



NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term



**Hands on at
Hockley Port!**



**Anti-Racism
workshop with
PC Manns**



**Our new
On-site
Kitchen!**



**Spring 1
Calendar**



**Behaviour
Leaderboard
Update**

Welcome to a New Academic Year!

Dear Pupils, Parents, and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all our pupils and families as we begin another exciting academic year! The staff team are refreshed, motivated, and fully geared up for what promises to be a positive, fun-filled, and activity-based year of learning. Our curriculum continues to be engaging, practical, and hands-on, giving every pupil the opportunity to learn through real experiences and develop essential life skills along the way.

Our dedicated staff are working harder than ever to meet the individual needs of all our pupils, ensuring that every day is filled with opportunities to learn, explore, and achieve.

In our Animal Care Department, we have experienced both sadness and joy. We sadly said goodbye to our beloved chameleon Rango, who has been with us since the school first opened. He will be greatly missed by both pupils and staff. However, we've also welcomed new life into our school community—our gerbil has recently had four tiny babies! They are keeping everyone busy and continue to bring smiles and excitement to our classrooms.

We are also thrilled to announce the completion of our brand-new catering kitchen—a fantastic facility where pupils can learn, cook, and gain confidence in developing essential cookery skills. Cooking plays such an important role in supporting independence and life skills for children with special needs, and we can't wait to see what delicious creations come from our new kitchen!

Finally, we are incredibly proud of our pupils who have already achieved entry-level qualifications in the reading element of their English Functional Skills. This is a fantastic early achievement, and we look forward to seeing them continue to succeed as they complete the writing and speaking & listening components in the weeks ahead.

We are proud of every pupil's effort, enthusiasm, and determination, and we look forward to celebrating many more successes together. Throughout the year, we'll continue to share updates, photos, and stories through our newsletters and reports—so stay tuned!

Here's to a brilliant year ahead, filled with learning, laughter, and success!

Warm regards,
Mr M. Majid
Headteacher



Behaviour Leaderboard Autumn Term Highlights



As we reach the end of this term, it's time to celebrate the students who have shown exceptional behaviour and commitment to our school values. Their dedication and positive conduct have earned them top positions on the behaviour leaderboard, and we are thrilled to share the top 10 achievers this term:

Top Points Leaderboard in Autumn Term at V.A.S.E Academy			
Position	Name	Class	Points
1	Mason	8	615
2	Charles	10	599
3	Alfie	7	542
4	Kayden	7	498
5	Preston	8	472
6	Finlay	9	465
7	Ibraheem	7	446
8	CJ	8	433
9	Devonte	8	426
10	Coby	9	405

Reward Tiers for This Term:

- **Top Tier:** Go karting – For our highest achievers who have gone above and beyond.
- **Middle Tier:** Cinema – A fun treat for students who have demonstrated consistent positive behaviour.
- **Lower Tier:** Trekking at Malvern Hills – For those who have worked hard to improve their behaviour and participation.

Congratulations to all our students for their hard work and positive attitude this term! Let's keep up the momentum and aim even higher next term.

Hands on at Hockley Port!

We look forward to showcasing the finished, installed board in our next newsletter, complete with its weatherproof display case and compelling information layout. Stay tuned to see the final, practical result of this outstanding effort!



We are thrilled to share an update on the hands-on project to create a brand-new information board for Hockley Port!

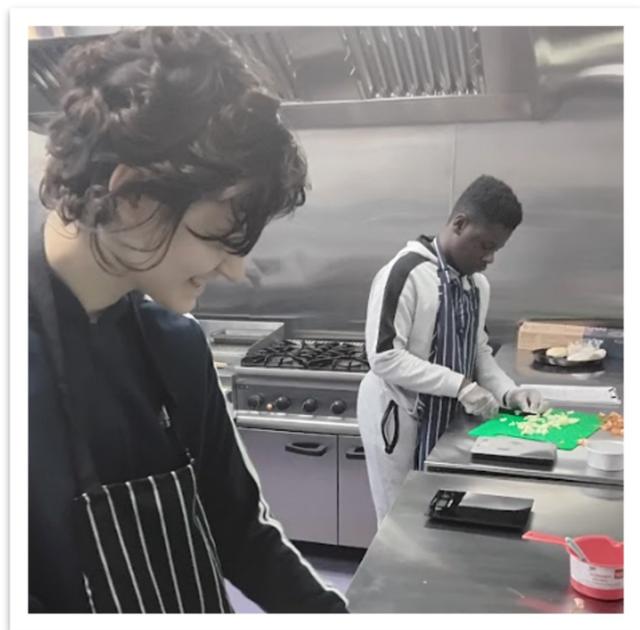
The students behind this initiative has moved past the planning stage and is deep into construction, mastering key skills in material preparation and traditional woodworking using a handsaw. This project is a fantastic real-world lesson in:

- **Precision Cutting:** Developing control and accuracy with a handsaw.
- **Safety First:** Practicing essential safety protocols when using hand tools and securing materials.
- **Durability Design:** Understanding the vital importance of **weatherproofing** an outdoor structure. The next crucial steps involve meticulously applying exterior-grade sealants to ensure the wood resists the elements for years to come.

Introducing our New Student Kitchen!

VASE Academy is thrilled to introduce our new student kitchen. Thanks to our resident chef, Mrs Debbie, our students have been able to make some yummy treats this half term.







Student Kitchen Rules



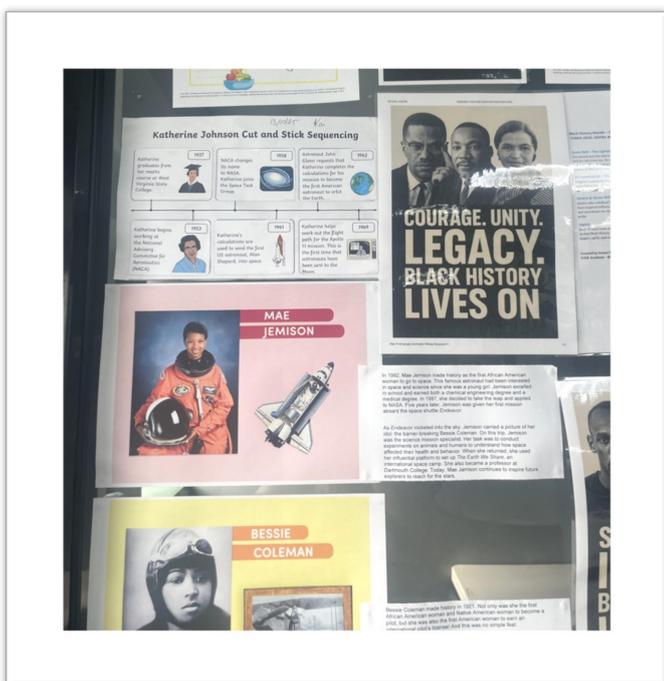
1. If you are unwell, please do not enter teaching kitchen.
2. When teaching kitchen is in use, if you are not participating or authorised to be in there, please do not enter, feel free to watch through the windows.
3. Teaching kitchen must be kept locked at all times, even when in use, teaching kitchen can be locked from the inside.
4. Hygiene – Please wash hands in the hand basin sink, as soon as entering teaching kitchen and then put on an apron. When cooking/ baking/preparing ingredients please wear gloves.
5. Please always follow all instruction signage at all times.
6. Only Staff to use knife box, turn on ventilation, extractor, gas and light hobs, grill and oven.
7. Any cuts, blisters etc must be covered when in teaching kitchen.
8. All ingredients in the teaching kitchen is for teaching purposes only. If used please inform Debbie.
9. Any equipment taken out of teaching kitchen please return as soon as possible. If any equipment is damaged, lost or missing please inform Debbie.
10. If you wish to use the teaching kitchen, please speak to Debbie on availability and ingredient requirements.
11. When in the teaching kitchen please act responsibly.
12. When using oven/hob/grill only 1 student at a time may pass the yellow line. All other students must stay behind the line until called across.
13. When finished in teaching kitchen please ensure all equipment is put away clean, ingredients away and all surfaces are wiped down with warm soapy water with a cloth then surface sanitiser with blue roll.
14. Please clean up any spills straight away.

15. If last session of the day please ensure sink is clean, bins are emptied and floor is swept and mopped.



Black History Month: A celebration of legacy and learning

This October, our classrooms came alive with stories of courage, brilliance, and cultural pride as we honoured Black History Month across the curriculum.



We charted the incredible journey of Katherine Johnson, whose calculations helped launch astronauts into space. Her resilience and genius sparked awe and admiration. We explored foods from diverse cultures, uncovering the rich stories behind their ingredients and traditions.

In science, we soared through time with Mae Jemison and Bessie Coleman—trailblazers in space and aviation—whose determination continues to inspire future generations. Across subjects, we held powerful discussions about Champions of Strength and Legacy, reflecting on how Black individuals have shaped society through unity, leadership, and perseverance.

In English, our research into the Black Cultural Archives introduced us to figures such as Sir Daniel Adjei, who journeyed from the African continent to Britain and became a successful architect. His story deepened our understanding of heritage, identity, and the importance of preserving history.

This month was more than a celebration—it was a call to action, reminding us that we, too, can be changemakers in our communities.

National Space Centre Trip

Our Students had an incredible, high-flying visit to the **National Space Centre in Leicester!** It was a truly "out-of-this-world" experience that ignited our sense of wonder and curiosity.

The visit successfully reminded us of the critical role of science and engineering in pushing human boundaries. We left the Centre inspired by the final frontier!



Safeside Trip



On Friday 17th October, for PSHE and Science curriculums, Year 8 visited Safe Side- an educational centre which educates children on fire safety, road safety, the effects of drugs and alcohol and more!

The centre comprises of a full size street scene, including a real double decker bus, real life canal scene, a real car, real train and track, house with smoke machine, road crossing, shop, internet cafe, alley way and police station / court room!



All of these scenes allowed our students to really get involved and engage in different scenarios which can happen at these scenes, the dangers and how to help.

We then got to try on some goggles which show us the effects of what alcohol can do to our vision and overall bodily functions- we tried to stack some cups and walk around whilst wearing these glasses so we could see the real effects it can have on us. Well done to Year 8 and all staff who supported, and a big thankyou to Safe Side for having us!

Post-16

This term, our Post-16 students have been working incredibly hard and are already close to completing their first Employability module, where they developed their oral presentation and communication skills. Alongside this, they are continuing to make great progress in both Maths and English as part of their core curriculum.

Many of our students have settled in well, and we are now exploring future pathways and community placements with those who are interested — ensuring they are in the best position possible to leave school and go on to fulfil their dreams and ambitions.

We have also ensured that all students received their own Student ID cards — allowing them to benefit from student discounts, which has been a very popular perk!

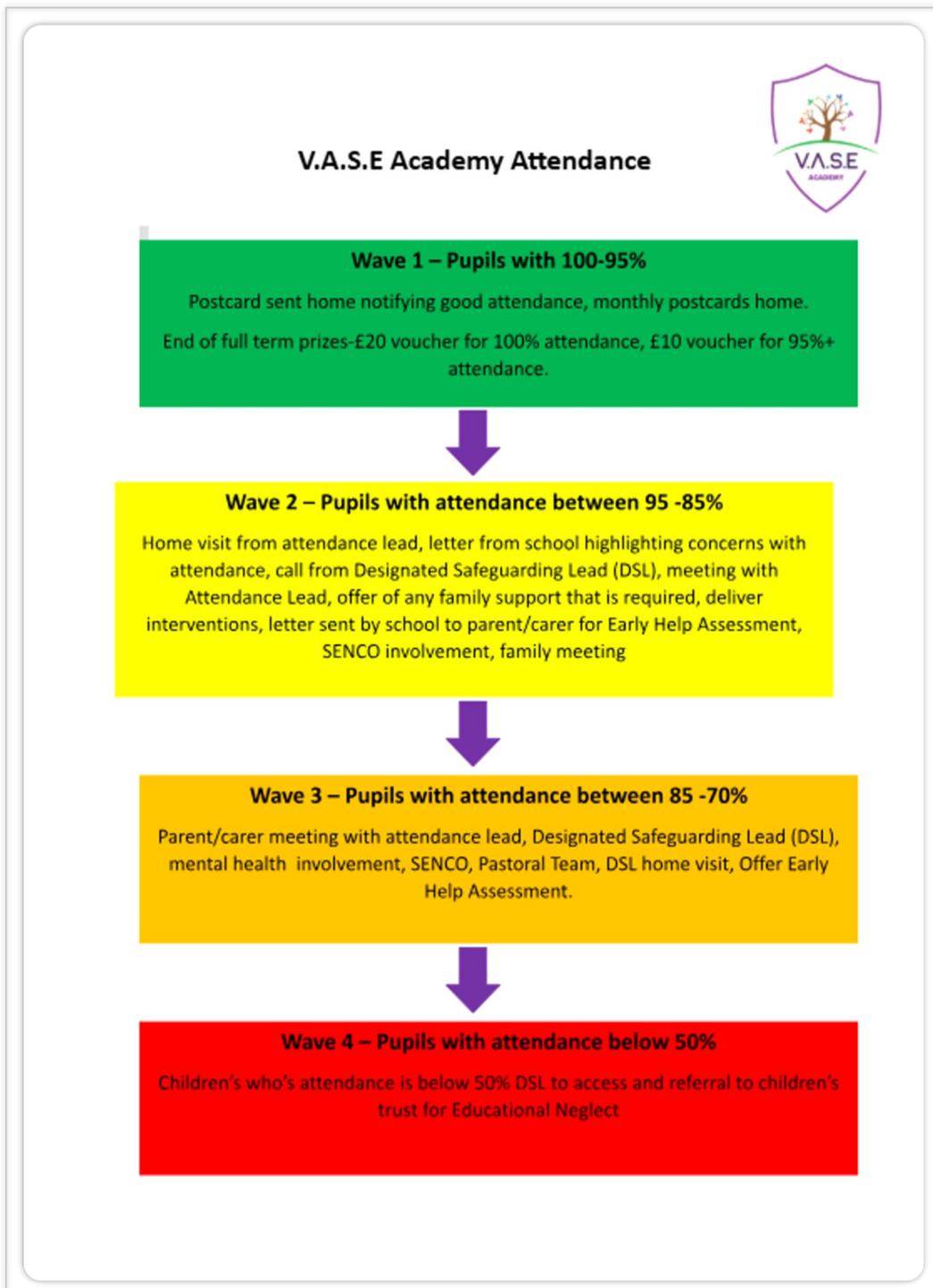
Alongside this newsletter, you will find a copy of our Post-16 Leaflet

Attendance

Good attendance is essential for pupils learning, progress, and well-being. When children attend school regularly, they keep up with lessons, build friendships, and develop positive routines that help them succeed both now and in the future. Poor attendance leads to gaps in learning, lower achievement, and higher safeguarding concerns.

Every school day matters — attending consistently gives pupils the best chance to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Vase Academy's Attendance Waves include some exciting incentives to reward your brilliant attendance!

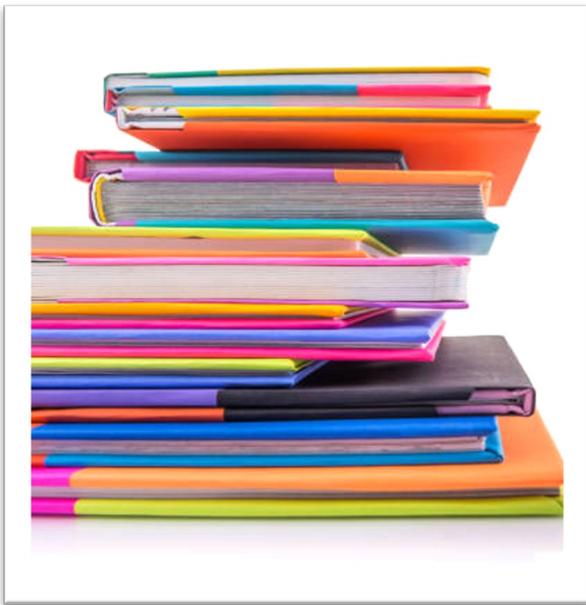
As well as procedures for attendance concerns-Please see our attendance waves letter below.



Literacy

This term has been very positive for Literacy all round! Across KS3 and KS4 we have explored many short stories, different reading skills, and even explored the difference between pop music and poetry! All students have engaged well and enjoyed their reading tasks.

All students who sat their Entry 3 Functional Skills Reading Exam in English, Passed! A huge congratulations and super proud! One student in particular even received a 100%!



In addition, during our parents' afternoon a Read Theory Workshop took place where parents/careers and myself were able to discuss what Read theory was all about and how important it is to support reading at both school and at home.

All parents/careers received a token with their child's log in details on to support them reading at home- all online- which worked really well 📱📱

A competition will be set up for Autumn 2 to engage all students with their Read theory programme as an incentive to enjoy reading Competition on!!!

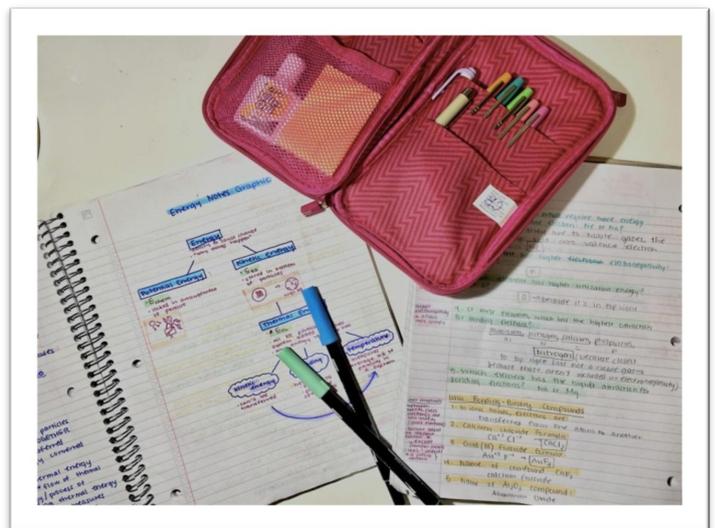
Supporting Missed Work

We want to send a huge shout-out to all our students for successfully completing their missed school work.

Completing school work is a vital step in reinforcing what you learn daily, and your commitment to these tasks shows your growing responsibility and enthusiasm for your studies. Keep up the fantastic work!

We also extend our deepest gratitude to all the parents and guardians for your invaluable support. Education is a partnership, and your assistance plays a crucial role in your child's success.

Whether you helped them set aside quiet time, offered guidance on a tricky problem, or simply encouraged them to stay focused, your involvement makes a significant difference. Thank you for helping us foster a strong learning environment both at school and at home.



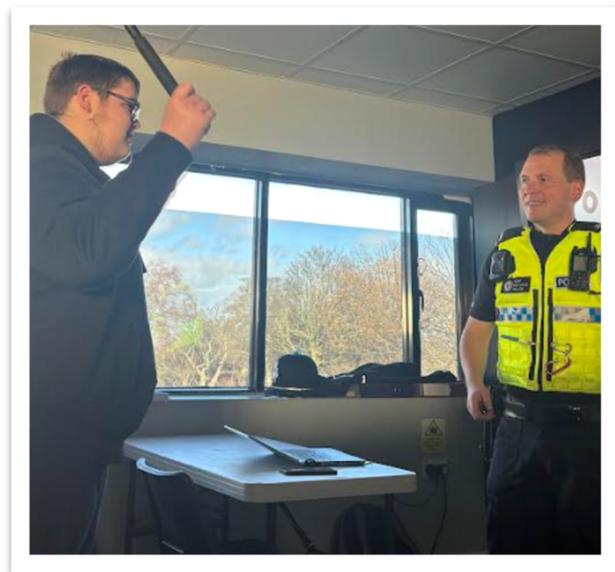
Anti-Racism Workshop with PC Manns

Our lovely Schools Liaison Police Officer, PC Manns, visited our school on Thursday, 11th December 2025 to carry out an 'Against Racism' workshop

PC Manns educated all of our pupils on racism, immigration, equality, laws and the current circumstances going on in the world around us. Our students were all fully engaged, asking lots of brilliant questions and interacting with staff and their peers.

Some of our students even got the chance to demonstrate using PC Manns baton!

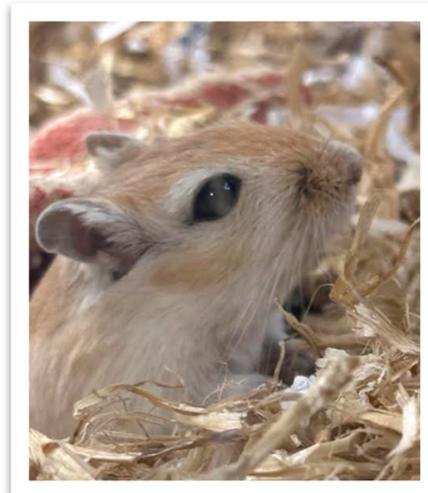
Well done everybody!



Animal Care Update

We are delighted to share a range of fantastic achievements and exciting developments from this term.

All Year 9 students have successfully passed their term assessments, reflecting their hard work and growing confidence across the curriculum. Year 10 students have also performed extremely well, with all students passing their termly AQA assessments. We are very proud of their efforts and commitment.



We are thrilled to welcome Ellie as our new Animal Care teacher. Ellie has already made a wonderful impression, bringing enthusiasm, knowledge, and fresh ideas to the department.



Our Animal Care room continues to grow, We are excited to announce that new animals will be joining us soon, including guinea pigs and chameleons, adding even more hands-on learning opportunities for students. We are also happy to share that the baby gerbils are healthy, active, and thriving.

Looking ahead to next term, students have an action-packed programme to enjoy. They will be taking part in bouldering and archery sessions, alongside a variety of engaging Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics activities delivered in an outdoor learning setting. Animal Care students will also be exploring animal adaptations, helping them deepen their understanding of how animals survive and thrive in different environments.

Spring 1 Teaching Calender

Subject	YR7	Y8	YR9	YR10	YR11
English	Poetry from around the world	Poisonous poetry	Non-Fiction writing	Speaking and listening.	Creative writing
Maths	Number: Addition and Subtraction	Number: Addition and Subtraction; Multiplication and Division	Number: Addition and Subtraction Multiplication and Division	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
Science	Electricity	Respiration	Obtaining & using materials	Infection & Response	Ecology
RS	Worship: How different faiths worship focusing on key aspects	Hinduism: More in-depth look at key aspects of Hinduism	Thematic Studies: Religion and life	Buddhism	Theme A: Relationships and families
History	Tudors - Introduction to the Tudors and Henry VIII	The Neolithic Revolution to Iron Age Britain	WW1 - Causes and History of World War 1 including Black British History	ASDAN Module 3: Britain, the Empire and the World (Section A)	ASDAN Module 4 and section B
Animal Care	Mammals & aquatics	Handling & accommodating animals	Enclosure design	Developing confidence with animals	Developing confidence with animals
Green care	Foraging unit two- AQA CODE 114428	Foraging unit two- AQA CODE 114428	Essential bushcraft- Forest ecology- AQA CODE 114335		
PSHE	Growing Up	Respectful Relationships	Healthy Relationships	Social media	Financial choices
PE	Table tennis AQA Entry Award	Netball AQA Award	Strength & endurance AQA L1 Award	A2 Developing a personal progression plan	A2 Developing a personal progression plan
Psychology					AQA Psychology E3
Child care					Growth & development in 0-5 year olds

Merry Christmas!



We wish all our students and families a **Merry Christmas** and a wonderful, restful Winter Break!

You have all worked incredibly hard this term, and we hope you enjoy this well-deserved time to relax, recharge, and spend time with loved ones.

We look forward to seeing everyone back, refreshed and ready for the new year, on:

Monday, January 5th, 2025



Keeping Kids Safe



Our Safeguarding Team



You can speak to any adult at school about anything that is worrying you. However, there are key adults who have the main role of keeping you safe



Deputy DSL
Miss C Rigby



DSL
Mr A Hussain



Deputy DSL
Mr I Sallu

V.A.S.E Academy is committed to protecting the welfare of our learners.

We expect all staff, volunteers and governors to do the same.

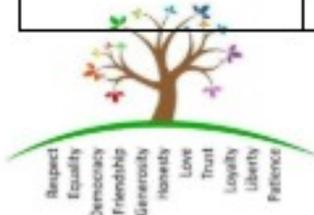
If you are concerned about a child, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

V.A.S.E Academy School

0121 551 4882

Safeguarding@vaseacademy.co.uk

Birmingham	Sandwell	Walsall	Solihull	Dudley
Birmingham Children's Trust	Sandwells Children's Trust	Walsall Safeguarding Partnership	Solihull Safeguarding Partnership	Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership
0121 551 4882	0121 569 3100	0300 555 2866	0121 788 4300	01384 813061
Birmingham LADO Team ladoteam@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk	Sandwell LADO Team sandwell_lado@sandwellchildrenstrust.org	Walsall Safeguarding Partnership https://walsallsp.co.uk/children/	Solihull LADO Team lado@solihull.gov.uk	Dudley LADO Team allegations@dudley.gov.uk



V.A.S.E Academy
Park House
Park Lane
Birmingham
B21 9LE
0121 551 4882
07593524685

