



VANDYKE UPPER SCHOOL

Responsible, Respectful, Resilient. World Ready.

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TEAM LEADER OF PSYCHOLOGY INFORMATION BOOKLET

DECEMBER 2025



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Registered Office: Vandyke Upper School, Vandyke Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 3DY

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Introduction

A warm welcome and thank you for enquiring about our **Team leader of Psychology** position. We hope after reading the information in this pack, you will be excited by the prospect of joining our team.

Vandyke is a great place to work, with high expectations and a caring ethos. "Everyone Matters" here at Vandyke. Our Annual Survey consistently shows that staff feel well supported and are supportive of one another, students enjoy coming to school and our parents/carers are hugely supportive of our school. We often find that competition for posts at Vandyke is strong and the experience colleagues gain here can be a stepping stone to further promotion.

The successful candidate will be joining a thriving school, with a growing reputation for excellent teaching and achievement, innovative and inclusive practice, and excellent leadership and management that puts students and learning at the centre.

The Role

We are looking to appoint a full time Team leader of Psychology to join our outstanding Vandyke staff team. This post would suit either an experienced teacher. We are offering a September 2026 start date however an earlier start date may be possible.

Psychology at Vandyke

Psychology A Level is a popular and successful choice for students at Vandyke Upper School. Through the curriculum our teachers foster our students' critical thinking, analytical and evaluative skills to develop their proficiency in research methods and statistical analysis.

The successful candidate will be reflective, innovative, and be willing to learn any new skills required to support the ever-changing needs of a demanding, rigorous and exciting area of the curriculum. You will be joining a highly effective school who share the same goal: to provide an ambitious curriculum which supports excellent outcomes. To this end, reflective practice and collaboration both in the department and across the school is vital.



Our School

Our students achieve very well, making strong progress in all year groups and achieving outstanding outcomes at GCSE and A Level from all starting points. Exam results have been consistently strong and many GCSE students' progress to studying at A-Level or BTEC. For the majority of Y13 students the next step was university with students going on to a range of courses at many different universities including students going on to Russell Group organisations and Oxbridge.

We had an ungraded inspection from OFSTED in January 2024. The highly complementary report stated that "Pupils at Vandyke are proud and articulate ambassadors for their school. They enjoy learning and achieve well. They thrive as a result of the school's ambition for all pupils to become 'world ready citizens' Pupils are confident, courteous and aspirational. They behave well at all times".



The ethos of Vandyke is based on strong, positive relationships between staff and students – "Responsible, Respectful, Resilient – World Ready." We seek to establish and maintain an atmosphere that enables students' autonomy and independence. Students respond very well to this creating a "special" atmosphere around school often commented upon by visitors. Staff go out of their way to provide great teaching and support and additional learning opportunities for students. Parents and carers are supportive of the school and feedback from parents and carers is always that the school is welcoming, friendly and inclusive.

We are pleased to hold Sportsmark and Artsmark (Platinum) awards in recognition of our commitment to Sport/PE and our outstanding programme of extra-curricular sport and performing arts activities. One notable achievement being that over 350 students take part in the DoE award scheme each year.



Facilities at Vandyke are excellent and include a theatre, drama studio, dance studio, sports hall, sports activity area, specialist athletics jumping facility, floodlit netball centre, floodlit astro-turf pitch, music suite, café and extensive library/study facilities. A Full sized 3G pitch has recently been added to the impressive facilities.

In September 2020 we opened a new teaching block comprising 12 new science labs, 10 new maths classrooms, Sixth Form centre including Sixth Form café and accommodation for staff. A further new build extension of the sixth form centre has recently opened.

The Recruitment Process

Applications can be made through MyNewTerm website including a personal statement;

<https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Vandyke-Upper-School/137169>

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 12th January 2026

Vandyke is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All shortlisted candidates will be required to bring proof of identity and original qualification certificates to the interview. The successful candidate will be required to complete an application for an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS). Please refer to the separate information provided about the process and acceptable forms of identification. References and an online search will be carried out for all shortlisted candidates.

All applicants are also required to confirm their eligibility to live and work in the UK. Please ensure one of the documents you produce to support your DBS application is also included on the enclosed list "Asylum and Immigration Act 1996" to satisfy this requirement.