



VANDYKE Voice



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2015-17



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Headteacher
Mr T Carroll
Tel: 01525 636700
Email:
office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk

A Level students head to Washington

Last month, 27 A Level History and Politics students headed to the capital of the USA, Washington DC. After a long day of travelling on the Thursday, the Friday gave students an opportunity to get to know their surroundings with a walk through the central parts of Washington DC, stopping at sites including The White House, Mary McLeod Bethune residence and a guided tour of the Capitol building with legendary tour guide, Jim!



Day three began with a guided walking tour of the heartland of Washington. Sites such as the JFK Centre, Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial were visited, and there was even time for one brave student to do a lap of the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool... as you do! The afternoon allowed us to take a different angle, and was no doubt many people's highlight of the trip (at least maybe for the first quarter!). We ventured into beautiful Georgetown and on from there to the University to watch their Hoyas football team in action against the Colgate Raiders. Set against the backdrop of Hogwarts-esque facilities, students got a cultural glimpse of the importance of the sport in society. It must be said though, American football goes on for a **long** time! We left 3 and a half hours later (with the game still not finished!) and headed back into the centre for dinner.

Day four was Smithsonian day, a chance for students to venture into the legendary Washington DC museums. The highlight was the National Museum of African American History and Culture - a simply stunning museum which guided students through the troubled history of slavery, its abolition and the long struggle for civil rights in the US. Our students observed the journey with empathy and compassion, especially in some of the more poignant parts of the exhibition. Later, we ventured to Arlington cemetery to watch the changing of the guard and see the burial place of JFK.



Day five, and students ventured to the Smithsonian Zoo in the morning, before seeing Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, in the afternoon. A traditional American mall was our final stop for some last minute shopping before the airport and an evening flight. By Tuesday afternoon, a tired, but still jovial, group of students had returned home.

Students were a pleasure to be around for the entirety of the trip, observing all our ventures with great interest, enthusiasm and respect.



Vandyke students swim to success with Linslade Crusaders

A group of Vandyke students represented Linslade Crusaders Swim Club at a special swim week in Eastbourne during October half term. The week included a full-on schedule: two 1.5 hour swim sessions on Sunday, Monday and Thursday; a morning swim session and interclub gala on Tuesday; and a 5k swim (200 lengths) on Friday. All this in addition to other fitness training and a bleep test!

The swimmers involved were Ewan G, Ewan L, Clara F (club captain), Zara A, Amelia G-F, Charlotte C, and Megan D. Ewan L completed the 5k first in a remarkable 1 hour 9 mins, and Ewan G was the last boy standing for the bleep test at 13.8. Well done everyone!



Pancake party celebrates house point achievements

We had an exciting morning to celebrate the top house point achievers of the term so far. In total, 120 students joined the pancake party, representing the top 5 students in each house across years 9,10 and 11, in recognition of their hard work.

Students arrived at school and were directed to the cafe for their party. They were greeted by stacks of pancakes, toppings, music, balloons, decorations, and even a party hat! Students had a wonderful morning and enjoyed the relaxed and chatty atmosphere. Mr Carroll was also there to congratulate them on their exceptional efforts.

House points are awarded for excellent homework, excellent classwork and extra-curricular participation. A pancake party will be taking place again at the end of this term. House points will be totalled from 30/10/23 until the end of term, with totals reset to give everyone the opportunity to aim for a space.



Fine Artist of the Fortnight

Congratulations to Hollie P, our latest Fine Artist Of The Fortnight! Hollie has been working on component 1 GCSE art project, a project based on land, sea and sky exploring a range of different artists and techniques. She works very hard and puts lots of effort into her art lessons. Hollie comes to every lesson ready to work and completes her work to a high standard. It has been lovely to see Hollie add her own spin on tasks and develop her own unique painting technique. Keep up the great work Hollie!



Act of Remembrance

A small group of students represented Vandyke at the schools' Remembrance Service in Leighton Buzzard town centre on 10th November. Y13 students Ayush and Lauren read the traditional remembrance poem, *For The Fallen*, and Y9 student Nathaniel laid a wreath. It was an honour to be part of this important occasion.



Book your tickets for School of Rock



It's looking and sounding fantastic in the School of Rock rehearsals - check out our social media pages for some great rehearsal photos. Students across all years are working hard to produce what

promises to be a fantastic show. Performances are on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th December, and tickets are now on sale. Visit the Latest News section of the website for details of how to get yours!

w/c Mon 27th November	SMILE Week
Tues 28th November	Vandyke's Got Talent
Thurs 30th November	Year 13 Subject Consultations
Thurs 7th & Fri 8th December	Performances of school production: SCHOOL OF ROCK
11th December	Vandyke Voice published