



Vanguard School



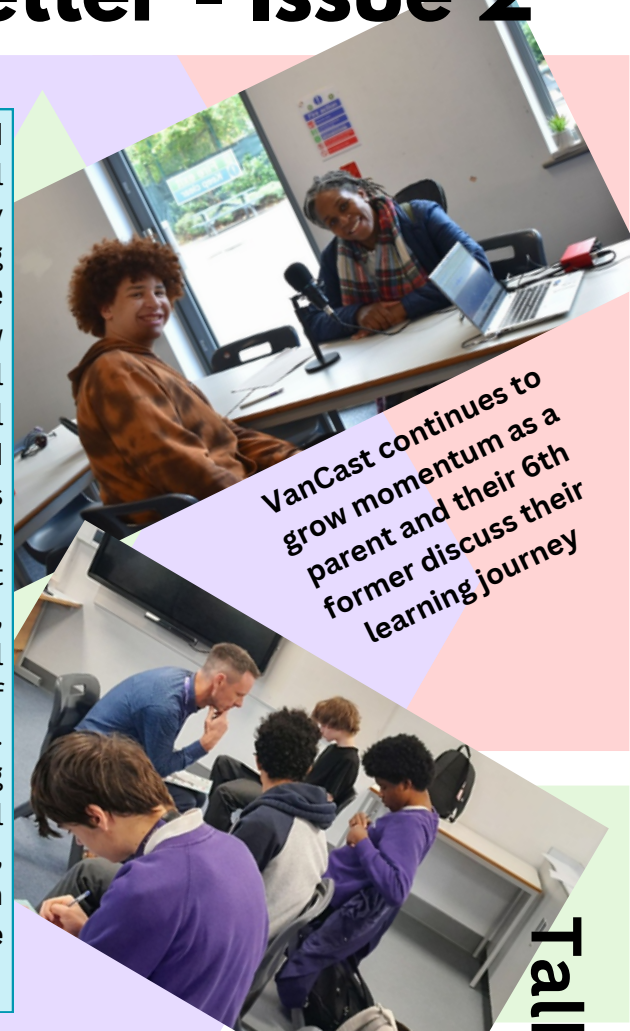
Liberty  
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# Half-Termly Newsletter - Issue 2

20th December 2024

## Principal note

It has been a busy, but productive term at Vanguard since October half-term. There have been many school visitors including Governors, Trustees, Local Authority representatives and various presenting guests praising both the students and the progress of the school. We are all immensely proud. Vanguard continues to grow with new students and families and the school community should be commended for making them all feel welcome. The students continue to aspire and engage in Functional Skills Examinations, GCSEs (resits for Year 12) and have demonstrated high aspiration & attainment. End of Year progress reports will be sent at the end of the term. Looking ahead into January 2025, further opportunities to aspire greater and excel further lay ahead. On Monday, 6th January staff training begins with the 'Autism Reality Experience'. New challenges lay ahead for students with pending coursework deadlines and a series of Entry Level examinations. We will also be collecting parent/carer, staff and student feedback through various surveys in early 2025 - please, please engage! **Have a great festive break and Happy New Year for 2025.**



VanCast continues to grow momentum as a parent and their 6th former discuss their learning journey

On Monday, 2nd December, Vanguard School welcomed expert trainers from 'Talk The Talk' to deliver an inspiring 'Talk About The Future' workshop to our Year 11 and 12 students. This transformative session aimed to equip students with the confidence and oracy skills needed to articulate their unique life experiences and showcase their employability value.

The workshop provided a safe, supportive environment where students learned to identify their skills and share their stories. Through interactive discussions and activities, they discovered that speaking out is not as daunting as it seems—but an empowering experience that unlocks new possibilities. One of the highlights was witnessing students step out of their comfort zones to present their ideas and reflections. By the end of the session, their confidence had visibly grown and they left with a greater sense of self-belief and the ability to communicate effectively in a range of situations. This impactful day was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Jack Petchey Foundation. The Foundation, created by Sir Jack Petchey CBE, has invested over £143 million to inspire and support young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex. Their contribution to workshops like this ensures that students continue to develop the skills they need to thrive in the future. We are incredibly proud of our students for their engagement and the progress they made during the workshop. Their courage and willingness to grow are a testament to their potential and we look forward to seeing how they apply these skills in the future.

## Talking About The Future



Vanguard School



# Marvel Superhero Winter Wonderwheels!



"On Sunday, 1st December, a group of our students, staff, and parent volunteers participated in the fantastic Winter Wonderwheels event, and, despite the chilly, wintry weather, it was nothing short of a super experience!

Our students eagerly took part in the 5k run, showcasing incredible enthusiasm and determination. The event, powered by Marvel, was filled with positive energy, with the atmosphere buzzing with superheroes and sidekicks of all ages. The costumes were a highlight, with many students and volunteers donning creative outfits to add to the fun.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to our parent volunteers, whose support was invaluable. They helped ensure the day ran smoothly and contributed to the wonderful team spirit that made the event memorable for all involved. The Winter Wonderwheels event was a fantastic way to wrap up 2024's Superhero Series, and we are already looking forward to the next one! Our team had a great time, and the experience left us all smiling, even as the rain fell.

Thank you, again to the Superhero Team for organising such an epic day and we can't wait to continue our participation in future events. Stay tuned for more updates in 2025!

We've shared a photo from the event, and it's clear that our students embraced their superhero spirit. We hope these images help inspire more schools and groups to take part in this fantastic program."

## Dates & Events

06/1/25 - Inset day

07/1/25 - Students return for Spring Term at 11am

08/1/25 - Clem Burke

Drumming Project Visit

14/2/25 - Break for Half-term



## Anti-Bully Week

Vanguard School came together to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week with a series of engaging activities designed to foster unity and spread awareness. Students and staff kicked off the celebration by wearing odd socks, symbolising individuality and acceptance. The school also raised funds in support of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, the organisation behind the national Anti-Bullying Week campaign. Throughout the week, Vanguard hosted special assemblies where students learned about the importance of kindness and standing up against bullying. Whole-school activities encouraged everyone to participate, including a lively poster-making session where students created artwork promoting inclusivity and respect. We enjoyed sharing some fantastic pieces of writing from our very own Anti-bullying Alliance members and a special Vancast episode talking all things Anti-bullying week. As a special highlight, a group of students had the exciting opportunity to attend a performance of Wicked in London's West End, courtesy of the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This memorable experience not only reinforced the themes of friendship and courage but also added a touch of West End magic to Vanguard's celebration of Anti-Bullying Week.'