



VANDYKE UPPER SCHOOL

Responsible, Respectful, Resilient. World Ready.

Headteacher: Mrs L Ferguson-Moore

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22 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another incredibly busy and productive half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the last six weeks and share some important updates ahead of the break.

First and foremost, I extend my warmest congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. They have been completing their final exams over the last few weeks, and their conduct has been nothing short of exemplary. We have been incredibly impressed by their focus, resilience, and sheer determination to do their best. To mark the important milestone of leaving full time school to begin study leave, we have shared wonderful celebrations with our students: celebration assemblies which have included lovely reflections on the past years, pizza and cake, and shirt signing for the year 11s, which is always a highlight. I hope that all our students have made lasting fond memories of their time at Vandyke.

Exams continue after half term as does our care and support for students. Year teams and teachers are still on hand to guide revision through warm up sessions and contactable for any other queries.

Additionally, a special mention must go to our Year 10 Public Services students, who recently completed their formal exam. Their maturity and excellent approach to this assessment were a credit to themselves and the school.

When we return after the half-term break, we will be launching our new academic year. This is always an exciting time at our school as our students step up into their next key stages:

- Year 9 will transition into Year 10 (beginning their formal GCSE/Key Stage 4 journeys)
- Year 10 will move up to become our new Year 11 cohort (end of school for new Year 11s will be 3.05pm)
- Year 12 will step into their final year as Year 13

Students have been issued with new timetables ahead of their return in June. This early transition provides an excellent head start to new courses, allowing everyone to settle into their new routines, meet their new teachers, and build momentum before the summer holidays.

Mobile phone pouches

As you will be aware, we are introducing phone pouches as a way for students in Years 9 to 11 to store their mobile phones, smart watches and listening devices. Thank you to everyone who has shared feedback through the consultation and following our announcement. Your support is invaluable and we are pleased to know that the overwhelming majority of our parents and carers support the move. Our new phone pouch procedures will officially launch on Monday 6th July 2026. Please log into ParentPay to purchase a pouch for your child before this date.



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School equipment

You will have received a letter from us recently about school equipment. Thank you in advance for your support to ensure that your child has all the correct equipment for their lessons, including a suitable calculator. Being equipped means lessons can start on time and barriers to learning are minimised. All required resources can be purchased through Parent Pay.

'World Ready' Week

Students in both New Year 10 and 11 will enjoy a week of activities in this coming final half term. Our 'World Ready' weeks are designed to teach students about the workplace while developing vital employability skills.

- Students in New Year 10 will participate in our annual Employer Event, where they will have the chance to interact with employers from a chosen sector of interest. They will also learn more about links between their curriculum areas and careers.
- New Year 11 students can opt to enjoy A-Level and BTEC Level 3 Taster sessions, enjoy an application and interview workshop, or undergo a visit to a local university.

All students will have assemblies where they hear about the career paths of a range of individuals and will have the chance to discuss their future career ideas with a staff member. Students from some subject areas will undertake a virtual work experience placement. 'World Ready' week is a new innovation and an important feature of our excellent careers programme as it helps to motivate and inspire students as they work towards their next steps. Our careers programme has a profound impact on the destinations of our students, with over 50% of Vandyke students who apply for university studying at a top Russell Group institution, and our degree apprenticeship rates are double the national average!

Important dates for next half term

Date	Event
3rd June 2026	(Old) Y10 Awards evening
11th June 2026	New Y13 subject consultations 4-7.30pm
16th June	(Old) Year 11 prom
W/c 22nd June 2026	New Y11 exam week
29th June 2026	New Y12 Induction
30th June 2026	New Y12 Induction



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1st July 2026	New Y9 induction
2nd July 2026	New Y9 Induction
2nd July 2026	New Y9 Intake evening 6-8.30pm
3rd July 2026	Sports Festival
3rd July 2026	(Old) Year 13 summer ball
14th July 2026	Sports Festival - Reserve Date
17th July 2026	Last day of term
13th August 2026	Year 13 results day*
20 August 2026	Year 11 results day*

*Specific, detailed arrangements regarding Results Day collection times and procedures for this summer will be sent out in a separate, dedicated communication shortly after half term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership, encouragement, and support. It is because of the strong bond between home and school that our young people are able to thrive as they do.

I wish you and your families a restful, happy, and sunny half-term break.

Warmest regards,

Leah Ferguson-Moore
Headteacher



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