



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Week 6, it is incredible to think how quickly this first half of the autumn term is moving. Across St Vincent's, our pupils are now firmly established in their routines, and we are beginning to observe some really positive progress emerging from the strong start they have made to the year.

One of the things that is particularly important to us at St Vincent's is that we understand what achievement means for each individual young person. Our pupils have different starting points, strengths, needs and aspirations, and our role is to ensure that every child is appropriately challenged, supported and given the opportunity to succeed.

Walking around school this week I have seen lots of examples of exactly that. I have seen pupils persevering when learning has been difficult, communicating their ideas with growing confidence, becoming more independent and taking real pride in what they have achieved.

As we approach the final couple of weeks before half term, we will continue to maintain ambitious expectations for all of our young people while ensuring they receive the individual support and opportunities they need to achieve them.

House points as we come to the end of week are Elm 89, Ash 59 and Oak 65.

Dinning Hall Noise Monitors

This week we have introduced our new Dining Hall Noise Monitors - with different pupils taking on the responsibility each week of helping us create a positive and comfortable lunchtime environment for everyone.

Our dining hall is naturally a busy and sociable place, but we also recognise that managing noise levels can make a real difference to the experience of our pupils. Our monitors will help encourage everyone to be mindful of this while ensuring lunchtime remains an enjoyable opportunity to eat, talk and spend time with friends.

Importantly, this is another opportunity for our young people to take on meaningful responsibility within school. Each week, selected pupils will be trusted with the role, developing their confidence, communication and leadership while contributing positively to the wider school community – this will then be fed back to the School Council.

Bringing History to Life

This week we were pleased to welcome colleagues from the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool to St Vincent's to deliver a series of workshops with our pupils.

The sessions provided an important opportunity for our young people to explore the history and legacy of slavery in a meaningful and accessible way. Pupils were able to engage with a range of artefacts and historical objects - helping to bring their learning to life and encouraging questions, discussion and reflection.

Experiences such as these are an important part of providing a rich and ambitious curriculum. They enable our pupils to encounter history beyond textbooks, deepen their understanding of the experiences of others and consider important themes around equality, identity, rights and respect.

It was particularly pleasing to observe our young people engaging so thoughtfully with the workshops, asking questions and sharing their own ideas and observations. A huge thank you to the team from the International Slavery Museum for bringing such an important learning experience directly into St Vincent's.

Sensory Trust

We were also delighted to welcome the Sensory Trust back to St Vincent's this week to check in on the modular cooling towers that our young people helped to build within the school grounds during our Summer Camp.

The towers are designed to mimic the way buildings sit within our towns and cities and explore an increasingly important question: how can we design our urban environments to stay cooler as our climate changes? Through the project, pupils have been able to explore how different materials, planting, shade and design can influence temperature and the environment around us.

What makes this particularly valuable is that the learning has not ended with building the towers. Our young people now have the opportunity to revisit the project, observe what has happened over time, consider what has worked and use those findings to develop their understanding further.

Projects like this bring together science, sustainability, problem-solving and real-world learning, while encouraging pupils to be curious about the challenges facing their communities and consider the part they might play in finding solutions.

It was great to welcome the Sensory Trust back and continue a project that began during the summer but is providing opportunities for learning well beyond it.

Equal-Eyes-Radio

A reminder to our families and friends that Equal Eyes Radio continues to provide a fantastic platform for the voices, interests and creativity of our young people at St Vincent's.

The station gives pupils opportunities to develop their communication, confidence and creative skills, while sharing music, conversations and content with our wider school community. Importantly, it provides another space where our young people can express themselves, share what matters to them and have their voices heard.

You can listen to Equal Eyes Radio directly through the St Vincent's School website - so if you haven't tuned in for a while, please take some time to have a listen and support our young broadcasters!

There is always something worth hearing on Equal Eyes Radio!

Wishing Hannah all the very best

Finally, we want to send our very best wishes to Hannah in our main school office, who begins her maternity leave today.

Hannah is such a familiar and important part of the day-to-day life of St Vincent's and will certainly be missed while she is away. I know that pupils, families and colleagues will join me in wishing Hannah and her family every happiness as they prepare for this very exciting new chapter.

Enjoy every moment, Hannah – we can't wait to hear your wonderful news!

Another busy week comes to an end, with plenty of learning, new experiences and achievements to celebrate across St Vincent's. Thank you, as always, to our pupils, staff and families for everything you contribute to our school community.

I hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes,

Mr. D Swanston

Headteacher