

October 2021

VLC Newsletter



Welcome from the Principal

It has been a busy first term at the VLC. We welcomed a number of new staff at the start of the year and I am delighted to say that they all feel like they have been part of the team for much longer! We have also welcomed a number of new students and it has been great to see them quickly settle into our school community.

We know that **Covid 19** continues to have an impact across the country and that sadly, cases appear to be on the rise. We remain vigilant to the situation in school and will re-introduce stricter measures next term if needed to keep staff, students and families safe. We appreciate your ongoing support with regard to keeping children at home if they have any of the following symptoms:



- New persistent cough
- High temperature
- Change/loss of taste or smell

In these instances students should get a PCR test and only return to school if negative. If they test positive, they should return only after 10 days from testing positive or first showing symptoms.

I am sure that we are all looking forward to the half term holiday. Term ends this Friday, **22 October** and we re-open for staff and students on **Tuesday 2 November**.



News from across the school

Thrive Award for the School

We were very proud to hear over the summer holidays that we were awarded Thrive Ambassador School status; many of our students benefit from the Thrive approach and interventions to support their social and emotional needs. This award reflects the hard work of all those staff involved.



World Mental Health Awareness Day

The school turned yellow on Friday 8 October as staff marked World Mental Health Awareness Day. This was an important reminder to us all that mental health is just as important as physical health and that it's always ok to ask for help.





Phase One – a message from Mrs Perry

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We thoroughly enjoyed the Macmillan coffee morning that we hosted in school. Phase 1 students did a fantastic job with their baking and selling skills when we invited Phase 3 staff and students to join us to raise money. We've also been exploring cake decoration to celebrate student birthdays. Below is Mrs Perry's attempt at a fox, which made students smile!



Help!

'Help!' has been our topic this term and we've been exploring what we can do in an emergency and who can help us. We enjoyed having the PCSOs in for a visit as well as setting up a police role play area and creating maps with emergency services on.



Thank you to our parents/carers for their support this term. We hope you have a fab break.

Mrs Perry and the Phase 1 team!



Phase Two: a message from Ms Hobson

I have very much enjoyed meeting staff, students and parents/carers this term. Thank you for such a warm welcome!

Our school expectations, 'Ready, Respectful and Safe', have become the focus of our weekly assemblies. Every Friday this term we have met as a school to share important messages and raise awareness about national events.



Ready

All of our students' attendance has improved this term. This shows that our students are ready for learning and are making sure that they are preparing for their futures. I am really proud that two of our students whose creative writing will be published in the forthcoming Young Writers 'Empowered' collection: well done Logan and Rufus! Our Year 9 students have shown their readiness for accepting new challenges by engaging in their weekly Drama lesson led by Miss Magee and Jed.

Our students have also shown that they are ready for a physical challenge, the Year 11 students have been accessing the equipment at Hutton Moor, whilst our year 9 and 10 students have been showing off their sporting skills in Phase 1: making sure that they are physically and mentally ready for the rest of their week!





Phase Two

Respectful



Alongside the Certificates of Recognition that are awarded every week, we have introduced 'The Hobnob of the Week' award. This weekly award is given to the student who has gone above and beyond in some way. So far, we have had five students who have won the prestigious prize (and a packet of chocolate Hobnobs). Well done Bradley, Callum, Ruby, Christian and Reece. I look forward to seeing who will be the next 'Hobnob of the Week'!

Safe

Our Student Council has undertaken an action project to make sure that our students are road safe as they enter and leave the school site. The students have been raising awareness about road safety and have been engaging assistance and input from local agencies to ensure that drivers are more vigilant when they are passing by our school.



The Phase 2 students will be inspiring the younger students in Phase 1 to get involved with the project in a formal presentation next term.

Thank you to Ms Magee for all her work with the student council.





Phase Three: a message from Nicola Young

Term one has been busy with many new students starting at Phase 3. We are delighted to have Alex Overton, English teacher, join our teaching team and Megan Holmes and Tracey Adamson join our support staff team. We welcome you all and look forward to your continued contributions.

Year 10 and 11 students are slowly embracing GCSE level study and are busy developing art inspired by Andy Warhol, DAIN and Dominic Wilcox. Our biologists have begun several required practical investigations; preparing a variety of microscope slides and completing microscope drawings of impressive quality.



Within English Year 9 students are enjoying the thrills of Gothic Horror whereas Year 8 students are thoroughly enjoying the challenges of poetry. Food continues to be a favourite lesson with superb delights being produced such as beef burger doughnuts, Asian spiced meatballs and chocolate brownies.



Sweep, our therapy dog has really earned his treats over the last few weeks giving extra support to our many new students providing a welcome distraction before lessons and during breaks and lunchtimes. We are extremely grateful to Anna Difazio for allowing Sweep to spend time with us and for keeping him so shiny and pong free!

Wishing you all a wonderful half term and thanking you for sending your young people in centre ready to learn. Happy holidays.

