

18th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a fantastic start to the first half term and the new Year 12 students have settled in well. We have launched the Y12 enrichment programme (attached) and started the tutor programme which has been designed to help build independent study skills necessary for success at A-Level. There has been plenty of positive feedback from teachers and it has been pleasing to see so many students already in good routines and using their independent study time productively. We are really looking forward to working with this impressive group of young people over the course of the next two years and feel optimistic about their capacity for success.

Parent Information Event – 10th October 2023, 5pm or 6pm

We would like to welcome all parents into school for a presentation that will provide valuable guidance about how to achieve success in the Sixth Form including expectations of independent study, exam preparation, enrichment opportunities and destinations work including work experience. Every student should come accompanied by one parent or carer. For students with surnames A-L, please attend the meeting at 5pm. For those with surnames M-Z, please attend the meeting at 6pm. If you are unable to attend at the given time please let us know.

RAG Check

Teachers are in the process of offering early feedback on students' induction onto their new Level 3 courses. You will receive information about this feedback in the week commencing 25th September. The first detailed progress report will be available ahead of the Subject Consultation Evening which will be held in person on the evening of **23rd November 2023**. If you have any queries regarding your son or daughter's progress or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Attendance

Any emails about absence should go to 6formattendance@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk – this will enable us to keep accurate records and identify any concerns in a timely manner. Alternatively, you can call the dedicated Sixth Form Absence Line on 01525 636716.

Lanyards & Leaving School Site

Later this week we will issue all Year 12 students with a lanyard and photo identification badge. All Sixth Form students are expected to wear their lanyards whilst on the school site for safeguarding purposes. This lanyard will also activate the gates offering students the ability to leave and return to the school site. Students will sign a code of conduct before receiving this lanyard.

At this stage we feel it is appropriate to allow Year 12 students the opportunity to leave the school site at lunchtime. If they have a study period during Period 5 and feel they would rather work at home, this is acceptable. We reserve the right to rescind this privilege if a student falls behind in their study. All Year 12 students must continue to arrive at school at 8.45am for tutor time and remain on school site until lunchtime unless there is a valid reason for absence. We will continue to review this arrangement.

Work Experience Week – Early Notice

All Year 12 students will have the opportunity to undertake work experience during the week commencing 1st July 2024. We will offer guidance about how to secure work experience placements nearer the time, however there is merit in students contacting employers early so please make a note of this date.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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