



Year 7 Update

06/2/2026

Assembly themes

Last week Mr Millard-Healy led the whole school assembly to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. He encouraged students to reflect on the stories of survivors, fostering a school community rooted in kindness, tolerance, and shared humanity.

Over the course of the next half term Year 7 Tutor groups will be taking it in turns to lead our year group assembly. Last week, 7 Parks kicked off with an excellent assembly on the life and lessons of their namesake, Rosa Parks, and yesterday 7W led a fascinating assembly about the history of the Olympics, just in time for the start of the 2026 Winter Olympics. Well done 7P and 7W and we are very much looking forward to seeing what the other tutor groups have to offer.

Uniform

As we progress through the term, we have noticed that uniform standards have slipped, and we kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child is correctly dressed before leaving for school each morning.

Please ensure that trousers are **plain black** and made of a **worsted or terylene style fabric** (suit material). Trousers must be a smart, suit-style cut with a formal waistband worn at the waist, avoiding any extreme or sagging styles. Please note that **tight-fitting designs, drainpipes, flares, or boot cuts are not permitted**, and fitness-style cotton leggings or flares are strictly prohibited. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a professional and focused environment for all our students.

In addition, please ensure that school ties are worn correctly, reaching down to the waist and positioned so that the school emblem is clearly displayed at the top, just beneath the knot. If your child wears a skirt to school this should be the agreed pleated green style to match the blazer and must not be rolled at the top.

Trainers are not permitted, unless there is a medical need. Students who arrive at school in trainers will be expected to change into school plimssoles.

Sensory tools in the classroom

Regarding the use of sensory tools, we recognise that fidget toys can be a highly effective strategy for students who require support with self-regulation. However, it is essential that these are used appropriately and discreetly within the classroom to avoid distraction. To aid in a smooth transition from primary to secondary school, we particularly recommend the use of Blue-tac as a simple, effective tool for focus. When students are provided sensory aids through Learning Support, they are small, silent, and unobtrusive, typically items such as spring rings or 'marble in a sleeve' mesh tubes. We ask for your support in ensuring that any items brought from home meet these same discreet standards to maintain a purposeful learning environment for everyone.

Safeguarding Snapshot

This week's safeguarding snapshot contains information regarding child exploitation. Please [[click here](#)] for further information.

Support Staff Vacancies

Please [[click here](#)] for a list of support staff vacancies across the VLT sites.

Stakeholder Feedback Survey closing today

Vanguard Learning Trust is committed to ensuring that all students feel safe, supported and able to thrive in our schools. Your views are incredibly important to us and we would be grateful if parents/carers could complete a short survey [[click here](#)] this term on the theme of safeguarding. Your child will also have the opportunity to complete a version of the survey in school designed for students. **The deadline for responses to this survey is 4pm on Friday 6th February 2026.**

Spring Term Key Dates

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February - Half Term	
Wed 4 th , Thur 5 th & Fri 6 th March	School Production
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Friday 13 th March	FOV Quiz Night
Friday 27 th March	Year 7 reports issued
Friday 27th March	End of Spring Term (3pm finish)

Summer Term Key Dates

Monday 13th April	Start of Summer Term
Friday 15 th May	FOV Quiz Night
Monday 25th to Friday 29th May – Half Term	
Thursday 4 th June	Year 7 parent consultation evening (online)
Monday 15 th June	Student Photos - Y8, Y9, Y10
Friday 19 th June	Year 7 reports issued
Wednesday 24 th June	Sports Day (year groups tbc)
Thursday 25 th June	Sports Day (year groups tbc)
Friday 26th June	Inset Day (school closed to students)
w/c Monday 13 th July	Silver awards assemblies – Years 7, 8, 9 and 10
Friday 17th July	End of Summer Term (12.20pm finish)