



# Vanguard School End of Term Newsletter



Friday 27th March, 2026

## Principal note

Although a shorter half term, we have managed to pack a lot in. This half term has provided a real focus on exam preparation and mocks, supporting pupils towards their future successes. However, alongside, we have celebrated World Book Day, organised History and Art trips and provided cycling proficiency through Bikeability for all the students.

We have secured funding for ActivFloor software and resources. With ActiveFloor, we will be able to transform floors and walls into interactive experience spaces and actively engage pupils with educational opportunities through movement, play, teamwork and social interaction. With an extensive library, there are opportunities to build knowledge across the curriculum as well as support fitness and cultural and sensory experiences. Our intention is to have this installed in the Summer term to enable pupils to access this throughout curriculum time and provide additional capacity for enrichment and lunch breaks. Please take a look on the website at: [activefloor.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/MyFloor-software-intro-web.mp4](https://activefloor.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/MyFloor-software-intro-web.mp4)

We have also been awarded £5,000 via the RHS and this will be used to plant some more trees and make greener spaces in the playground. This will also enable gardening activities and lessons planned working collaboratively with a local provider, Roots and Shoots.

It was great to see the parents and carers who attended parents' evening this week. Thank you for coming in to meet with the teachers and discuss your children's progress, particularly to discuss revision and progress towards their exams. Please also see the Exam Revision being by our Maths, English and Science department.

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend our online safety workshop led by the Amari Rae Foundation. We are aware that with tube lines down and child sickness, it was difficult for some of you to attend, we will look to offer this again in the next academic year. It was a very useful opportunity to learn and share experiences as well as build relationships with other parents.

We would like to welcome an additional number of new learning mentors who have been supporting our pupils: Rob Acheson, Junior Davis Purcell and Charles Farotimi.

Wishing you all a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 14th April at the normal time of 8.45am due to Inset Day for staff only on Monday, 14th April 2026.

Kind regards ,

Mrs Rachael Clements and the Staff at VGS

## Important Dates

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** Staff Inset Day

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April** Students return to school at 8:45am

**Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>** Bank Holiday

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** Key Stage 3 Parents' Afternoon 3:30pm - 5pm

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026** End of half-term 3pm

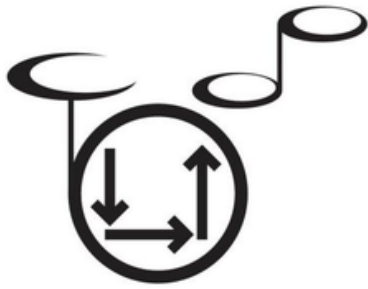


## Easter Revision

Vanguard will be running 3 days of Easter Revision sessions at Vanguard School on Monday, 30th March, Wednesday, 1st April for Years 10 through to 13.

The sessions will be run by Ms Falinska (Maths), Mr Carroll (English), Mr Saleem (Science) and Ms Begum (Science).

A letter was sent out at the beginning of the week to those parents affected. Please ensure you complete the permission slip and return prior to the end of the week.



**Clem Burke  
Drumming Project**

We are proud to say we will be working again with the Clem Burke drumming Project once again from April 14<sup>th</sup>. Students across key stages 3 and 4 will be given free drumming lessons twice a week to explore the effects of multi-limbic exercise on how students are ready to learn. The aims of the project are to build confidence, stamina, discipline, learn new skills and have some fun! If you are taking part, please remember to bring your consent forms back at the start of next half-term.



This term we have been very lucky to be able to offer three weeks of free cycling sessions for all of our pupils. These have been run by Elain Owen and Sean Owen from Cycle Confident. Bikeability is a nationally recognised cycle training programme supporting cyclists in acquiring the practical skills to cycle safely and with confidence on today's roads.

Some of our pupils have learnt to balance and ride independently, some have progressed onto Level 1, learning how to prepare themselves for a journey, pedal, slow down and stop, turn and control speed. Some have achieved Level 2, learning how to cycle safely and responsibly on the road, responding to hazards, maintaining suitable riding positions and complying with signals, signs and road markings. A few of our pupils have been working towards Level 3, learning how to plan a journey, maintain suitable riding positions, pass queuing traffic and use junctions controlled by traffic lights. We are incredibly proud of every young person who has had a go.

## Bikability



## Trips & Visits



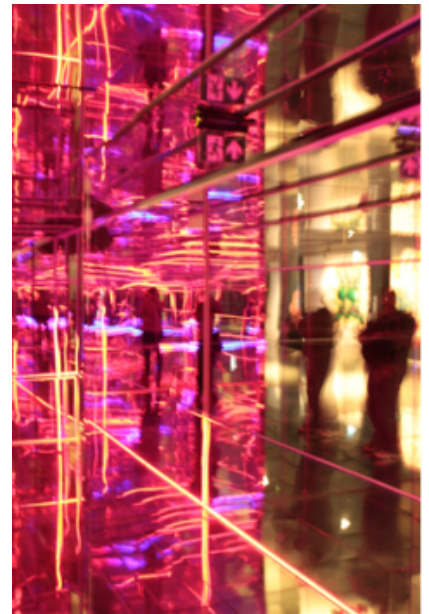
Year 8 went on a Central London trip to the National Portrait Gallery as part of their History Curriculum on significant women in British History. They also had the opportunity to do some fantastic sightseeing, from the National Covid Memorial Wall on the South Bank of the River Thames to Westminster Palace, Horse Guard Parade and Edward the Confessor's majestic Westminster Abbey.

**Lysiane Mampouya**

On Friday 13th March, the cohort of art exam candidates visited MOCO gallery. It's full of contemporary artworks including Andy Warhol and Banksy, as well as a crystalised porsche car and rooms of mirrors and lights. We weren't impressed with Robbie Williams' pieces- he's a better singer than artist. As the bus route has changed, we had a 20 minute walk. We saw great art and kept fit.

Everyone found some work that inspired them with their current work. Staff were so proud of the politeness and maturity of the students. Lots of thoughtful and intellectual conversations about the work seen.

**Mr Renton, Mr Ponzo and Ms Hall**





Helping develop independence in self-care and daily living activities

Developing strong independent living skills opens doors to greater autonomy, employment, education, and overall quality of life.

### Considering sensory differences

People may experience over or under responsivity to sensations, or a mixture of both. For example, being over-responsive to the feeling of water on their skin or being under-sensitive to pain and not notice if they cut themselves while shaving.

### Considering communication differences

People may experience difficulties understanding instructions, expressing needs and wants, seeking help, and making decisions, which can reduce independence and ultimately impact their wellbeing.

### What can we do?

- Set clear expectations through structured routines, preferably with visuals, such as step-by-step routines, and processing time, as required.
- Talk about it with your young people, praise for their growth and development and discuss where they would like to become more independent.
- Provide structured choices to provide a sense of control and their support decision making skills. For example, choosing their shower products, cooking together something they have chosen, choosing when they complete necessary tasks, for example showering in the morning or the evening. A good place to start is with two options to reduce overwhelm.
- Consider making small changes that may make actions or tasks a more positive experience for your young people. For example, playing music, having a bath instead of an overhead shower, or switching to an electric shaver.
- Encourage your young people to take part in household responsibilities and develop their independence in routine tasks; such as setting the table for mealtimes, taking out the rubbish, choosing their own clothes, or matching socks. Letting go = letting grow, by gradually reducing the support required.

### Morning Routine Checklist

- Brush teeth 
- Wash face 
- Get dressed 
- Eat breakfast 
- Pack bag 

### Evening Routine Checklist

- Eat a meal 
- Brush teeth 
- Wash face 
- Put on pyjamas 
- Bedtime 

We look forward to seeing you return for the new half-term on  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 at 8:45am**