

To all parents/carers of Year 8 students

15 September 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

**Re: Transfer for Y8 to Y9 at Upper School in September 2023 –
Vandyke Upper School Open Evening – 29 September 2022**

The choice of upper school is a very important one. On Thursday 29 September 2022 we will be holding our Open Evening and in the following days our Open Mornings. These provide an opportunity for parents/carers and Year 8 students to visit the school and classrooms, meet staff and current students and attend a presentation by the Headteacher.

Please find enclosed our school prospectus and further written information, along with access to a short film by way of introduction to Vandyke.

Further, I would like to invite you to visit the school should you wish to on our Open Mornings. These will be held every school day from Monday 3 October 2022 to Friday 14 October 2022 from 9am to 11am. There is no need to book for these – simply arrive at the main school office on one of the Open Mornings. Please let the middle school know when your child will be absent for a tour.

The school is heavily over-subscribed, so it is important to submit your application before the deadline of 31 October 2022. CBC residents use the on-line application at: https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions and non-CBC applicants apply through their local council.

Please access our school video at <https://vandyke.beds.sch.uk/about-us/video/> or scan the QR Code below:



At Vandyke we put students at the heart of our school. This is something frequently commented on by visitors. I have been Headteacher here now for some years and I know that it is a school with a special atmosphere, where students enjoy school because of outstanding teaching and excellent care, guidance and support. This special atmosphere is built on the very positive relationships in school between students and staff. Students work hard and achieve highly in their studies but, more than this, they grow into young people with the personal attributes ready to take the next step beyond school. Our extensive programme of extra-

curricular opportunities plays an important role in this and includes a wide range of trips and visits that both support students' learning and also provide opportunities to develop leadership skills and for personal growth. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is just one example, with over 350 students from all year groups engaged in this.

Gaining the best qualifications is an important part of school of course. I am proud of our students and their achievements. We have high expectations of our students; we challenge students to aim high and strive to achieve their very best, while recognising that we all need support if we are to do this. Exam results at GCSE and A Level are exceptional. Academic standards are high and students from all starting points make very strong progress in their time with us. Full details of exam outcomes are on the school website and on the DfE School Performance Tables website at: <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>

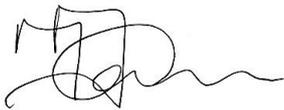
When OFSTED's inspectors last visited the school, they stated that, "There is a harmonious learning environment throughout the school" and "Students are pushed and challenged to make the best possible progress."

If you live a little further away from Vandyke, we provide subsidised daily transport between home and school – further details available at the Open Evening.

Two years ago we completed a major building programme that has added to the already exceptional facilities, including a brand new Sixth Form centre, 12 new science labs, a suite of 10 maths classrooms and a netball centre. This September we are opening a new Sixth Form block, and construction of a full-size 3G football pitch begins at the end of this month.

This is a particularly exciting time at Vandyke as the school goes from strength to strength with a clear focus on high standards and our firm belief that "*Everyone Matters*". I look forward to welcoming you.

Yours sincerely

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

Tim Carroll
Headteacher