



VANDYKE Voice

Headteacher's Update



The summer term is upon us, and we have certainly been enjoying the warm sunshine recently. There is a tangible buzz across school with students carrying out final preparations with their teachers and support staff ahead of final exams. Warm-up schedules for Years 11 and 13 have been published and shared with students, so that every exam has a session with teachers beforehand to support with top-tips and final words of advice and encouragement. We wish everyone the best of luck.

Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver students have again represented Vandyke with excellence and tenacity. Their commitment, politeness and enjoyment of the expeditions has been recognised by our staff, volunteers and members of the public. It is wonderful to hear of such strong teamwork and support between the students.

Likewise, we are very proud of our students' skills and talents in sporting activities. This edition of Vandyke Voice is no exception in showcasing fantastic achievements, this time in national football teams and also in Year 9 and 10 rugby. Well done to all our students who have represented Vandyke so admirably in our sports teams.

Finally, a feature unique to Vandyke is the range of trips, both local and further afield, which are available for our students. The recent trip to Italy was a wonderful experience for all involved and provided an experience to remember. With trips to France and Germany also planned for the summer, we know that students are already looking forward to their next adventure!

Duke of Edinburgh's Award success continues



A big congratulations to the 86 participants from Y10 who passed their **Bronze Qualifying Expedition** at the end of the Spring Term!

Starting in Ivinghoe, several routes were undertaken by teams to walk to Vandyke where tents were pitched on the school field for overnight camping. A circuit route out to Wing and Ledburn was then completed on day two.



In the build-up, nobody imagined that those involved would receive four dry weather days in a row and that the only reason that waterproofs were worn was to provide extra layers to keep warm at night. Waking up to frost in the morning, but then trying to stay safe in the sun only a few hours later, meant that everyone certainly had to deal with extremes of temperature! Participants coped really well, and staff were impressed with the skills they demonstrated, and their positive approach throughout.



And the end of April brought strong performances and wonderful weather on the **Silver Assessed Expedition**. Congratulations to the 28 Year 11 participants who

undertook their expedition in the White Peaks, Staffordshire/Derbyshire.

Starting just south of Leek, teams excelled in navigation as they made their way towards camp one near Blackshaw Moor. All teams delighted staff volunteers with their team cohesion, campcraft skills, general organisation and positive mindset. Teams were rewarded with stunning views as they walked up and over the rocky Roaches on day two, to then settle at Gradbach Scout Camp, where a camp fire was enjoyed.



The final day delivered wall to wall sunshine, success for all and a well-deserved ice cream on completion in Buxton. All participants should feel really proud of their achievements and the progress they have made since the Practice Expedition in October - very well done!



You'll find lots more photographs of both expeditions on our social media pages - links on back page.



GOLD QUALITY MARK 2015-17



PROUD TO BE A MUSIC MARK SCHOOL



Good Provider



Artsmark Platinum Award Awarded by Arts Council England





International success for Nieve

Congratulations to Nieve C who was chosen to represent the England Schools' FA U15 Girls (despite playing up an age group) in the prestigious [Bob Docherty Tournament](#) in Northern Ireland, which took place over the Easter holiday.

In a friendly match in the run-up to the tournament, Nieve scored a wonderful goal for her country against Wales. She also played against the Scotland and Republic of Ireland teams during the tournament itself.

This is a simply wonderful achievement, and a fantastic opportunity for Nieve to represent her country at international level. Nieve is a great ambassador for our school and we are very proud of her.

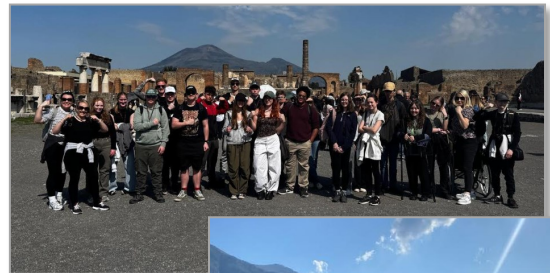
Geography students enjoy Italian adventure

Last term, Vandyke geography students swapped classrooms for coastlines as they embarked on an adventure to southern Italy.

Our trip included a scenic drive along the Amalfi Coast, where pastel-coloured houses clung to steep cliffs and the views were nothing short of breathtaking. We visited Positano and Amalfi, two charming coastal towns, soaking in the Mediterranean atmosphere and enjoying the chance to sample local delicacies.

One of the highlights was a boat trip along the Amalfi Coast to Salerno. The crystal-clear water, dramatic rock formations, and hidden coves were geography in real life, beyond anything a textbook could show. A key part of the trip was our visit to the ancient city of Pompeii. Walking through the preserved streets, homes, and amphitheatres gave us a powerful insight into Roman life - and the devastating eruption that buried the city in ash nearly 2,000 years ago. Then Mount Vesuvius itself, climbing to the summit and peering into the crater of one of the world's most famous active volcanoes. It was tough, but the views made every step worth it!

Of course, no visit to Italy would be complete without indulging in some culinary culture. We took part in a fun and interactive gelato-making lesson, and became pizza chefs at Pizza Metro. [Read more on the Vandyke website.](#)



Rugby team do Vandyke proud

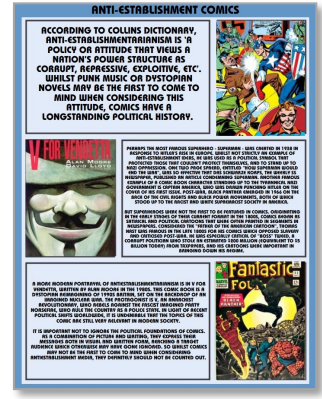
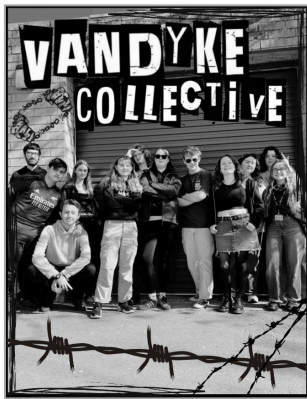


Vandyke entered two teams of Y9 and Y10 boys into a Rugby 7s competition last week, which took place at Stockwood Park. All 16 boys who represented the school did an exceptional job and showed how great our students really are! Both teams reached a semi-final, where we lost marginally.

There are a few special mentions for fantastic tackling and some try-saving stops from Aiden R, Zachary K and George G. There were also some amazing tries scored by Riley D, Jake H and Olo W. Overall, it was a great effort and a very enjoyable day for all.

Vandyke Collective

Issue 9 of the Vandyke Collective magazine has landed! It's hard to believe that our fantastic student magazine has reached its 9th edition already. [You can read it in full on our website.](#)



A team of around 30 students work as journalists, subeditors or as part of the design team to put together each edition of the magazine. All articles and content are chosen by the students themselves and they are very pleased with how the magazine is developing.

We are always interested in showcasing local talent and skills so if you would like to be involved or if you know of someone who should feature in our next issue, please contact Mr. Cain and the sub-editing team.

Vandyke teacher helps brighten town centre

Next time you're in the town centre, have a look to see what's changed. The new planters have had a creative makeover by a group of local artists - have you spotted them all?

Leighton Linslade Town Council recently called on local artists to bring their creative vision to life in an exciting new town centre art project. Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), this initiative invited artists to design and paint planters throughout the town centre, capturing the essence of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade through its landmarks, history and community spirit.

We're very proud that our school has been represented by our DT and Catering teacher, Miss Chrysanthou, who designed a planter inspired by the LB Pride event (top left), which took place for the first time last summer and is returning this year. Congratulations to everyone involved – the town centre looks beautiful!



Get sociable with Vandyke!

Follow us here for our latest news and updates, upcoming events and performances, and photographs from school trips and events...

-  Vandyke Upper School
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-  @vandykeschool
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Mon 5th May	Bank holiday - school closed
w/c Mon 5th May	External exams begin
Wed 21st May	Y9 Awards Evening
Fri 23rd May	Last day of half term
Mon 26th - Fri 30th May	Half term break
Mon 2nd June	Students return to school

Vandyke DiARY