

13 February 2026

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of another half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that has been achieved over the past few weeks. This term has been a significant milestone for many of our year groups. I'm sure all staff will join me in saying well done to our Year 11 students for the maturity and focus they displayed during their recent core mock exams. These assessments are a demanding opportunity to test out revision methods so far and plan ahead for how to approach the real examinations in the summer. The Maximise fortnight, walking talking mocks and mock results evening were also very successful and students responded with positivity and enthusiasm.

Looking ahead, our Year 13 students are preparing for their upcoming mocks following the half-term break. We know the pressure that comes with this pivotal year, and we wish all students the very best of luck in your final preparations. Take this time over the half term to rest, but stay focused—your hard work is paving the way for your future. Year 13 will be on study leave for the first week back after half term; only required to be in school for exams. Study spaces will, of course, be available if students wish to revise and prepare in school. Students who study practical subjects (including Drama) and BTEC subjects are guided to attend every possible lesson to work on final pieces of coursework, even during mock week.

For our Year 9 students, this term marked a significant chapter in their educational journey so far as they finalised their GCSE options. We will update you all in due course about the final outcomes of the subject allocations in plenty of time ahead of beginning Year 10, and studying your new subject choices, which will start in June.

For the latest information about the wonderful extracurricular activities that have taken place this term, please visit our website and read the recent edition of Vandyke Voice:

<https://vandyke.beds.sch.uk/latest-news/vandyke-voice/>

### **Annual survey and continuing school improvement**

We have had a very busy year so far and enjoyed inviting so many of our families into school for information evenings, mock results evenings, subject consultations, theatre and musical events. We have also consulted with students and their families on changes to how we praise and celebrate our students and our behaviour policy. We regularly hold student voice panels, class meetings and school council meetings for feedback on all areas of school and how we can continue to develop.

We now ask for your further feedback through our annual survey. Your ideas truly matter to us and support our continuing endeavours to ensure our school remains a highly successful place of learning and pastoral care for all our students.

#### [Parent and carer survey](#)

The survey is a Google form and should only take a few minutes to complete. The deadline is 27 February 2026.

Students will have the opportunity to complete their annual survey in school. However, the link is here if they wish to complete it at home.

#### [Student survey](#)



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## School uniform and equipment

To maintain the purposeful and inclusive environment we all value, I would like to kindly remind all families about the importance of our school uniform policy. Our uniform is designed to be comfortable and fosters a sense of belonging. Similarly, please ensure your child returns after the break fully equipped with the necessary stationery and equipment for their lessons. All information is on our website. Thank you for all your support in maintaining these expectations, which allows our focus to be centred on learning.

## Mobile phone developments

I am sure you will have seen the recent updates to the government's approach to mobile phones and social media in schools, please be assured that we are watching these developments closely. Our priority will always be ensuring that the school day is a focused, social, and safe environment that fosters positive wellbeing for our whole community. We will keep you updated should any refinements to our current policy become necessary.

## Year 11 and 13 prom update - save the date!

Letters have gone out for the end of Year 11 and end of Year 13 proms.

- Year 11: Tuesday 16 June 2026 at Wilton Hall, Bletchley
- Year 13: Friday 3 July 2026 at Woburn Safari Lodge

These are wonderful events celebrating our students' milestones with us at Vandyke. If you have not received a letter through Edulink, please contact the relevant year office.

## 50th anniversary preparations

September 2026 will be the start of a very important year in Vandyke's history: our 50th year since opening! Plans are already underway for how we plan to celebrate with our community, current and past students, and staff who have worked here over the years. Please keep an eye out for our social media posts, articles in the local newspaper and school communications about upcoming events and how you can join us in celebrating our history. We have setup an email address for any contact, please email [fifty@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:fifty@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk)

**Key Dates for Next Term** Please note the following important dates for the spring term. More details about each event will follow through messages sent via Edulink.

Students with summer examinations will be able to find all details of these on the Exams Assist app and our website: <https://vandyke.beds.sch.uk/students/exams/>

Date	Event
23rd February -6th March 2026	Y13 Exams
12th March 2026	Y13 Drama Exam
18th March 2026	GCSE Drama Exam



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# VANDYKE UPPER SCHOOL

*Responsible, Respectful, Resilient. World Ready.*

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18th March 2026	Y10 Progress report 2
18th March 2026	Y10 Subject Consultations core 4-7pm (online)
19th March 2026	Y10 Subject Consultations options 4-7pm (In-person)
24th March 2026	GCSE Photography Exam
25th March 2026	GCSE Drama Exam
25th March 2026	GCSE Photography Exam
26th March 2026	GCSE Art Exam
26th March 2026	GCSE Photography Exam
26th March 2026	Y13 Subject Consultations 4-7.30pm
27th March 2026	GCSE Art Exam
27th March 2026	Last day of term

Finally, I wish you all a peaceful and restful half-term break with your families and friends. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an integral part of our school community.

Best wishes,

Leah Ferguson-Moore



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