



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy week at St Vincent's, there has been plenty to celebrate. This week has given us an opportunity to reflect on the publication of our Ofsted report, but our focus remains firmly on what comes next. We are proud of the school we are today - while continuing to be ambitious about how we develop and improve the experiences, opportunities and outcomes for every child and young person at St Vincent's.

One of the things that comes through particularly strongly in our school is the importance of pupil voice. Whether our young people are helping to shape developments through the School Council, contributing their experiences to projects such as CVI Soundscapes, or choosing activities through our enrichment programme, we want them to know that their views matter and that they can play an active part in their school and wider community.

Equally, we want every pupil to have opportunities to discover what they enjoy, recognise their strengths, develop new interests and grow in confidence and independence. Sometimes that happens through formal learning; at other times it happens through conversations, experiences, responsibilities or simply having the confidence to give something new a try.

As we move towards the end of this first half term, I continue to be incredibly proud of the progress our young people are making and of the breadth of experiences taking place across school each week.

House points as we come to the end of week are Elm 105, Ash 69 and Oak 99.

Ofsted Report Card

I am delighted to share that our final Ofsted inspection report has now been published following our inspection in September. The report confirms that St Vincent's has achieved the expected standard across all areas of the inspection framework, alongside confirmation that our safeguarding standards are met.

There is a great deal within the report of which our whole school community can be proud. Inspectors describe St Vincent's as a "warm, welcoming and highly inclusive community", where pupils develop a strong sense of belonging, feel safe and valued, and are ready to learn. They also recognised the positive relationships across our school and how well staff know and respond to the individual needs of our young people.

Importantly, the report recognises that from their individual starting points, our pupils achieve well, developing academically, socially and emotionally and becoming increasingly confident and independent.

I am particularly proud that inspectors recognised the importance we place on preparing our young people for adulthood. From travel training and community experiences to cooking, residential opportunities and wider enrichment, the report reflects our belief that education at St Vincent's is about equipping every young person with the knowledge, skills, confidence and independence they need for their future.

Of course – an inspection should also help a school identify its next steps. We have already begun working on the areas highlighted within the report, particularly around strengthening how precisely we analyse and capture pupils' progress and ensuring that learning continues to build systematically over time.

This report belongs to the whole St Vincent's community. I would once again like to thank our pupils, staff, families and Governors for the contribution they make to our school every day. We are proud of where we are – and ambitious about where we go next.

CVI Soundscapes

This week we have continued our exciting CVI Soundscapes work, exploring how sound can be used to support understanding, orientation and engagement with the world around us.

This work provides another opportunity for our young people to contribute their own experiences and perspectives. Importantly, rather than simply developing something for pupils, we want our young people to be actively involved in shaping and informing the work – ensuring that their voices and lived experiences remain at its heart.

A particular thank you this week must go to Tegan, Alfie, Sam and Natan for their contribution. Their involvement, ideas and feedback have been incredibly valuable and are a great example of our pupils playing an active role in work that has the potential to benefit others.

Well done Tegan, Alfie, Sam and Natan – and thank you for helping us continue to develop this exciting work!

School Council

Our School Council has been busy again this week - with pupils continuing to share their ideas about how we can make St Vincent's even better.

One of the exciting developments being discussed is our new Science Room. Pupils have been contributing their thoughts as we develop the space, helping us think about how it can support engaging, practical and accessible science learning across the school.

There are also exciting conversations taking place around plans for our library. We want this to become a welcoming and accessible space that encourages reading for both learning and enjoyment, and it is important that our young people have a genuine voice in how that space develops and what they would like to see within it.

Our School Council is about much more than attending meetings. We want pupils to understand that their views can influence meaningful change within their school. Giving young people opportunities to contribute ideas, represent their peers and see those ideas translated into action helps develop confidence, responsibility and leadership.

Friday Enrichment

Our Friday Enrichment sessions continue to provide pupils with opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills and enjoy activities alongside friends and staff.

Today, it was my pleasure to join our school football team for part of their session. Although, having spent some time on the pitch with them, I can safely say that my footballing skills are some way behind those of our pupils!

Beyond the friendly competition, enrichment provides an important opportunity for our young people to develop teamwork, communication, resilience and confidence, as well as discovering activities they enjoy and talents they can take pride in.

Thank you to the team for allowing the Headteacher to join in today – and for going relatively easy on me!

I hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes,

Mr. D Swanston

Headteacher