



Vanguard School End of Term Newsletter

Friday 22nd May, 2026



Principal note

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has been the start of the Exams season, and pupils have shown real resilience and commitment. It has also been a busy time for our careers officer, 6th Form Lead, tutors and staff in supporting our older pupils with applications and preparation for interviews to equip them to finalize places at colleges, universities and onto apprenticeships.

We recognize that this is an exciting time as they move on to their next step in their educational journey and are proud of what they have achieved so far. It is rewarding to see them find an area which both motivates and engages them and has the recognition for all their efforts. We also recognize that there are some pupils leaving us who have been with Vanguard since its opening, as well as those who have been with us for a short time. It will be a larger transition to manage but hope they recognize all they have achieved so far.

If you have a student in Year 11 who wished to go onto study leave, please do contact the Senior Leadership Team.

Open Day

Next term, we have an Open Day scheduled for the afternoon of 30th June where we will be showcasing pupils work across our curriculum offer alongside our Clem Burke Drumming project. We will be inviting prospective parents, local authorities, as well as local businesses and schools. Our current Year 11 and 12 leavers will also be invited to support if they wish, particularly with school tours.

Parent Meeting

It was great to see parents and carers for the Key Stage 3 Parents' Evening event at Vanguard. We hope you have found this useful to understand the progress and support needed for your child and look forward to continuing to work with you.

I wish you a restful break whatever you may be doing, thankful to have some long-awaited sunshine.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rachael Clements and the Staff at VGS

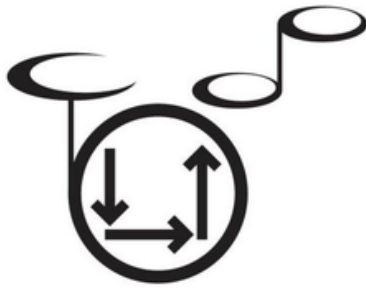
Important Dates

Monday 1st June Students return to school at 8:45pm

Tuesday 30th June 9am - Year 11 Leavers' Breakfast

Tuesday 30th June 2:30pm - 5pm Art & Literature Festival (Open Afternoon)

Friday 17th July School ends at 1pm for Summer Holidays



Clem Burke Drumming Project

Clem Burke Drumming Project

We are excited to continue our work with the Clem Burke Drumming project over the next half term. Students across years 7-13 will be learning complex techniques, rhythms, and having a lot of fun! The project aims to look at the effects of multi-limbo exercise on the autistic brain.

If your child is participating, please return the consent forms without delay.



Trips & Visits



Dragon's Den

Year 10 Students attended the Lambeth Made Dragons' Den event, where they independently presented and pitched their social enterprise ideas to a panel of "dragons" and representatives from other schools. The event brought together multiple schools to showcase student-led projects at Lambeth College.

What business ideas did the students have?

The two projects focused on:

- An Afterschool Club
- A Games Club

Each Year 10 group led and developed one of these initiatives from concept through to pitch.

Which ideas won and got funding?

Both projects were so strong that both groups were awarded funding, with each receiving £50. This was a particularly notable achievement, as it is rare for all entries from one school to receive funding.

What was the main positive outcome for students?

Students demonstrated excellent confidence, independence, and resilience — particularly as they delivered their pitches individually. The experience significantly developed their communication skills, teamwork, and entrepreneurial thinking.



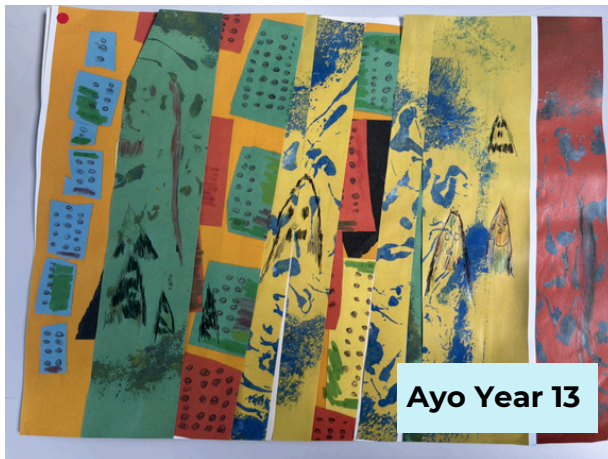


Wonderfully Wired

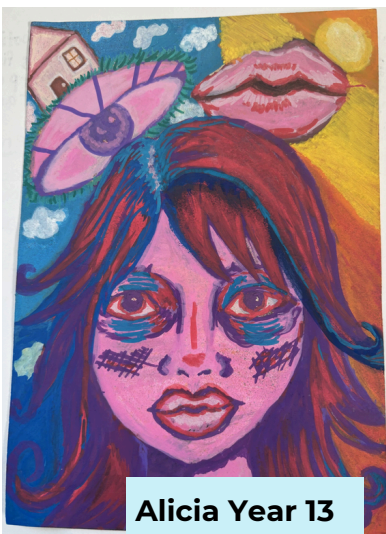
Students across the school worked hard to produce artwork for this exciting project. The stimulus was identity - students were asked to create artwork, poems or creative writing pieces that reflected themselves and how they see the world. These pieces will hopefully be published in a book by the Trust over the next year.



Reyes Year 13



Ayo Year 13



Alicia Year 13



Rion 9b

When the daylight fades to blue
and the world is quiet too
shadows stretch and lose their fight
softly comes the silver night

City noise begins to slow
Moonlight points to a gentle glow
every dream prepares for flight
under stars across the night

Every spark a distant fire
burning with a bright desire

stars across the night
shining wild and bright
whispers in the dark
tiny beating hearts
lighting up the sky
like hope that never dies
we are not alone
under stars across the night

every light a story told
some are young and some are old
travelling through endless space
just to find this quiet space

close your eyes and you will see
there's a universe in me
every wish takes silent flight
through the stars across the night
through the stars across the night

If the dark feels cold and wide
let their silver sparks be your guide
even when the road's unclear
look above the night is near

Holly 8a



Aiden 7a







Hello from the Therapy Team!

First, we are very happy to welcome Alice Wang and Heleina Tolosa Students from Essex University who have joined our Therapy Team this term.

They are working alongside Shira and Sam during therapy sessions with pupils. It has been a busy and positive start to the Summer Term. As part of our ongoing work, we would like to share some guidance around supporting young people as they explore and develop their sense of identity.

Young people are continually learning about who they are. This includes their interests, values, friendships, culture, and how they see themselves in the world. For many, this can be an exciting but sometimes challenging process to navigate, and they may benefit greatly from patience and understanding from trusted adults.

Here are some ways you can support your child at home

- **Encourage open conversations** Create opportunities for your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Listening calmly and without judgement helps them feel safe and valued. 
- **Give time and space to communicate** Allow your child extra time to find their words and express themselves. Try not to rush or finish sentences for them. 
- **Encourage expression in different ways** Some children may express themselves through gestures, visuals, or drawing as well as spoken language. All forms of communication are important.
- **Celebrate individuality** Acknowledge and affirm what makes your child unique, whether that's their interests, personality or perspective. 
- **Be curious and supportive** It's okay not to have all the answers—showing interest and willingness to understand can make a big difference. You can always say “thank you for sharing this with me”. 
- **Model respect for others** Demonstrating acceptance of differences helps children develop confidence in being themselves. 
- **Provide reassurance** Let your young person know that everyone's identity develops and changes over time.
- **Emphasize their strengths and areas of interest** What now might seem like a hobby or a special interest can be used to further develop relevant life and vocational skills. 

Every child's journey is different, and a supportive home environment plays a key role in helping them feel secure in who they are.

We look forward to seeing you return for the new half-term on
Monday 1st June, 2026 at 8:45am