

26 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

The New Year has started well in school. Students have returned ready to work hard and enjoy their time with us.

OFSTED inspection 23/24 January

As you will know it has been an especially busy week with an inspection of our Early Career Teacher provision (this went very well), an evening meeting for Duke of Edinburgh Awards at bronze level attended by a large number of Year 9 parents/carers, our Year 11 subject consultation events on Wednesday and Thursday and the issue of Year 11 progress reports. In addition we had the small matter of an OFSTED inspection.

Vandyke's last OFSTED inspection was in May 2018 so we have been waiting for the visit for some time and so it was with pleasure that I received the phone call from the Lead Inspector on Monday with the news that the inspection team of three inspectors would be in school on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thank you so much for the wonderful, supportive feedback you gave through the inspection questionnaire. It has been so gratifying to hear from the Lead Inspector that rarely has he seen such unanimity in parent/carer support for a school. This is available for anybody to see on OFSTED Parent View.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/24167/14>

The response to inspection by students was equally positive. Students conducted themselves impeccably and spoke so well about their school. The Lead Inspector said, "Your students are articulate, aspirational and universally proud of their school."

This was an ungraded inspection. The report will be published in a few weeks' time and we will send this to you. Inspectors noted some of the many strengths of our school and I do hope that, even though the language of an OFSTED report is typically bland, this will come through strongly. Staff and students deserve this.

I feel immensely proud of our students and their achievements and of our school. The way that the whole school community has conducted itself and responded so positively to inspection only reinforces what I know about Vandyke Upper School.

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

Yours sincerely



Tim Carroll
Headteacher