



VANDYKE Voice

Talented PE students visit Loughborough University



Some of our gifted and talented PE students had a fantastic time at the University of Loughborough recently. Students experienced the use of world-class facilities at the top-rated sports university in the world. Students began the day with a range of sports activities including Modern curling, Tchoukball and Lineball. Students were excited to use GPS tracking software whilst playing sport to analyse their distance, positioning and speed throughout the different games they played. They were fortunate to be taught by the lead analyst for the Welsh football team who gave an exciting insight into performance-based sports careers.

Next was the tour to see some of the impressive facilities and matches taking place. Whilst exploring the performance centre, students saw Adam Peaty, double Olympic gold medallist in 100m breaststroke, and were given an insight into student life by a Commonwealth decathlete. We then entered the athletics performance centre. Students were fortunate to be able to watch some of Katarina Johnson-Thompson's training session. She is the double world champion in heptathlon.

To finish the day, students were given a seminar led by a range of student ambassadors. This included a discussion around university life, sports, courses and future pathways available at Loughborough. Students had a great day and felt inspired by the future opportunities that are open to them.



Public Services welcome visitor



We had an informative and inspirational day with Keaton Stephen, an ex-army corporal who also trained in the discipline of Construction Engineering, who now applies his skills in construction as a civilian, which can take him to many parts of the country.

how they not only impacted his time in the force, but how they still positively impact him today; he also shared inspirational stories and experiences from his placements and tours in Cyprus and Afghanistan.



Mr Stephen gave our Year 10-13's tremendous insights, from how to initially apply to the services, to why and how he left. Motivational insights were shared about his training and development and

The students were very responsive to his talks and were inspired by the way he shared his knowledge. Many were clearly exposed to the array of opportunity that awaits them once they finish compulsory education.

Fantastic effort at national swimming championships

On Saturday 18th November, the inter girls swimming team travelled to Birmingham for the English Schools Swimming Association's 65th National Championships final. The girls swam an excellent medley relay race and placed 19th out of 24 schools from across the country that attended. Fantastic effort - well done girls!



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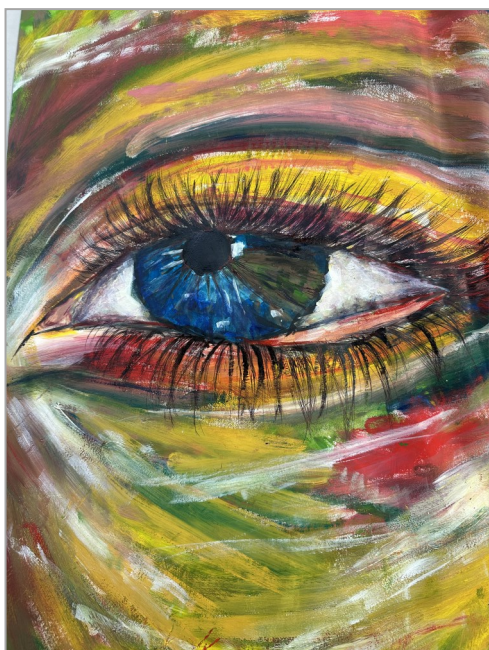

Another successful Smile Week

Congratulations to our Sixth form students and staff for another successful Smile Week in aid of Smile Malawi! It was a great week, with daily dress-up themes and fantastic shows in the theatre, including Teacher Taskmaster, Villain Fashion Show, Teacher Drag Race and Lip Sync Battle. And of course we mustn't forget the Vandyke's Got Talent show on Tuesday evening, when we were treated to some amazing performances from our students. The week was rounded off with a non-uniform day for Y9-11 students. The grand total raised across the whole week is an incredible £2,907! Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to everyone who donated - a great result for a very special charity.



Fine Artist of the Fortnight

Well done to Olivia T, our latest Fine Artist Of The Fortnight! Olivia works consistently hard in art, and actively uses the art department to catch up on work and experiment further in her project. After a very successful mock exam, she is on track to meet her Component 1 deadline. Well done Olivia!



Stanley is Cadet of the Year



A huge congratulations to Stanley R who was awarded the St John Ambulance West Anglia Cadet of the Year award earlier this month. Stanley worked incredibly hard to be put forward for this role and had a full day of interviews, presentations and practical challenges to complete before being presented with the award. He now moves forward to the National Finals in February 2024. Well done!

 Fantastic photos on Facebook!

It's been a busy two weeks since the last edition of Vandyke Voice, with **Smile Week** and our fantastic production of **School of Rock**. An album of brilliant photos from both events will be posted on Facebook shortly —just [click this link](#) or scan the QR code, then click on the Photos tab.



Monday 11th December - Tuesday 19th December	Year 11 Mock Exams
Tuesday 19th December	Last day of term Y9 & 10 - finish at 12.15pm Y11, 12 & 13 - finish at break time Buses arrive early
Thursday 4th January	Students return to school