

8 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing at the end of the first week of the new school year. Students have returned in good spirits and it has been lovely to welcome them back and to spend time with them. Classes settled well and were quickly down to work. There is a rich programme of extra-curricular activities that I look forward to lots of students getting involved in.

Among the start of term activities has been a fire drill held this morning. As always, students conducted themselves impeccably. Next week we will hold a lockdown drill. These are important practice runs for eventualities we hope will never happen but having staff and students think through how to respond in the event of an emergency and to practice our emergency procedures means that were it to happen we would be well placed to ensure that everybody is safe.

Governors

The governing body fulfils a vital strategic function for our school. Governors know the school well, are supportive but also challenge me and senior leaders. **We have two parent/ carer vacancies.** Any parent/ carer with a child at Vandyke can be nominated. If we receive more nominations than we have vacancies we will hold a ballot. The Vandyke governing body is a professional but friendly group and I know that, while governors take their role and responsibilities seriously, also enjoy the role and feel that there is learning for them and an opportunity to become more involved in the important business of education.

If you are interested in finding out more or wish to put yourself forward, please contact Jo Sessions, clerk to the governing body, at sessionsj@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk by 22 September.

Road safety

I am writing again 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:

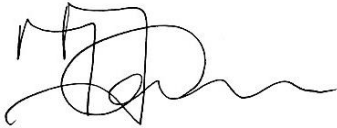
<https://chnng.it/xW4DMmKv>

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.

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

Yours sincerely

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

Tim Carroll

Headteacher