

# Literacy at Vandyke Upper School

A Guide for Parents.

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We hope this guide has been helpful. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact  
Miss K Murray, Literacy Co-ordinator.

At Vandyke Upper School, every teacher is a teacher of literacy and we strive to ensure that all students make progress in all areas of the curriculum through teaching and learning. Skills in literacy are vital for students to achieve well, whether these are reading, writing or verbal activities.

We hope that this guide for parents will enable you to help your son or daughter to enjoy their learning and to allow you to understand the expectations we place on students to share the responsibility for the development and improvement of their literacy skills.



Reading is an excellent way to support students development and progress across the curriculum. Sharing and encouraging reading allows students to develop their imagination, vocabulary and resilience. All kinds of reading, from newspapers, specialist magazines to your favourite novel, will develop your child's confidence and sophistication of commanding the English language.

Your son or daughter will become a member of Vandyke's library as soon as they start in September; there is a wealth of materials and Ms D Lord, our Librarian, is always happy to help!

Across the academic year the library also hosts a variety of different activities and events which students can be involved in, from World Book Day to the Carnegie award. We love our students to get involved!



## Literacy at Vandyke

At Vandyke Upper School every student is exposed to the VCOPS concept, with both class and home learning allowing students to develop their literacy skills. From subject specific terminology to word classes VCOPS is a valuable tool in supporting your child's progress.

### Whole school marking policy

**SP** spelling– underline and correct.

// new paragraph needed.

**C** capital letter needed or used incorrectly.

**P** punctuation needed or used incorrectly.

**Exp** unclear expression; error underlined and explained.

**Gr** incorrect grammar ( e.g subject-verb, plurals, tense, word order)

**Punctuation** is one area of VCOPS students are reminded to use accurately.

#### **Full Stops**

~ end of a sentence that is not a question or statement

#### **Question Mark**

~ Indicate a question/express disbelief:

~ Who else will be there?

#### **Exclamation Mark**

~ Interjection/surprise/strong emotion

~ What a triumph!

#### **Comma**

~ separates lists/phrases/words

~ sentence adverbs ('however', 'moreover' etc.) from the rest of the sentence.

#### **Semi-Colon**

~ Show thoughts on either side of it are balanced and connected.

~ separates words or items within the list.

#### **Colon**

~ Introduces a list/dialogue/definition or for emphasis.

#### **The Dash (or hyphen)**

~ separates elements within a sentence – long, dramatic pause.

~ abrupt break in sentence, or a change in thought

~ acts as brackets

~ shows an interruption or hesitancy in speech

#### **Ellipsis**

~ indicate that a word/words have been left out.

#### **Brackets (Parenthesis)**

~ Enclose separate information.

#### **The Apostrophe**

~ to show that letters have been left out.

~ to show possession.

