

22 October 2021

Dear parent/carer

I am writing on the final day of the half-term ahead of the half-term break. I want to thank students for everybody's hard work and positive attitude over these seven weeks that have helped make it an excellent half-term with so much great learning and with so many additional opportunities for students. Highlights have included 100 students and 21 staff camping overnight on the school fields for the Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition and both our boys and girls badminton teams becoming district champions. Rehearsals for the December production of "We Will Rock You" continue and make a great sound!

Covid

Unfortunately we are seeing a significant rise in Covid cases among students and a high level of staff absence. This reflects the situation in the community. The measures we continue to take, including one-way routes around school and separate social spaces for year groups, are helpful but we now need to take a further measure to try to keep students and staff well and in school.

Consequently we will require the wearing of an appropriate face covering by staff and students in lessons and corridors as of Monday 1 November. This is regrettable because nobody wants to wear a face covering. However, it is a minor inconvenience if it means that we can help reduce the spread of the virus and keep everyone in school.

Students who were previously exempt will be re-issued with lanyards. If you would like your daughter/son to be exempt please email the school office and a lanyard will be issued.

Please make sure that your daughter/son comes to school with a suitable face covering each day. It may be that this can be a temporary short term measure for a few weeks only but we will monitor the situation carefully.

Events

We continue to run parent/carer events virtually so the Year 9 tutor event on 4 November will be conducted on-line. Invitations are being sent out today.

On 18 November we have the Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students. We hope that this can run in person and are planning on that basis at the moment.

Vaccinations

While lots of parents/carers provided consent for your daughter/son to have a Covid vaccination, the NHS Schools Vaccination Team were only allocated one day at Vandyke and so were only able to carry out around one third of the requested vaccinations. We still wait for news on further dates and will update you as soon as we can.

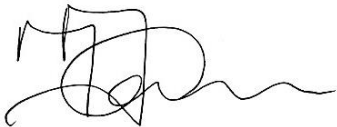
There is an anticipated round of flu vaccinations available for students this year. Information about this is due to be sent out shortly. Written parental consent is required before any vaccination would be given.

Queen's Jubilee

The government has allocated an additional Public Holiday this year to mark the Queen's Jubilee. In consultation with schools locally this additional day's holiday will be 8 July 2022 when students will not come to school. Hopefully we can enjoy some warm and sunny weather on that day.

If you have any further enquiries for school please email office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Carroll', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending to the right.

Tim Carroll