

Dancing in the aisles with School of Rock!

"School of Rock the Musical" was performed in The Vandyke Theatre on 7th and 8th December to sold out audiences. Over 80 students were involved in this high energy, high quality performance.

Students rehearsed after school every Monday from mid-September. It was fantastic to see the young people from years 9-13 come together to perform, learning songs, dance routines and many, many spoken lines. The Drama and Music team were very proud of every member of the cast and the amazing live band.

Miss Doe said, "The show is always a highlight in the Drama and Music calendar. We're so proud of the effort, commitment and resilience you have all shown through weekly rehearsals since September. This has culminated into two stunning performances, which demonstrate your excellent ability to work with each other. We would also like to thank the live band for their accomplished music skills when accompanying the onstage performers. Well done, everyone."

A full album of photographs from the show can be found on our Facebook page - just click the link or scan the QR code on the second page of Vandyke Voice, and click on the Photos tab.

We're also pleased to announce that we raised £442.31 from the raffle and refreshments for The Leighton-Linslade Helpers, which will be used to help families and people in need in the town and surrounding area.



Basketball teams win district tournament

Congratulations to the Vandyke Year 9 boys' and Year 9 girls' basketball teams. Both teams won their district tournament at the end of last half term. All students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout and worked exceptionally hard to secure the victory.

Both teams are now moving on to the next round to represent Vandyke at the Bedfordshire County tournament - best of luck to everyone.



Rosettes for Vandyke Equestrian Team

The Vandyke Equestrian team were back in action at the end of last year, competing in the National Schools competition held at Bury Farm, Slapton. Due to the exceptionally cold temperatures the dressage competition was postponed, however the show jumping went ahead as scheduled.

Over 200 riders competed over the day at a variety of heights from schools across all of the local counties. The whole team rode brilliantly, winning some rosettes along the way - well done all!



Public Services students visit RAF Brize Norton

Last month, our Uniformed Protective Services students visited RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.



Brize Norton is the largest RAF Station with approximately 5,800 Service Personnel, 300 civilian staff and 1,200 contractors. The Station is home to the RAF's Air Mobility Force, encompassing Strategic and Tactical Air Transport, and Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) forces, as well as being host to many lodger and reserve units.

After we were issued with our passes, students met the commander of the education branch and she explained the different roles that are available and the entry requirements for the different trades. We were fortunate enough to be allowed on the airfield and sat inside a

Voyager, a massive aircraft which could fit a helicopter inside! It is also used to fuel other planes whilst in the sky. We spoke to the pilot and he showed us the controls in the cockpit and explained his role and career path.

We then went to the dog section and met many working dogs. We were briefed about their role and the difference between a working dog and a pet.

After lunch in the Sergeants' Mess, we learned about the roles of a chef and a Physical Training Instructor, and the sporting opportunities available to everyone working in the RAF. We were impressed with the facilities on the base, from the gym to the support for families.

We finished our visit with a walk through the Officers' mess and to the RAF airport, from which troops depart when being deployed.

It was a very educational trip, which gave an invaluable insight into the different careers and life in the RAF.



Fine Artist of the Fortnight

Good art and photography requires an investment of time and planning. Rachel B has dedicated so much of her time to this diorama, attempting to replicate the principles of Wes Anderson movies, she has almost become a permanent lunchtime artist in residence in the art department! We're delighted to see the hard work pay off - well done, Rachel.



Staff support KidsOut at Christmas

Once again, Vandyke staff donated Christmas gifts to the KidsOut charity. The KidsOut Giving Tree campaign welcomes donations of gifts for children and teenagers, and distributes them to families who have escaped domestic violence and are staying in local refuge homes. Our gifts were collected in early December and ensured that young people who may not otherwise receive any presents had something to open on Christmas morning.



Follow us on Facebook!

For the latest news and updates, upcoming events and performances, photos from school trips and events, and a glimpse of what daily life is like at Vandyke... follow us on Facebook! Just [click this link](#) or scan the QR code.



Thursday 18th January	Y11 Mock Results Evening
Friday 19th January	Deadline for Sixth Form applications
Tuesday 23rd January	Y9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Information Evening
Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th January	Y11 Subject Consultations (See website calendar for details)