



# VANDYKE UPPER SCHOOL

*Responsible, Respectful, Resilient. World Ready.*

Headteacher: Mrs L Ferguson-Moore

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10 November 2025

Dear parents, carers and students.

I recently wrote to you, on 10 October 2025, with an overview of the positive feedback we received following our recent participation in the Ofsted pilot inspection. I am now writing this letter to you with more detailed information about the inspection team's findings so you also have clear knowledge and understanding about their opinions of our school and the strong level of education our students receive.

We were keen to be part of the wider conversation about how schools should be evaluated and knew that as a proud and successful upper school, we would be a useful case study for Ofsted. Being chosen to be part of the national pilot inspection process also meant that we would gain useful feedback about the wide-ranging education we provide for our students.

We were visited by seven Ofsted inspectors over two days who evaluated all areas of school life including safeguarding, teaching and learning, curriculum design, personal development and behaviour.

It was a real pleasure being able to share our school with the visiting team. The inspectors recognised we have a robust culture of safeguarding, strong academic ambition, and students reported they felt happy and cared for at school. The findings celebrate the school as a safe, highly inclusive, and flourishing environment where every student is given the opportunity to thrive.

As this was a pilot inspection visit and designed to feed into Ofsted's own evaluations about how best to inspect schools, we will not receive a written report. We did, however, receive detailed feedback and below you will find some of the highlights which I am very pleased to share with you.

- At the heart of the school's success is a strong, positive culture where staff and students are happy and proud. This positive atmosphere is underpinned by a very strong commitment to student safety.
- Safeguarding is a clear strength, with rigorous, robust systems in place for tracking and monitoring. Staff are described as strong advocates for all students.
- School leadership is transparent and highly reflective, operating with a clear, accurate view of the school's strengths and areas for development. Staff, including new teachers, are proud and happy to work at Vandyke.
- Students feel safe, looked after, known as individuals, and understood, with the school described by pupils as "such a safe place" to learn and comfortably discuss sensitive issues.
- The highly inclusive environment ensures every student is supported with precision and care. The passionate pastoral team ensures every student gets the chance to thrive.
- The school's carefully considered curriculum is ambitious, thoughtful, and well planned. The positive climate translates directly into high standards of achievement and behaviour.
- The Sixth Form is highly effective, offering a wide and varied choice of courses with excellent careers guidance, which was described as a "stand-out feature."
- Behaviour is strong, marked by self-discipline, civility, respect, and friendliness. There is virtually no low-level disruption in lessons or corridors, creating a culture conducive to learning.



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We are delighted with this feedback and agree it is a strong reflection of our school. Areas for improvement that were identified by the inspection team are already areas that we are developing, such as rigorous tracking of all interventions (academic and extracurricular) and a continued focus on adaptive teaching so that all students can reach their full potential across the curriculum.

As part of our commitment to continued development, so that we can ensure every individual thrives, we continue to conduct our own internal and external evaluations, including regular opportunities for our students to contribute through class meetings, school council and regular student panel forums which debate all areas of school life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents, carers, students and staff for contributing to everything that makes our school such a special place.

For further information and highlights, please see our website and our regular publication about all aspects of school life "Vandyke Voice".

[vandyke.beds.sch.uk](http://vandyke.beds.sch.uk)

[vandyke.beds.sch.uk/latest-news/vandyke-voice/](http://vandyke.beds.sch.uk/latest-news/vandyke-voice/)

With best wishes,

Leah Ferguson-Moore  
Headteacher



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