the school remains high (86% students agree, with only 8% disagreeing which is slightly up on last year; 98% of parents agree (98% in 2016; while 1% disagree). 97% of parents state that they would recommend the school to new parents moving into the area (96% in 2016).

I am especially pleased to continue to see such high levels of belief in our school expressed by parents, such as 93% saying their child likes school and 98% again saying they feel welcome at school. On any scale, these are remarkable outcomes that should be a source of real pride for staff as they reflect the success of our work in creating an environment where parent partnership can flourish and students' learning can be effective.

One section of the survey provides opportunity for free comment. Parents' comments include:

“Having had 2 very different children go through Vandyke, I would more than recommend it to anyone looking for a new school for their child. All children should be educated within a positive and secure environment with their needs at the forefront - a great school, we shall miss it!”

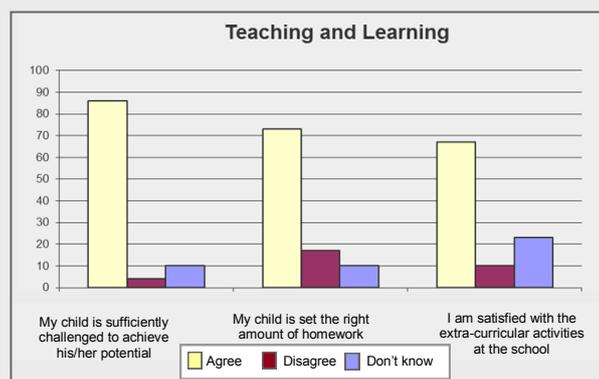
“I do recommend the school wholeheartedly to everyone. Our experience in the last two years has been nothing but positive. The boys are both settled and happy. We receive timely and useful communications. Staff are incredibly friendly and helpful.”

“Excellent school. Welcoming, efficient, effective, respectful of students and parents, clear roles and direction”

“A very good school not only in education but also the welfare side of the students.”

“We have never had cause to doubt our decision to send our son to Vandyke and, based on our combined experience of it, would highly recommend it to other parents.”

“The front line reception staff are a fantastic first communication point. They are always friendly and keen to help. They are a great example of how important first impressions can be.”



Continued on next page....



International School Award

Headteacher
Mr T Carroll
Tel: 01525 636700
Fax: 01525 636701
Email:
office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk

"Vandyke is an excellent school."

"I'm happy with how the school is run and the opportunities that are there for my child and very much looking forward to my daughter joining Vandyke."

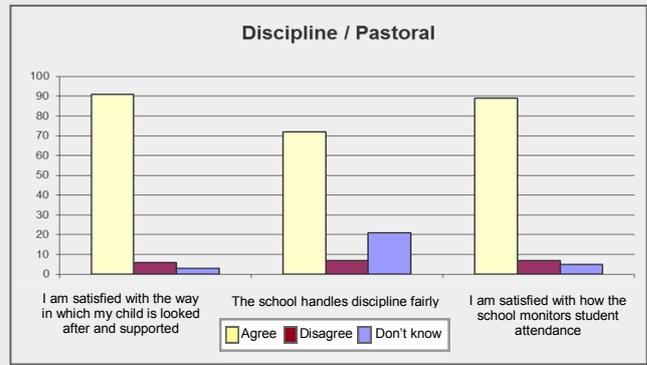
"My son enjoys school. Feels grown up and tells me that teachers are kind, caring and fair. He enjoys school and I think he has matured a lot since Sept."

"I have been a parent at the school for 10 years and have always been very happy with the school and the progress my children have made."

"We have been very happy with the school for both our children. Very impressed with the GCSE teaching and Sixth Form so far. My youngest daughter is doing incredibly well and is more settled than she has been at any of her previous schools."

"So far my child and I are extremely pleased with all aspects of Vandyke Upper. Certainly made the right upper school choice."

"Overall our son is extremely happy with Vandyke and has achieved great results since joining last September. We find the environment very professional (both staff and building) and it has a great positive feel about the place. We, like our son, are very happy with Vandyke."



"I always recommend Vandyke when I am asked. Thank you for all your hard work."

Reading all of the comments provides a flavour of opinion and spurs us to value our Student Voice and survey work and to continue to work hard at communication with students and parents to build our shared understanding of our world here in school.

I hope you will take some time to review the outcomes in the tables, as this feedback is an important part of the school self-evaluation process. I wish to thank everybody who took the time to participate.

Mr Carroll

County Cup Semi-Final

Under 14 girls

Icknield 2 - 5 Vandyke

Vandyke cruised into the final of the County Cup after producing their best performance of the season.

The scores were tied 2-2 at the break, however 3 quick goals at the beginning of the second half have given the girls a chance to bring home the County Cup when they take on fellow South Beds School, Queensbury.



3 goals from **Leoni Miceli** and a brace from **Georgi Issott** gave the girls the win.

Well done everyone!

Mr Turney

Young Sports Leaders

On Thursday 8th March, 18 Young Sports Leaders from Vandyke assisted the Leighton-Linslade School Sports Partnership in the running of the Annual Year 1 & 2 Sports Hall Athletics Festival. They performed a number of tasks from setting up the activities, through to running the activities.

During the afternoon, the attending 9 Lower Schools enjoyed a range of Athletic skills stations, including Long Jump, Soft Javelin Throw, Speed Bounce, Sprint Test and much more.

The event was a great success, giving the Young Leaders the opportunity to put many of the attributes they have learned as part of the Leadership Academy into practice.



Well Done to all involved.

Mr Seymour
School Sports
Partnership Manager

VANDYKE VOICE

Monday 23rd April	Vandyke Voice published	Thursday 10th May	Year 11 Awards Evening
Thursday 26th April	Aim Higher Evening For students in Years 9,10,11 & 12 (Re-arranged from 1st March)	Monday 14th May	GCSE/AS/A2 Exams start
Thursday 3rd May	Sixth Form Evening of Excellence	Monday 21st May	Vandyke Voice published
Monday 7th May	BANK HOLIDAY	Friday 25th May	Years 11 & 13 leave
Tuesday 8th May	Vandyke Voice published	Monday 28th May	HALF TERM