



Vyners School
Striving for excellence

Sixth Form

Community | Aspiration | Respect | Endeavour



‘Throughout my time at Vyners I received great support from my teachers. Applying real world situations to education is something embraced by the school.’

Josh Valman, CEO of RPD International

Welcome to Vyners Sixth Form

A warm welcome to Vyners Sixth Form. We believe that you should have the best possible start to your future and we work very hard to make this happen. Our Sixth Form is the stepping stone to your future, where hard work and extensive opportunities for enrichment are integral parts of our offer. Students who leave our Sixth Form are confident, independent and responsible young men and women who are excellently equipped to take their place in, and contribute to society.

In the Sixth Form we offer you the opportunity to engage in your studies as well as helping you to develop the skills you will need to be successful in the world of work. Fulfilling your potential through excellent qualifications is fundamental to Vyners, though this is balanced with the aim of developing more personal qualities through involvement in activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, music and drama, sport and community work.



This experience takes place in a competitive though supportive environment where we develop in you the ability to help yourselves. You are encouraged to be intellectually curious, to read widely around your subjects and to challenge theory. These study skills, alongside time management and organisation, are the qualities that are essential for success and which students in the Sixth Form enjoy.

There is a stimulating and extensive range of subjects available which allow you to pursue your passions, and can facilitate entry to leading universities and apprenticeship programmes. Extra courses such as enrichment and the Extended Project Qualification, stretch and challenge you and give you a good preparation for university style study or vocational training.

Students in our Sixth Form have fun, work hard and make lifelong friendships. They are an integral part of this great school, in which everyone settles quickly; where there is a shared desire to succeed and to help and support others. We are constantly striving for excellence to be the very best at what we do. We invite you to join us on our journey and to become a part of the Vyners community.

Mr S Philpott
Head of Sixth Form

Mr J Heale
Headteacher

Why continue your education at Vyners School?

This brochure contains detailed information on the wide variety of courses offered at Vyners.

There are various reasons why you might decide to choose Vyners Sixth Form:

- We have a proven track record of high attainment and successful applications to leading universities
- You enjoy studying and would like to pursue your favourite subjects in more depth or begin a new course of study
- You have, as yet, no definite career plans but you would like to continue your education in a high performing school
- You want to be part of a successful Sixth Form that achieves excellent A* & A grades at A level.
- You have a particular career in mind and you need to progress to higher education or you want vocational experience and further qualifications to support your entry into that field
- We offer a range of facilitating subjects - Geography/History/Maths/Modern Foreign Languages/English/Sciences which are sought after by top universities.



In an increasingly competitive employment market, and in an educational climate where increasing numbers of students remain in education until the age of 18, the opportunity of continuing your education in the Sixth Form in order to gain A-Level and Level 3 qualifications is clearly attractive. There are a number of obvious advantages in choosing this route:

- There are smaller teaching groups than you have been used to which leads to increased opportunity for individual attention and active participation in learning
- There are significant opportunities to broaden your horizons beyond the class room by taking part in the many trips and visits offered by the school to its Sixth Formers both nationally and internationally.
- There are many opportunities to develop leadership skills, employability skills and gaining “the edge” on other students for places at top universities and apprenticeships.
- We have a comprehensive enrichment curriculum that aims to provide every student with opportunities outside of their chosen academic areas to develop and grow as young adults ready for the world of work.
- Our results are outstanding which enables Vyners students to progress to the best universities and apprenticeships.



‘The skills I gained at school have prepared me for the many roles I have taken on at university as part of my law degree, including working as a diversity mentor, a blogger on a law careers website and organising charity events.’

Masha Rankin, Law graduate and Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice



**‘Teachers inspire students’ interest
in their subject and make them
want to learn more.’**

Ofsted

Life in the Sixth Form

Enrichment and Co-Curricular

Our Co-Curricular programme is extensive, including representing the school at sport, visits to the theatre, taking part in music and drama productions and various residential trips such as surfing, skiing and outdoor activities. Some examples of regular trips include a bi-annual opportunity to visit our link school in Uganda or subject specific trips to Costa Rica and Los Angeles.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

All Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. Recognising your hard work outside of school, the award includes four sections:

- **Volunteering:** service to the community, a non-profit club or charity.
- **Physical:** develop your skills in a particular type of sport
- **Skills:** develop your skills in a non-physical activity such as a language, a musical instrument, cooking, photography, etc.

- **Expedition:** take part in a series of overnight expeditions to develop your teamwork, hiking, navigation and camp-craft skills.

At Vyners, we currently offer three different types of the Silver Award: Silver 1 (for holders of the Bronze Award); Silver 2 (for direct entrants, without Bronze) & Silver 3 (D of E Leadership).

We encourage students to undertake enrichment activities to broaden their experience at Vyners and to gain an edge for both university and employment applications.

Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a qualification that is recognised by UCAS and gains UCAS points. It develops essential skills for further study and the world of work. Increasingly, top universities now favour the EPQ as an additional qualification. It allows students the opportunity to embark on research into an area of study they are particularly interested in. We encourage curiosity and creativity with these projects. They are largely self-motivated and self-disciplined study, but each student receives a mentor who advises and guides them through the course.

Responsibilities and Leadership

At Vyners we stress the importance of students needing 'the edge' in an increasingly competitive world. As part of our community service expectations we create many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Students in Year 13 are invited to apply for the positions of Prefect, Senior Prefect, Head Boy and Head Girl.

There is also the opportunity for students in Year 12 to apply for the Sixth Form Leadership Team as well as the Sixth Form Student Council. These roles will enable students to make the natural transition to the leadership positions available to them as Year 13 students.



This year we have a strong team of Year 12 students, each led by their Team Leaders in charge of various projects around the school such as running and organising the school's fundraising and charity work or running break-time clubs to support learning in different subject areas. Students in Year 12 also apply to be House Captains in each of our six Houses. Some of the duties for House Captains include being responsible for devising scripts or compositions and leading and rehearsing younger students for the House Competitions in Drama and Music each year.

Pastoral Support

Each student is a member of a tutor group and it is your tutor who will be your first point of contact should you need help or guidance. You will meet your tutor every day. Further help is available from your Year Leaders.

Our tutorial system, with its emphasis on personal one-to-one liaison with your tutor, and our Conference Days, which take place at local universities provide a forum for the provision of your Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE).

This includes specialist speakers mentoring on a one-to-one basis, the leadership programme, UCAS support and personal statements.

All normal tuition costs and examination fees are paid for by the school but some additional costs may be incurred for a range of activities, such as residential courses, or as a result of field study, theatre or lecture visits. Speak to specific subject teachers for examples of equipment required.



Dress Code

Sixth formers are role models for the rest of the school and the emphasis is on smartness. You must dress as you would if you were working in a formal office environment.

- **Boys** - A suit or jacket and plain trousers, a shirt and tie. If a pullover is worn then it should be a V-neck, also in a plain colour. No sweatshirts are allowed and neither are denim or trainers.
- **Girls** - A suit or a plain jacket with a skirt or trousers, a blouse or a plain top. No sweatshirts are allowed and neither are denim or trainers.

Life after A Levels

Oxbridge Programme

Our bespoke Oxbridge/Russell Group programme and university support services are overseen by an Assistant Headteacher.

A number of activities, trips, coaching and support services are available to students who wish to pursue a career in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science as well as applications to universities such as Oxford and Cambridge and other high performing universities including those in USA and Europe.

The majority of those students who left us from A Level courses in recent years took up places at university including the following Sunday Times Top 20 universities: Bath, Bristol, Durham, Kings, Leeds, Loughborough, LSE, Southampton, Surrey and Sussex.

An increasing number of students enter employment, or apprenticeships in leading companies such as Rolls-Royce, Google, Cisco, BBC and British Gas.

Making the right choices

We are very aware that it is very important that students make the right choices post Year 13.

In Year 12, in order to help with your decision, we use *Unifrog* as an integral support mechanism to ensure all of our students are well prepared for post-18 progression. *Unifrog* is unique as it brings into one place every university course, apprenticeship, and college course in the UK, as well as other opportunities, such as School Leaver Programmes, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and every college at Oxford and Cambridge.

Our students use *Unifrog* to search for and then shortlist their chosen courses for university. They then select their 'safe', 'solid' and 'aspirational' choices for courses. The Sixth Form team encourage students to use this programme to make informed choices about which university open days to attend. Indeed, from the start, students' shortlists and searches are shared with their tutor and Year Leader

to benefit from valuable advice and guidance before making applications.

In Year 13 we use *Unifrog* as an essential tool for students to make university applications or applications for apprenticeships, jobs and college courses. The platform makes it easy for students to record their strengths and write their CVs and Personal Statements. Teachers can give their students feedback and write references directly onto the site in collaboration with colleagues. The user-friendly system for university application mirrors the structure of the UCAS process so that students are extremely well prepared for the final application made through UCAS.

The success of *Unifrog* has now meant that students in Year 11 have actively used the programme whilst making their A Level choices and in order to be fully informed about the potential courses or placements on offer to them with different combinations of A Level or BTEC qualifications.

Choosing your subjects

Everyone is different. However, there are some important points to bear in mind when deciding which subjects to study:

- Passion for your subject is essential. You will be studying fewer subjects than at GCSE. Unless you are actively engaged you will find it hard to maintain the motivation necessary to achieve the best possible grades.
- For new subject areas, not taught at GCSE level, make sure you talk to members of staff with responsibility for the subject so you know what will be required of you.
- Talking to current 6th Form students is a way to learn from their experiences.
- Future plans are important. If you have a particular course or career in mind, you should carefully research the subject entry requirements for university.
- Speak to members of staff at school who will be able to advise you.
- Do not simply take a subject because you like the teacher or because your friends are studying that subject. Don't forget that you may not have the same teachers next year.

Past students ...



Beth Kume-Holland 2006-2013

"Many people leave their school and don't look back, but Vyners Academy makes people do exactly the opposite. Not only did Vyners teach me how to excel academically, it taught me about community, confidence and how you should set no limits on what you can achieve in your life. I've just graduated with a BA, First-class Honours in History at the University of Oxford and am privileged to have been given a position at the University, working with the leading expert in Civil Rights and American Religious History as his research assistant, constructing a set of lectures delivered at Harvard University and a book which will be written over the course of the year. I will be working with tutors and lecturers who are world-experts in their fields. It's been like a 'Harry Potter' dream; and as well as working hard, I've had such fun rowing and competing, singing and even managed to set up a college-wide Debating Society and run the 'Night that Malcolm X came to Oxford' event in the Oxford Union with Malcolm X's uncle and the Regius Professor of Oxford. I have had so many unique experiences and have been able to take on these positions with confidence due to the skills which Vyners enabled me to develop. Admittedly, coming from a comprehensive school meant that I initially stood out at Oxford, but I am so proud of that fact. If anybody asks me, I proudly tell them that not only do I come from a state school; I come from one which is quickly becoming one of the best in the country.

Vyners goes above and beyond for its students and the skills which you learn, friendships you forge and memories you create; you take them with you."



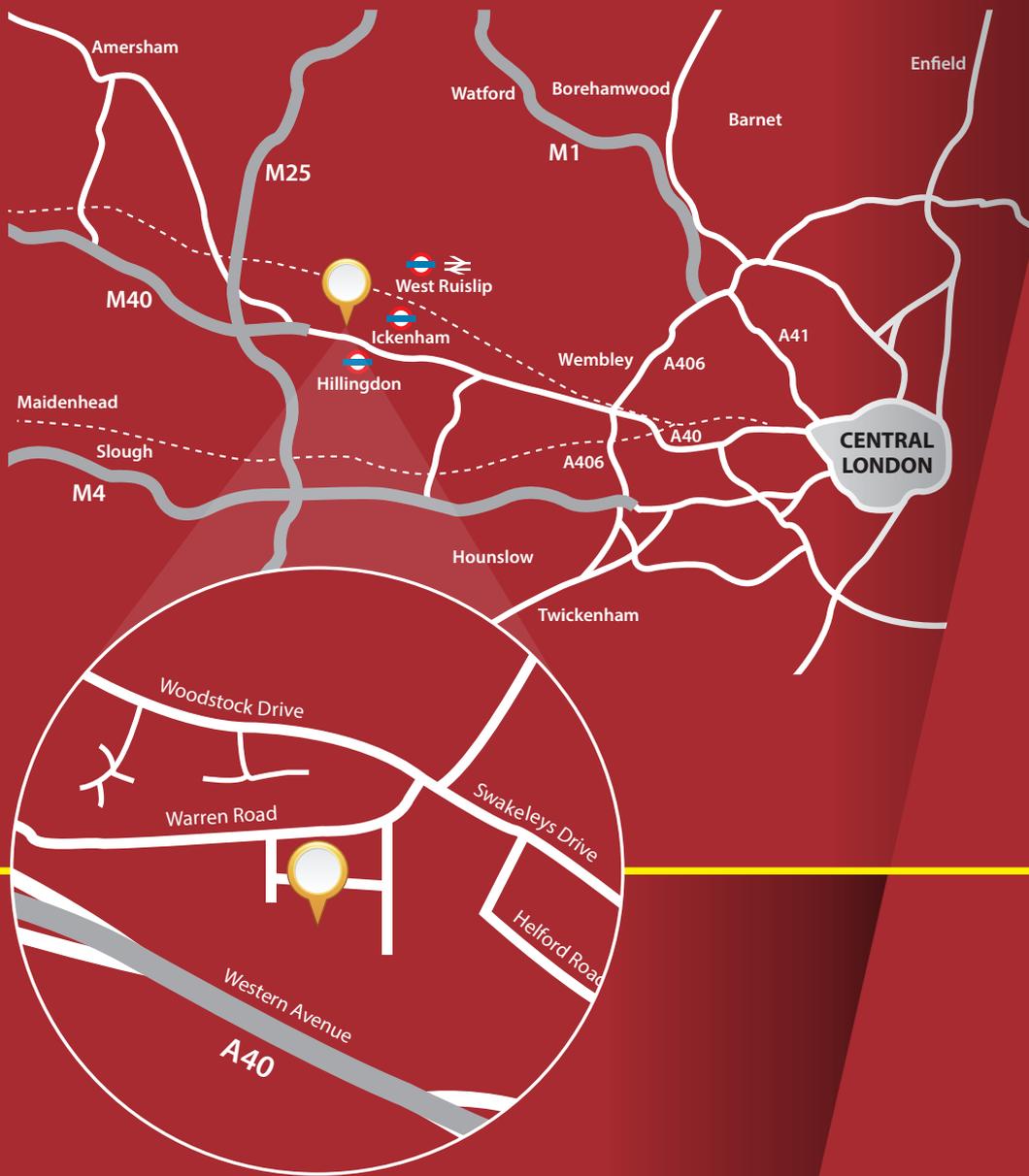
Luca Orefice 2007-2014

"During my 7 years at Vyners I was challenged to strive for excellence, take advantage of the wide range of extra-curricular activities and meet lots of new friends. I studied Maths, Physics, PE and Computing at A-Level and despite receiving offers from university to study Mechanical Engineering, I chose instead the option of a Higher Apprenticeship in Project Management with Rolls-Royce. My Higher Apprenticeship enables me to gain a work-based professional qualification whilst also studying for a degree sponsored by Rolls-Royce. During my time so far I have spent time in numerous areas of the business including our helicopter propulsion programme, the submarine nuclear propulsion business and where I currently am, in the LiftSystem team which enables the UK's next generation fighter jet to achieve short take off and vertical landing. An apprenticeship was certainly the right option for me and I am an advocate of the sponsored degree programmes as I believe it is a great way to continue your education whilst getting a head start in your career. I have no doubt that the extra-curricular skills and education that I received whilst at Vyners was a significant contributor in achieving a place on this highly competitive programme and being able to excel."



Tom Hughes 2004-2011

"Vyners is an exciting and engaging high school, which prepared me well for the experiences and challenges I have faced since leaving in 2011. Attending Loughborough University, I embraced an unrivalled sporting environment by captaining the Rugby League first team. Impressing in this role, I was selected in the Welsh Students team playing in the 2013 Student World Cup. I went on to tour South Africa with Great Britain Students, and from this platform gained a place in the full Welsh first team, achieving three international caps in the 2014 European Championships. In the year after university, I fulfilled a lifetime ambition spending a 6 month period travelling independently in Australia and South East Asia. Since returning from my travels I've started a career in finance, gaining a role at Goldman Sachs, a large investment bank. This career choice was derived from my undergraduate degree in Economics, but initiated in my A Level studies of the subject at Vyners. I have no doubt that my successes and diverse set of experiences have been influenced by the positive memories I have of Vyners School. Combined with a hard working attitude the school can help you to achieve your potential; they certainly helped me achieve mine."



Vyners School is situated in the popular town of Ickenham, near Uxbridge in Middlesex.

Just a short distance from Central London, there are excellent transport links by road, rail and the London underground.

The nearest mainline railway station is West Ruislip, with underground stations at Ickenham and Hillingdon on the Metropolitan Line within walking distance of the school.



Vyners School

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Vyners Learning Trust

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