

9 December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with a quick update on some important matters as the end of term approaches.

Strep A/ Scarlet Fever

Currently there is concern about cases of Strep A and scarlet fever and we thought it important to pass on some information about this to parents/carers. This can be found by following the link to the UK Health Security Agency on the Gov.uk website including information about what to look out for:

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/>

Café prices

The café has become a very popular place for students to sit at break and lunch-time and to eat their packed lunch or to buy food. We work with our contractor, Chartwells, to maintain high standards of food quality and ensure good value. Food inflation continues to rise and, while Chartwells are absorbing some of these rises, some has to be passed on in price rises. Regrettably there will be an increase in prices on many products of around 3% in January.

School uniform

We have a simple, modern and comfortable school uniform that students generally like. The standard of uniform is high and students look smart around school. We work hard to keep prices as low as possible while maintaining a good quality of garment. Clothing prices are rising generally and that includes school uniform garments but we have been able to negotiate not only a freeze on prices on most items but a significant reduction on most items for next September (as November is when orders have to be placed for the next school year). We continue to have a “second hand” uniform offer available and funds to support any family in financial hardship with uniform costs. For more information about uniform contact Mrs Ruston rustonv@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk or Mr Lally lallyt@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk.

Extra-curricular activities

The range of extra-curricular activities continues to be extensive. Last week Smile Week went very well with lots of additional events and activities and lots of students from all year groups participating. This week has seen our school production – “Aladdin – the Disney Musical”. Thanks to students and staff for amazing performances. A summary of all extra-curricular events and activities can be found in the weekly bulletin that is posted on the website.

Careers fayre

We are staging “The Big Picture Careers Fayre” on Thursday 12 January 2023 from 3.15pm until 6.15pm. We hope as many students from all year groups and parents/carers will want to come in to

find out more about a wide range of career opportunities. Further information will be sent out in the New Year.

3G Football Pitch

Construction of our new full-size 3G football pitch is almost complete and hand-over is due next week. It will be a fantastic additional facility for our students and for the community. All users must wear the appropriate footwear which is moulded, studded boots ie not metal studs. For students without studded boots this could be a useful Christmas present. For students without studded boots, we have purchased a large stock in different sizes that students can borrow for PE lessons that will be on the 3G pitch.

End of term

Term finishes on Friday 16 December at 12.15pm for Years 9-11 and 11.05am for Years 12-13. Buses will arrive early.

Start of the Spring term

All students return to school after the break on Wednesday 4 January.

If you have any questions please contact office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

We wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

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

Tim Carroll

Headteacher