

26 March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

We have enjoyed having students back in school and the past few weeks have flown past. Students have appeared pleased to be back and have conducted themselves very well, following the new rules re face coverings and one-way systems impeccably.

We completed three rounds of lateral flow tests in school and I encourage students to continue now to carry out tests twice weekly at home, self-isolating in the event of a positive test and reporting any positive results to school.

### School Uniform

We have focused on welcoming students back and helping re-establish routines. However, uniform is important. The Vandyke uniform expectations are simple and practical, help students be ready for school and to feel proud of being a member of the Vandyke community. We understand the difficulties some parents/carers have faced getting new uniform, including shoes, and have adopted a flexible approach without sanction for any student not yet in full uniform. From 13 April all students in Y9-11 are expected to wear school uniform in full, including following expectations re hair colour and jewellery. The school uniform expectations are set out at <https://vandyke.beds.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Student-Uniform-Policy-2020.pdf>. Please support us in ensuring all students are following our reasonable uniform expectations.

### School-day Timings after Easter

Arrangements for student arrival and departure and movement around school during the day have worked well. From Easter, we will make a small change to the staggered start and finish times. Y9 and Y10 will arrive for 8.40am, so that they are in their tutor rooms for 8.45am; Y11 and Y12 will arrive for 8.45am, so that they are in their tutor rooms for 8.50am. At the end of the day, Y9 will leave at 2.50pm, Y10 at 2.55pm and Y11-13 at 3pm. These are minor changes, but retain a stagger and will maximise important time with tutors in the mornings.

### School-day Timings for September

From September, we will introduce an earlier finish to school of one hour for all students on alternate Thursdays to facilitate extended staff training. School buses will arrive early on that day. I will include further information about this and any other minor changes to start/ finish times for September next term.

### Summer 2021 Exam Grades

As you know, Y11 and Y13 students will not be sitting exams this Summer. Instead they will receive School Assessed Grades. These will be awarded by teachers, moderated by school and quality assured by exam boards. By now, teachers will have discussed with students how this will work in each of their subjects.

While we await final confirmation from the DfE/ Ofqual, our policy document remains in draft form and will be published after Easter.



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### **Leaving Dates for Y11 and Y13**

While we await confirmation from the DfE, we are unable to confirm official leaving dates for Y11 and Y13 students. We will do so as soon as possible after Easter.

### **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

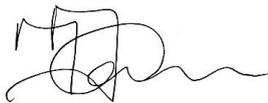
The new Relationships and Sex Education curriculum is in place - the policy is at:  
<https://vandyke.beds.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Relationships-and-Sex-Education-Policy-2019.pdf>.

If you have any comments about this, or any questions, please do contact us at:  
[office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk).

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter or any other matters, please contact the school office in the first instance and we will respond quickly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Carroll', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Tim Carroll**  
**Headteacher**