

18th July 2024

Dear parents / carers and students

I am writing to you in this my final week with students as headteacher. I started here in 2003 and have enjoyed a wonderful 21 years! I am truly proud of our students and their achievements and of our school. The support Vandyke has from parents and carers is immense – thank you. The support that I feel I have had from you likewise – thank you. I send my successor, Mrs Ferguson-Moore, and everybody at Vandyke every best wish for the future. I will be thinking about everyone in September!

End of Term

We finish the school year on Friday with Sports Festival for students in Years 10 and 11. Y13 students have lessons in P.1 and P.2 before departing at morning break.

For Sports Festival students come to school in their PE kit or may wear sports kit in their house colours if they wish. Sports Festival was postponed from last week due to awful weather so it is lovely that the weather forecast is fine and sunny so students can enjoy some time on the final day with staff and with their friends in the fresh air engaged in sporting activity.

Catering

Following a tendering process from September we have a new catering company, Culinera, providing food services across the school.

We are excited about Culinera's food offer that we think will appeal to students and will provide a rather different and more varied range of options at reasonable prices. Shortly you will be able to access information about Culinera's offer directly from the school website. In the meantime, the first edition of their bespoke newsletter is attached to this letter.

Car Parking

We have a plan to tackle the issue of parking congestion on site. Only permit holders should be parking on the school site during school hours in term time. Visitors sign in at reception and so are automatically logged as temporary permit holders. The school's site team already undertake regular monitoring of car parking. Under the new system vehicles parked without a permit will be subject to a fine. We will be using the services of a company with access to the DVLA to identify vehicles and issue fines. A fine will only be issued if authorised by the school and following a written warning.

It is not the wish to see any driver being fined and we hope that the new system will be sufficient deterrent to anybody parking without a permit. Signage for the scheme was put up ahead of the start on 1 July. Our policy covering this is available on the school website. Hopefully this new approach will mean that all authorised users of the school site can more easily park up in future.



Artsmark
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Vaccination catch up sessions


The NHS Immunisation Team is running a number of catch up clinics over the summer break. If your child has missed any of their school vaccinations or you have any questions regarding the vaccinations, please call the NHS Immunisation Team directly. Further details including contact information is on the attached poster.

School Summer Break

School finishes for the Summer break at 12.15pm on Friday 19 July with students returning to a staged start in September (Years 9 and 13 on Wednesday 4 September, Years 10 and 11 on Thursday 5 September, and Year 12 on Friday 6 September).

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Carroll', with a stylized, cursive style.

Tim Carroll

Headteacher