



Parent Bulletin

6th September 2024

A warm welcome back to the start of a new academic year. We are always pleased to welcome our students back in September and particularly our new Year 7 cohort, who I must say, have started in an exemplary fashion. They are well presented, polite and appear to be enjoying being a part of the Vyners family. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in ensuring that the students have returned to school looking extremely smart, fully equipped and ready to learn. I do appreciate that correct skirts, school shoes and appropriate haircuts are not always the most popular issues amongst some of our students but we do appreciate the support for our culture and values at the school.

Nearly 400 students received either GCSE or A-level results during August and the overwhelming majority have now successfully progressed to the next stage of their educational careers. It was another successful year at GCSE level with 80% of Year 11 students achieving 'good' grades in both Mathematics and English and the overwhelming majority receiving positive outcomes across a wide range of subjects. Our success at GCSE level has also contributed to a record number of students enrolling into courses in the Sixth Form this year. This is something that we are obviously delighted about. Our outgoing Year 13 students performed well with 50% of all grades being achieved at A*-B. The overwhelming majority of students have been able to progress to University of their choosing or Higher Level Apprenticeship with others choosing to progress directly into the world of work. Huge congratulations to all students and their families for a fantastic set of results this year. We are extremely proud of the young people and their individual and collective achievements.

Our continued success at GCSE level does mean that we have a very large Sixth Form. This, alongside the successful school expansion that has taken place over the last five years has meant that we now have in excess of 1500 students and 150 staff travelling to and from the site every day. At this time of year, it is not uncommon to have a surge in the number of cars that come into the area, particularly as parents and carers of students in Year 7 get used to the transition to secondary school. As a reminder, it is our preference that students either walk, cycle or take public transport to and from school as the overwhelming majority of families live within 1.5 miles from Vyners.

However, I would ask that if you have no alternative than drop off and pick up your child using your car that you do so at a reasonable distance from the school entrance, preferably avoiding Warren Road altogether. Please also do not feel inclined to drive into the area because it is raining. This causes major problems; yesterday afternoon was particularly bad. Please do not park across resident's driveways and avoid reversing into driveways and turning on Warren Road. I would also ask all parents and carers to be considerate to the local residents. They are very much a part of our community as we are a part of theirs and I do become increasingly concerned when I hear of abusive behaviour towards the residents when they make reasonable requests for parents to be more considerate with regards to their parking. We are a strong and inclusive community that seeks to live by our CARE values and I would ask that we are all respectful, tolerant and considerate when dealing with others within our community.

During this week, it has been noticeable that some children are arriving late to school with several stating traffic as an issue. Whilst we are aware that there will be one off occasions where a child might be unavoidably late, I would also stress that there will often be traffic issues within the locality during the rush hour and that, where possible, this should be factored into journey times. I would also like to notify parents that as from Monday 10th September, lateness will be sanctioned with a same day 20 minute lunch time detention rather than an hour C3 detention and that we will be contacting families where students are regularly late for school. We will be updating the Behaviour Policy to reflect this change.

I would also like to draw the attention of parents to the new VLT Home-School Communication Protocol that was published in the summer term and can be found via the school website ([click here](#)). The protocol has a trust-wide part A section that outlines a number of issues and factors that are generalised across all of the five trust schools. Appendix 1 within the protocol is Vyners specific and should be read in conjunction with Part A. There are two changes from previous practices that I would highlight. Firstly, we would ask that where parents and carers wish to contact an individual member of staff that they do so by using the methods outlined in Appendix 1 and avoid emailing individual staff directly. This should allow the school to manage communication more effectively and avoid some of the more fractious communications that have become more frequent. I would also ask that parents use private email accounts when contacting the school and avoid using work emails which should not be used in such a context.

Over the past week parents may have picked up on the announcements made by Ofsted regarding some immediate and planned changes to their inspection regime. The biggest headline came on Monday when it was announced that the use of a single or two word overall effectiveness judgement would cease with immediate effect for all new inspections. However, the terminology will remain for the four subcategories; quality of education, personal development, behaviour and attitudes and leadership and management. I know that some parents will question this, but I think that one reasonable argument in support of this change is that the single word judgments tend to be the focus of attention rather than the detail within the reports that outlines what schools are good at and what they need to improve. The announcements later in the week focused more on Ofsted's next steps, which will lead to the development of a more detailed scorecard system that will replace the current system in September 2025. As a school that is due to be inspected later in the year, it will be interesting to see what emerges from the upcoming consultations.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Autumn Term Key Dates

Wednesday 11 th September	Year 11 Parents Revision Workshop (evening)
Monday 16 th September	Year 7 Co-curricular fayre (2.45pm-3.30pm) - students only
Wednesday 18 th September	Whole School Photo (P1 & P2)
Thursday 19 th September	Year 7 Parents Information Evening (6pm-7pm)
Wednesday 25 th September	Junior School Open Evening (school closes early)
Thursday 26 th September	Late start (time TBC)
Wednesday 2 nd October	Year 12 Parents Information Evening (6pm-7pm)
Thursday 3 rd October	Year 9 Parents Information Evening (6pm-7pm)
Wednesday 9 th October	Year 10 Parents Information Evening (6pm-7pm)
Thursday 10 th October	Year 13 Parents Information Evening (6pm-7pm)
Wednesday 16 th October	Year 8 Parents Information Evening (6pm-7pm)
Thursday 17 th October	Year 11 Parent Information Evening (6pm-7pm)
Tuesday 22 nd October	Sixth Form Open Evening (6pm-8pm)

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November - Half Term

Thursday 28 th November	Staff Conference - school closed to students
Friday 29 th November	Staff Conference - school closed to students
Monday 2 nd December	Year 11 and Year 13 Trial Exams (until the end of term)
Tuesday 10 th December	Christmas Carol Concert
Thursday 12 th December	Awards Evening
Friday 20th December	Term ends (12.20pm)

Oak Farm Primary School

Please see linked a letter to parents regarding Oak Farm Primary School's associate membership of the Vanguard Learning Trust [[click here](#)]

NSPCC Talk PANTS

Developed with children, parents, carers and teachers, Talk PANTS is here to help children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. Talk PANTS helps children to understand that they have a right to say no and if they need to speak out about something, someone will listen. We know that a simple conversation can make a BIG difference, and that's what Talk PANTS is all about.

The NSPCC are hosting a face to face information sessions on Wednesday, 16th October 2024, 9.30am - 10.30am or 11am - 12 noon at the The Beck Theatre, Grange Road, Hayes, UB3 2UE. Please see attached flyer for more details on how to book.

Oracy Competition

On Monday 8th July, four Year 7 students participated in the VLT Celebration of Oracy at Ryefield Primary School which was set up as a speech competition with all the schools in the trust across Year 5, 6, and 7. All students were asked to deliver a two-minute speech on a topic of their choice. Angie Chin, Keyaan Malik, Arianna Manni, and Finley Meeuws each delivered fantastic speeches about a range of topics: the benefits of a four day school week, how Halloween can make some groups feel excluded, the dangers of child mining for cobalt, and the trappings of being a modern child.

The standard was incredibly high across all year groups, and after a long deliberation by the judges, Finley was named the Year 7 VLT Champion! Well done to Finley, and also a huge congratulations to all four students who worked incredibly hard in not just writing persuasive and thoroughly-researched speeches, but also memorising them and delivering them with passion and authority. Thank you to Ryefield Primary, Mr Tucker, and the judges for their hospitality and recognising the amazing talent we have at Vyners.



Miss Duran, English Department

Recruitment Opportunities

Vyners School is currently looking to recruit the following term-time only support positions:

- Cover Manager / Learning Supervisor
- Design and Technology (D&T) Technician

Both roles are for immediate start and are being advertised with a closing date of Monday 23rd September 2024. However, early applications will be considered. For more information and application form please refer to the Vacancies page of the website [\[click here\]](#) or contact Frances Webb on recruitment@vynersschool.org.uk.

Friends of Vyners

Over the last few years the pandemic has put paid to many of our fundraising efforts but we are happy to say that Friends of Vyners- our school's PTA are back and raring to raise more funds for our children's school! In the past Friends of Vyners have funded:

- Google chrome books
- School Mini-Bus hire
- 3D laser cutter
- Tents for Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- Art equipment
- Cameras
- Playground improvements
- Modern language microphones
- Printing press
- Defibrillators
- Equipment for LRC, science, design and tech, learning department
- and so much more!!!

We have been delighted to welcome lots of wonderful new members both on the committee and as event support but we also bid a fond farewell to long term committee members Toni Lawes, Secretary and Shaida Razaq, Treasurer. Thank you so much for all that you have done for Friends of Vyners you will be missed!

So new year, how can you help?

- Keep an eye out in the newsletters and on the Friends of Vyners page on the school website for update [\[click here\]](#)
- Volunteer - we are always looking for new members both on the committee and on an ad hoc basis, please register your interest here [\[click here\]](#)
- Easy Fundraising - You can select Friends of Vyners as your cause on Easyfundraising so you can raise funds for our school every time you shop online- we have already raised over £1,000! [\[Click here\]](#) for more information
- Join the 100 Club - our monthly prize draw with an annual prize fund of £600! [\[Click here\]](#) for the sign up form and [\[click here\]](#) for more information.
- Have a sort out- put some unwanted clothes aside for our Bags 2 School drive premiering in Autumn 2024!
- Does your employer offer match funding to help us increase our event revenue? Could you, your employer or your company donate or sponsor a prize for a raffle or other event? Any fundraising ideas - let us know!

There are so many ways to get involved without having to attend a single meeting and all profit goes to enhancing our children's school journey!

Friends of Vyners Team

Sporting News

Sophie Anderson (10C) travelled with her cheerleading team to compete in a national competition in America. After months of intense training and dedication, the team delivered a flawless routine that dazzled the judges and audience alike, and won the competition. The experience was exhilarating, and the support the team received was overwhelming. This victory not only showcases the hard work of the team but also highlights the importance of perseverance, and passion. Sophie would like to thank everyone who believed in her and cheered on the team. Sophie is hoping to travel to America again next year with Team England.



Evan Allen (10H) pursued his Go Karting ambitions this weekend at Ellough Park Race Circuit. After starting racing mid-season for the NRD team he became the NatSKA Class 14 National Sprint Champion and placed 3rd in the overall 2023-24 season.

Katie Gardner (10G) took part in the London Youth Games representing Hillingdon in Hockey, playing against 19 other boroughs. Hillingdon won the silver medal, only losing in a penalty shootout.

NSPCC

Talk Pants

Information Sessions

for Parents & Carers

Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership

Wednesday, 16th October 2024

Face to Face Information sessions at

9:30-10:30am
or
11-12noon

at the
The Beck Theatre, Grange Road, Hayes
UB3 2UE



Join us to hear directly from the NSPCC and learn how you can protect your children from child sexual abuse. Scan the QR code for more information and to book.

These information sessions are suitable for parents and carers. Booking is essential for admittance. Sessions not suitable for children

www.hillingdonsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk

