

4 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing at the start of the new school year.

Term begins for our new Year 9 and Year 13 students on Tuesday 5 September, Years 10 and 11 on Wednesday 6 September and Year 12 on Friday 8 September.

RAAC in buildings

RAAC is Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete and much has been reported about this in the media over recent days. Some school buildings where this has been found have been closed. We followed DfE advice on this from some months ago and contracted an independent building survey. Their report identified no RAAC in buildings here.

School meal prices

In July we notified you of a 10% increase in prices in the cafe across the board in September. This is clearly regrettable but reflects the high level of price inflation in food and drink. I continue to believe that the Vandyke café provides good value serving food of a high quality and that meets the Government's food standards.

Free period products

We would like to inform you that the school is able to offer free period products to all female students. A range of sanitary towels, tampons and period pants are available to collect. Students can drop into either the Medical Room, Year Office, ASC or the Library for their free products. We have a large stock and would like to see more students benefit from this.

Road safety

I wrote to you again in July about concerns with road safety on Vandyke Road. I continue to press local councillors and Central Bedfordshire Council, which is the highways authority, to take action before we see a nasty accident on this stretch of road. A group of local residents has started a petition about traffic at the other end of Vandyke Road. This can only be helpful in adding pressure to the case. This is the link if you wish to support the petition:

<https://chnng.it/xW4DMmKv>

Some students seek to cross Vandyke Road just beyond the entrance to the school car park. This is on a sharp bend in the road and a dangerous place to cross. Students are looking for a short-cut to the new estate. While this is understandable it is unwise as vehicles are approaching quickly round a blind bend. If you think that your daughter/ son may be tempted to do this, please speak with them and emphasise that it is not a safe place to cross.

Exam results

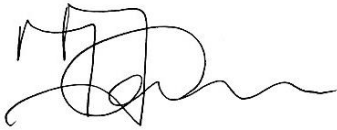
Both A Level and GCSE results days were lovely occasions as Year 11 and Year 13 students came in to collect their results. Results were again very strong. With the support of parents/ carers and their

teachers students worked hard and deserve our congratulations on their achievements. These grades allow students to progress to their next steps which may be the Vandyke Sixth Form, college, an apprenticeship or employment. We send our best wishes to students who are leaving us and look forward to working with those staying at Vandyke.

If you have any questions about these or any further matters please contact office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk.

As students return to school we appear to have hit a mini “heatwave” which should make the start of term a warm and sunny one. I look forward to working with you again this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Carroll', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim Carroll

Headteacher