

Dear Parent/ carer

Year 11 students have returned to school after the half-term break and are working well. The GCSE practical exam in Drama went very well this week – congratulations to all the students who performed. It has been inspiring to see so many attending additional revision classes after school. I want to mention in particular the response to our minute's silence for remembrance on Wednesday which was impeccably observed. This is exactly what we expect from our students but the way that students conducted themselves was remarked upon by many staff and is a great sign of the growing maturity we see in so many of our Year 11 students.

We now enter a couple of months when we urge students in Year 11 to consider next steps ie what it is that they hope to doing this time next year – the Vandyke Sixth Form, college or an apprenticeship. Students will be having further talks and information about all three routes.

Historically, most Vandyke students have opted to remain here to study Level 3 courses (A Level or a range of more vocational BTECs) in our outstanding Sixth Form. This year saw the opening of our new Sixth Form Centre with a Cafe/Hub area alongside a fantastic Study Centre for students to use before and after school and during independent study periods. The Vandyke Sixth Form was heavily over-subscribed with lots of applications from students who are in Year 11 in other local schools. Our own Vandyke students have priority but meeting the necessary deadline for application is important where a particular course is over-subscribed.

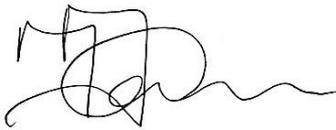
All Year 11 students have been offered a copy of the Vandyke Sixth Form prospectus in tutor time this week and will enjoy a presentation by Director of Sixth Form, Mrs Quinn, and Head of Year 12, Miss Hamilton, over the next couple of weeks during Life Skills lessons. The prospectus is available on-line along with a promotional video (follow the link from the homepage or look under 'Sixth Form').

The Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on-line this year and will be available to view on our website from 6pm Thursday 19th November 2020. This presentation will provide invaluable information about the Vandyke Sixth Form, the application process and will hopefully answer any questions you might have. There will also be a series of short presentations created by subject leaders about each of the courses we offer, also available on our website from this date. Year 11 students will be provided with an application form over the coming weeks, however they are also available to download it from our website. **The deadline for applications is Friday 15th January 2021.** If you have any queries regarding this process, please email fahyc@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk and Mrs Fahy will respond as quickly as possible.

Despite the health pandemic which does make life more difficult for everybody and means we are not able to invite parents/carers into school at the moment, we will do everything possible to make sure our Year 11 students are well informed about the choices ahead of them and given plenty of guidance and opportunities to think about their options.

For students wishing to go on to university or to study further before moving into employment or a higher level apprenticeship in two years' time, I believe the Vandyke Sixth Form provides the perfect bridge between school and the next step - it is **the** place for advanced level study.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Carroll', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim Carroll