



Vanguard School

End of Term Newsletter

Friday 17th July, 2026



Principal note

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we draw towards the end of term, it is an opportunity to reflect on the year we have had and recognise the resilience of our students who have engaged and achieved so much this year, especially during the continuing heatwave. We are particularly proud of so many of our students who have achieved a college place this year and wish them all the success in their new ventures. We will miss them and wish them the best for the future.

It has been lovely to meet many of you throughout the year, whether helping your pupils through the Options evenings in Year 9; at our pastoral meeting with tutors; at our Internet Safety parents' evenings. Opportunities to meet face to face are valuable and I am keen that we have more instances to invite you into our school to share the educational journey of your children and help network with other families.

We are keen to provide a number of coffee and information mornings with a programme of training and talks across the year. Details will be shared at the beginning of the next academic year where we hope that as many of you as possible can attend throughout. This will include dates of the pastoral meeting with tutors, Year 9 Options meeting to be held in the Spring and Parents Evenings in the Spring and Summer Term.

Sadly, we say goodbye to a number of staff and wish them well in their future endeavours:

- Shira Zecharia who will be moving back to Israel to be with her family;
- Michelle Ward who will be moving onto new ventures in another school;
- Laura Blake Hinds who will be spending time with family before looking for another role in the future;
- Will Johnson who will be relocating to Bristol to be with his family;

We thank them all for their contributions to the pupils, parents and staff at Vanguard and will miss them greatly. Thank you also to our agency staff who have been working with us over this term; they have been so valuable in supporting the pupils.

We have also been able to establish new roles within the Vanguard Team to build our capacity to support our pupils and families. Mohammed Hoshey will be promoted to HLTA – Careers and Preparation for Adulthood and Amy McLleland will be promoted to Family Liaison Officer.

I wish you and your families a restful break and look forward to seeing you all in September. Have fun, be safe and enjoy!

Mrs Rachael Clements and the Staff at VGS

Important Dates

Wednesday 2nd September - Friday 4th

September Staff inset days

Monday 7th September Students return to school at 8:45am

Friday 23rd October End of term; school finishes at 3:15pm



Trips & Visits

Key Stage 4 Visit the British Museum

Seven students, accompanied by Ms Sham and Ms Falinska, enjoyed a fascinating visit to the British Museum this term. The group was particularly engaged by the Egyptian galleries, where they learned about Egyptian beliefs surrounding death and the afterlife and were amazed by the collection of mummies on display.

Students also enjoyed exploring the ancient coin exhibition, discovering how coins were used throughout history. It was a valuable and memorable educational experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Mateo says 'the museum was beautiful, yet historic'. Ezenwa says 'there are a lot of things that you can discover at the British Museum.'



Students from the Junior Leadership Team visited a local bookshop to help buy books for to help support our new reading space.



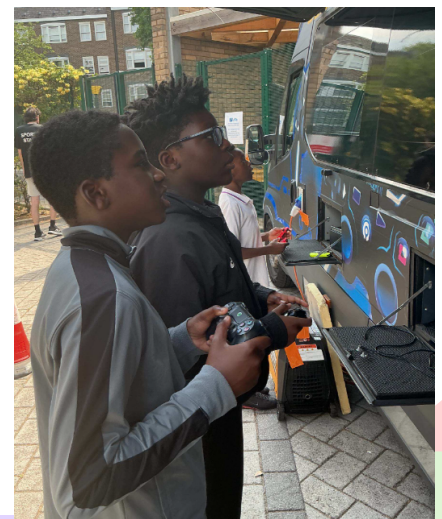
Social Enterprise Academy Awards & Marketplace

Our students recently attended the Social Enterprise Academy Awards & Marketplace, where they showcased and sold products from their student-run enterprises. The event was a fantastic success, with students earning additional funds for their projects, developing their entrepreneurial skills, and making valuable connections. To top off a brilliant day, they were recognised for their hard work and achievements by receiving an award. Well done to everyone involved!

Gaming Bus

On Friday 10th July, Vanguard students enjoyed sessions on a Gaming Bus. This custom made airconditioned bus houses multiple consoles such PlayStation and Xbox where students could play individually, with one another and some challenging staff to a game of FIFA.

A good time was enjoyed by all and we hope to host The Gaming Bus again next summer.





Go-Karting

At Oasis Play the students have been skilled with the knowledge of Teamwork, Determination and Courage. They all have learnt the following

- Kart Maintenance checks
- How to drive
- Racing being safe
- Marshalling

It has been great fun and the staff at Oasis Play Josh, Lois and Ezmo have played a positive role to our students.



Art Department



Reyes Year 13



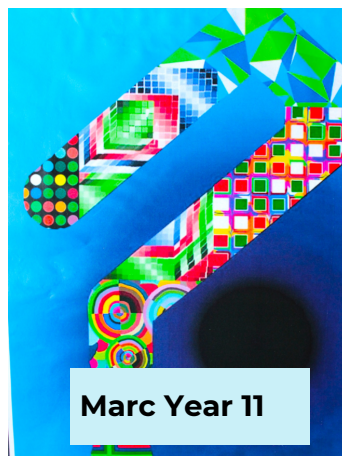
Ayo Year 13



Beau Year 11



Alicia Year 13



Marc Year 11



A-Sia Year 11



Hello from the Therapy Team

Staying safe in the sun

Hello from the Therapy Team!

It is hard to believe but it is already the end of the summer term! As the summer months are warm, it is important to consider the comfort and health of your young person during summer heatwaves.

To keep our bodies at a comfortable temperature, we need to be able to sense how hot we are which can be difficult. Some people may be less aware of how warm they are, misinterpret cues or can lose the sensation to the 'background noise' of other senses. Everyone is different! It is important to be careful of this as getting too warm can increase risk of heat-related health issues such as dehydration or sleep disruption. The sensation of sweat, heat, humidity and sounds of fans may also be uncomfortable for your young person. Those sensitive to crowds may even avoid cooler areas such as an air-conditioned places because there's too many people around. Here we have compiled some useful tips to help you deal with hot days.

- **Provide calm environments** make sure your young person has a well-ventilated safe place with access to cooling such as a fan or AC where possible. Remember to bring ear defenders / music if your young person is bothered by the noise of fans.
- **Be aware of signs of discomfort** look to see if your young person is sweating, flushed or very dry. They may not be aware that they are overheating, so remember to keep an eye on them!
- **Wear sensory friendly clothes** avoid tight-fitting, synthetic clothes if possible. Choose breathable fabrics (such as cotton or linen) that are loose and light coloured. Some might find the sensations of certain fabrics uncomfortable when sweating, so keep this in mind when supporting young people's choices.
- **Offer alternative sun protection** some young people may be averse to the sensation of suncream- but it is still important to utilise! Try alternatives such as sun sticks, sprays or powder-based sunscreen. Some people prefer for example Korean suncreams because they are less oily. You can also use different methods of sun protection such as clothing with UPF protection fabric.
- **Remind them to stay hydrated** give frequent reminders for your young person to drink water and bring a water bottle out if possible. Ice lollies or fruits that have high water content can also be a way to boost hydration.
- **Check-in!** Make sure to check-in on your young person when you notice discomfort. Ask or have small visuals to show (can be a simple drawing) if they would need anything to help cool themselves down such as water or a cool shower.

We look forward to seeing you return for the new half-term on
Monday 7th September, 2026 at 8:45am