



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of our second week of the new academic year. Following such a positive start last week, it has been great to observe our children and young people continuing to settle back into school life and getting fully involved in their learning across school and residential.

There is already a real sense of purpose around school. Classrooms are busy, routines are becoming established and, importantly, our pupils are beginning to plan ahead to the opportunities and experiences that this new school year will bring.

As I have moved around school this week, I have particularly enjoyed seeing our pupils reconnecting not just with their learning, but with the wider St Vincent's community. Those relationships – between pupils, staff, families and friends – remain such an important part of what makes our school special.

Residential

It has been wonderful to observe residential pupils settling back into life at St Vincent's and becoming familiar with their new routines. The start of a new academic year can bring changes for everyone, and our residential team have been working hard to ensure that our young people feel comfortable, confident and supported as they settle in.

We are also delighted to have welcomed new pupils into our weekly residential provision this term. For those experiencing residential life at St Vincent's for the first time, there are lots of new routines, experiences and opportunities to become familiar with. It has been fantastic to see them beginning to settle in, build relationships with staff and other young people, and grow in confidence within their new surroundings.

I have really enjoyed spending some time in residential this week, catching up with our young people and observing first-hand how well everyone is adapting. A particular highlight was their pizza-making sessions, where pupils were busy preparing their own pizzas, developing their independent living skills and, of course, enjoying the finished results!

Activities such as these are an important part of our residential offer. Alongside being great fun, they provide meaningful opportunities for our young people to develop independence, make choices, work together and build skills that will support them beyond St Vincent's.

A brilliant start to the new term from our residential pupils and staff!

School House Points

Pupils can earn points throughout the week for their effort, achievements, positive behaviour, kindness and contribution to school life.

House Points are a great way of recognising the many different successes we see across St Vincent's each day - while also encouraging a little friendly competition between our Houses!

We'll be sharing the latest totals and celebrating our leading House regularly throughout the term – so keep collecting those points!

House points as we end week 2 are Elm 10, Ash 7 and Oak 13.

Swimming Awards

It has been fantastic to have our pupils getting back into the pool and developing their confidence and independence in swimming this term.

A special congratulations this week goes to Lucas, who achieved a brilliant milestone by completing a 20-metre unaided swim! This is a fantastic achievement and reflects Lucas's determination, confidence and hard work in the water.

Swimming is such an important life skill, and achievements like this are a great example of the progress our young people can make through perseverance and encouragement.

Well done, Lucas – 20 metres and counting!

Flu Vaccinations – reminder

Flu vaccinations will take place in school on Monday 12 October 2026. Please ensure that you have read the information provided and completed any required consent arrangements ahead of the vaccination date.

If you have any questions or have not received the information, please contact the school office.

As we come to the end of another busy week, it has been wonderful to see our pupils settling into their routines, embracing new opportunities and already achieving so much.

Thank you, as always, to our children and young people, staff, families and wider St Vincent's community for your continued enthusiasm and support.

I hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable weekend - and we look forward to welcoming you all back for another busy week on Monday.

Have a wonderful weekend!

With best wishes,

Mr. D Swanston

Headteacher