

Swimming Success for Vandyke Students

On Friday 22nd September, eight swimmers travelled to Watford to compete in the Boys' ESSA School Swimming Competition. We had two teams participate - an intermediate team (Yr10) and an advanced team (Yr11&13). Both teams swam a 4x50m Freestyle relay and a 4x50m medley relay. In all four races, the teams swam really well, racing against 20 other schools. The intermediate team finished 7th in the freestyle relay and 11th in the medley relay, and the advanced team finished 16th in the freestyle relay and 13th in their medley relay, overall ranking 16th across all teams involved.

Just two weeks later, on Friday 6th October, nine swimmers across years 9-13 travelled to Watford to compete in Girls' ESSA School Swimming Competition. The intermediate team swam two very good relays, placing 9th in their freestyle race and 1st in the medley relay, gaining them a gold medal. The senior team also had two great swims, placing 6th in their medley relay and 7th in the freestyle relay. The girls finished 8th out of 24 teams overall, without a junior team competing.

Due to these fantastic results the swimmers will be heading down to the ESSA National Finals on the 18th November - well done to all swimmers involved.



Sixth Form Open Evening

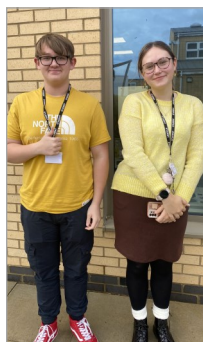
Just four weeks on from our Open Evening on 5th October, we're opening our doors again! We hope all Year 11 students will join us for our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 2nd November, between 6pm and 9pm.

Students and their parents are invited to come and have a look around the school, visit the subject areas, talk to teachers and current Sixth Form students, and attend a short presentation by our Director of Sixth Form, Mrs Quinn, and our Headteacher, Mr Carroll.

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 2nd November.

Hello Yellow!

In support of World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10th October, sixth form students and staff were encouraged to wear something yellow and donate to Young Minds, a mental health charity for children, young people and their parents. Students raised £260, which will go towards making sure all young people get the mental health support they need, when they need it, no matter what.



House Challenges

Students have kick-started the year with their fortnightly house competition. So far, students have completed an escape room, built a tower out of shoes and celebrated European Languages Day with a language learning challenge.



Before half term, students completed the fourth challenge of the year. For Y10 this involved an A-Z challenge to think of as many chocolate brands as possible in 3 minutes to complete the alphabet. For year

9 and 11, they had a team building activity to fit as many personal items as they could on a single sheet of A4 paper.

The highest score in Y9 was Miss Gibbons' tutor group who managed to fit an impressive 349 items on a piece of paper! These photos show the impressive efforts of the students in Miss Briand's tutor group, who achieved a respectable score of 105 items.



Currently Mr Laroussi and Miss Mileham's tutor groups are at top of the table for Y9 and Y10 tutor groups. In Y11, we currently have a draw for the top of the table between Mr Bowes' and Mrs Page's tutor groups, so it is still all to play for!

The current house activity league standings are:
1st = Simmonds (427pts), 2nd = Turing (421pts),
3rd = Seacole (417pts) and 4th = Zephaniah (403pts).

Fine Artist of the Fortnight

Congratulations to Eliza and Esmé, our Fine Artists of the Fortnight! We celebrate Eliza (right) and Esme's (below) exceptional art homework, inspired by Basquiat. Their creativity and dedication shine brightly, showcasing their



talent and commitment. They have shown 'world ready' values, embracing diverse influences in their work.

Congratulations to you both on your outstanding contributions to our school's creative community!



Table Tennis Competition

In the annual District table tennis competition, two Vandyke teams played against other local schools as they aimed to progress to the County finals.

In some very close matches, Team 1 were narrowly beaten into second place overall, with the second team coming 5th. Well done to all who took part!



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Mon 30th October	Year 13 Exam Week
Wed 1st - Fri 3rd November	Year 11 GCSE Drama Exams
Thurs 2nd November	Sixth Form Open Evening, 6pm-9pm
Thurs 9th November	Year 13 A Level Drama Exams