



# VANDYKE UPPER SCHOOL

*Responsible, Respectful, Resilient. World Ready.*

Headteacher: Mrs L Ferguson-Moore

T: 01525 636700

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27 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of another busy half term filled with many exciting opportunities for all our students both inside and beyond the classroom.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the recent finalising of coursework, assessment and revision in lessons, represent a significant milestone. It offers a tangible opportunity for goal setting highlighting specific areas where targeted revision will have the greatest impact. A series of revision sessions are running across many subjects during the holidays - these timetables have been sent home via Edulink. We encourage our students to use the Easter break to revise and prepare for the final exams, but to balance this with rest and relaxation so they can return with the focus and energy that will be required for the next term.

The life of the school has been greatly enriched by our recent trips both at home and abroad. Whether through the cultural immersion of our Italy trip, the resilience built on the ski slopes, the teamwork and physical requirements of the John Muir trip, or the innovation displayed during the Red Bull challenge day, our students have represented us, and themselves, with characteristic Vandyke positivity and collaboration. This excellence has been mirrored in our competitive sporting achievements, where students' skill, teamwork and tenacity have led to a truly impressive run of results across all year groups.

I would also like to thank you for your thoughtful contributions to the ongoing evaluation regarding mobile phones in schools. This national debate is high on the government agenda and your insights into the impact of mobile phones and social media on our young people are invaluable for our own context. I will be able to update you with the findings and our next step planning after the Easter break.

Furthermore, the results of our annual parent and carer survey were exceptionally encouraging. 95% of you who responded reported that their child feels happy and safe at Vandyke and they would recommend our school to other parents and carers. This is very important to us because we are of the firm belief that children who are happy in their school environment have the strongest chances of both academic and personal success. The student survey yields very similar results about their school experience. We are currently reviewing the areas highlighted in your feedback that could be developed. We are also consulting directly with our student body through class meetings, smaller student panels and the school council to evaluate some areas of school life in more detail so that their voices remain at the heart of our continuing school improvement plans.

## Key Dates for the Summer Term

**Year 11 and 13 final exam timetables can be found on the Exams Assist app and our website (<https://vandyke.beds.sch.uk/students/exams/>)**

Date	Event
Easter revision sessions	Dates have been sent out to Year 11 and 13 parents and carers
14 April 2026	All year groups return to school
	A Level photography exams
	Year 11 fashion exams



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20 April 2026	Year 12 examination week A Level art exam
24 April 2026	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award
	Year 9 Rhineland trip
4 May 2026	Bank holiday (school closed)
20 May 2026	Year 9 awards evening
22 May 2026	Last day of term

## Visiting photographer

During the next half term (date TBC) we will be inviting a photography company into school to take new photos for our upcoming prospectus, in school publications, social media and the website. We have a planned schedule covering lessons and casual shots. As all students are over the age of 13, they can give consent to be in the photos and we will be asking for this ahead of each photoshoot. If your child is already exempt from being in photographs we have this on record; please ensure your child is aware if they are exempt from photographs before they return from the Easter break. If you wish for your child to be exempt from these and future photographs, please contact the relevant year team directly.

## Reminders

### 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.

### 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)

### Safeguarding over the school holiday

If you require support with any safeguarding concerns over the Easter holiday, please visit our website for a range of supporting information and important contact details. [Student Support Services and Internet Safety – Vandyke Upper School.](#)



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I would like to thank all our Vandyke community for your continued support. I wish you all a happy Easter with your family and friends.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Kind regards,

Leah Ferguson-Moore  
Headteacher



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