



Parent Bulletin

20th September 2024

One of my roles within the group of Hillingdon Headteachers, is to be the representative who engages with the Hillingdon Stronger Families Network. It is something that I only picked up in the summer term (having given up another role), but I have already found the engagement with the service to be incredibly beneficial. On Wednesday, I attended the Stronger Families Network event in Hayes. The overarching objective of the event was to bring together a number of groups and services that have the responsibility of supporting children, young people and families for those aged 0-19 years of age.

One of the discussion groups that I was involved in centred around the barriers that may exist with regard to young people and their families accessing services. It was an interesting discussion that drew together a number of different perspectives. One such perspective was that it may have become part of our culture that we find it difficult to ask for help or support when it comes to parenting and that parents can often feel judged when doing so. I think that we do need to accept that parenting can be hard work and that there may be instances where support or guidance from professionals and / or volunteers may be of benefit. I would also add that early engagement is often most beneficial before any potential issue may become entrenched.

I am pleased to be able to share with parents and carers that there will be a representative from the Stronger Families Network at each of our information evenings for parents of students in Year 7-11 this term, which included the Year 7 cheese and wine evening that took place yesterday evening. They will be there to provide information about their services but will also be available for parents who simply may need a response to a query. I hope that parents and carers will find this partnership beneficial. More information about the Stronger Families Partnership and Hubs can be found via the Hillingdon website ([click here](#)).

Junior School Open Evening

A gentle reminder to all families that our annual Open Evening will take place on Wednesday 25th September, from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. A copy of the letter outlining the arrangements for the event can be found here ([click here](#)). As a reminder, students will be dismissed on Wednesday afternoon at 12.20pm so that the school can be cleaned and prepared for the evening. This will be followed by a late start on Thursday morning with students arriving on site from 10.30am, with tutorial sessions beginning at 10.45am. Thank you to all families in advance for their support. I would also like to thank all students who have volunteered as guides and ambassadors for the evening. The students really make the difference on these occasions.

Year 7 Co-curricular Fair

There was an incredible buzz of excitement in the gym on Monday afternoon as all students in Year 7 attended the co-curricular fair. This is an event where students have the opportunity to find out from staff and members of the sixth form about the range of clubs and activities available during the autumn term and immediately sign up to participate. I am delighted to be able to inform parents that there are over forty different clubs available this term, including a range of sports, drama and music as well as specific interests such as cookery, chess and dungeons and

dragons. Our aim is always that every child in Year 7 participates in at least one activity and that they continue to engage in the different programmes that the school offers as they progress through their time at the school.



I would like to thank the staff and members of the Sixth Form who willingly give up their time to run the activities that have such a positive impact on our students. As parents and carers will see, there have already been a number of excellent activities that have taken place during the summer and within the first three weeks of the term, all of which is possible due to the hard work and commitment of my colleagues at the school alongside the excellent engagement of the students.

Finally this week, I would like to commend all of our students for their exemplary conduct during the biennial whole school photograph on Wednesday morning. It was a monumental effort to organise the entire school onto the staging in height order and the entire process, which occurred in two sections, took the best part of two hours. The final image will be displayed alongside all other whole school images in the school's reception area, and as such, will become part of the school's history. I am sure that many of the students who were involved in the photograph on Wednesday will be keen to visit the school and see themselves in the 2024 image in many years to come.

Gary Mullings, Headteacher

Attendance and Punctuality

After reviewing punctuality data we have decided to make some changes into the way that we sanction students who are late to school in the morning. Our current process is to issue C3 detentions to those students who are late to school, however, we are embarking on a trial to change this sanction and issue a 20 minute lunchtime detention to replace the C3. The 20 minute detention will take place on the same day that the student is late to school, aiming to make the sanction more immediate and impactful.

Students will be expected to arrive at room 039 to serve their detention at 13.25, which will allow them time after serving their 20 minutes to get food before the start of P5. If students arrive after 13.35 they will not be able to serve the detention on this day and it will be moved to the following day. If students fail to attend the detention they will be issued a C3 detention.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support with this.

Mrs Bashford-Hynes, Assistant Headteacher

Dropping off student belongings at school

Can I remind all parents that we are no longer able to accept belongings during the day that students have forgotten to bring with them to school. We are now a school community of over 1500 students. If even 5% of students forget something, that is over 70 PE kits, packed lunches etc that need to be taken to students during the day.

Students that forget their PE kit will be loaned some kit by the PE department for the day. Students who forget their lunch should go to student services to ask for an emergency lunch ticket. Reception staff will only accept emergency items, such as prescription glasses and essential medication. Please ensure that your son / daughter comes to school with everything they need for the day.

Please click [\[here\]](#) for a reminder of the letter that was sent to parents/carers last year.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Year 11 Revision Parent Workshops

On Wednesday 11th September, all Year 11 students took part in a revision workshop with the aim of learning methods of revision and how to utilise these for their different subjects. The sessions for students took place during the school day, with parents coming into school in the evening to sit in on the same workshops. Students' behaviour and effort during these workshops were exemplary and we would like to thank all parents for their engagement and support in the evening session. We hope that everyone involved found the workshops useful and we hope that this will support the Year 11 students with their revision habits throughout an important year.



Mr Neville, Year 11 Leader

HIRB Students Get a Behind-the-Scenes Look at Government

On Friday 6th September, our KS4 and KS5 HIRB students had an unforgettable experience when they visited the Cabinet Office in Whitehall. The students toured the historic building and participated in a workshop led by top government officials. They discussed important issues like law and order, transport, and education and came up with their own ideas for improving the country.



One of the highlights of the trip was debating their ideas in the Treasury Board Room, a historic room where even Henry VIII has sat. The students also got a glimpse of the Prime Minister's famous Rose Garden.

While they didn't meet the Prime Minister in person, they did meet one of the famous Downing Street cats! It was a truly inspiring and memorable day for our students.

Ms Burwood, Teacher of the Deaf

Crest Awards

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding efforts of our students who have successfully completed the CREST award program this year. The CREST award is a prestigious program that honours innovative and creative project work led by students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

These dedicated individuals engaged in over 20 hours of project work focused on sustainability and the impacts of global warming. Their hard work exemplified dedication, teamwork and creativity, and they should take great pride in their accomplishments.

Congratulations to all our 2023/24 achievers.



Ms Ehsan, Science Department

The Grapes of Wrath Trip

Last Thursday, Year 13 English Literature students were lucky enough to go and watch '*The Grapes of Wrath*' at the National Theatre, in London. This was a kind gift from the family of Mr Cahill, with the intention of keeping the passion for English Literature alive at Vyners, and giving us students a trip to look forward to in memory of him. Not only was the play academically enriching for the class - as it's one of our A-level set texts - we also thoroughly enjoyed the evening out as a department along with Mr Cahill's partner, Pedro.

The production itself was excellent and effectively portrayed the message intended by Steinbeck in the original book, deepening our understanding of *The Grapes of Wrath* before we go on to explore it in detail later this year. As well as this, being able to see it (and not just read it) helped the class to solidify our knowledge of the plot, so this was a great opportunity for us.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of Mr Cahill's family, it was a really great experience.



Ms Connolly, English Department

University Summer Residential Programmes

A number of Year 13 pupils took part in various residentials over the summer break, whilst some other students in the cohort participated in summer work experience placements. Three of the students have been kind enough to write about their experiences below. We hope that their experiences will motivate other students to pursue similar opportunities in the future.

Mr Kelly, Maths Department

I had been eyeing the University of Sheffield for a few years because it was where I initially found the course I now want to pursue, General Engineering, and so I applied through the Sutton Trust to do a residential there (the Sutton Trust offers residentials for many different courses at a wide range of universities, including Oxbridge).

I experienced the incredible facilities they have during the day and fun sociable activities in the evenings. It allowed me to socialise with over 50 people studying a range of other subjects, for

example architecture, English and history and biochemistry, I had never met before (which was nerve-racking but built my confidence and communication skills).

During my 5 days there, I attended 4 different engineering lectures and did 3 different lab experiments in their world-class facilities taught by university lecturers. The lectures covered fluid dynamics, mechanical, biomedical, material and structural engineering, so it was well-suited for any engineer's interests.

During the week, I lived in the university accommodation which was modern and had an ensuite with views of a park outside. This enabled me to experience all aspects of university life, including socialising. In the evenings, we were looked after by an evening ambassador and took part in activities ranging from Task Master to indoor mini golf and bowling. It was a great opportunity to meet people from very different backgrounds and areas of the country and would thoroughly recommend this to anyone to have a taste of university life.

Anya Colgan, Year 13

During the summer holidays I spent 3 days at Oxford University, Lincoln College for a physics summer school. On this trip I got to visit the physics and engineering faculty, experience a physics lecture and a tutorial given by Oxford professors, and watch a live interview. Overall, this was an exceptional experience and a privilege to be amongst 30 students across the UK to be invited to this residential program. This program was very informative about the application process and the preparation needed to be a competitive applicant. Furthermore, it was an insight into what life and the teaching at Oxford University is like.

Kyal Dhir, Year 13

Aidan Gallagher entered the prestigious Kavita Singh PPE Essay Competition with St. Hughes College, Oxford University and received a commendation for his work.

The question he entered was the politics one; "Is there a place for democracy in the 21st century?" He also took the opportunity to get involved with a residential school at Cambridge University and both experiences have helped him develop a number of skills.

I thoroughly enjoyed answering this question, and I drew upon the writings of John Rawls and Thomas Hobbes in order to do so, and I argued a reinvigorated design of democracy was required if it is to survive the strife of the 21st century.

Alongside this I also attended the Humanities residential at Trinity College Cambridge at which I had the valuable opportunity to speak to academics and develop my academic confidence. The Lucy Cavendish Academic Attainment Programme inspired me to pursue a place at a top university and the opportunity to both speak to leading academics and speak in front of hundreds of people over zoom has transformed my confidence and academic drive. Since participating in both of these programmes, my love of learning has deepened, as well as my ambition for academic success. They have been invaluable in pushing my thinking further, and heightening my interest in studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE). I also attended the "Writing Wrongs" Programme at the University of Warwick, the opportunity to have a piece of writing about social justice reviewed and fed-back upon by an academic was very enlightening and helped me to refine my writing style.

Aidan Gallagher, Year 13

Sports Update

ESFA U13 Girls PlayStation Cup

On Wednesday 18th September selected girls in Years 7 & 8 took part in the first round of the ESFA national cup, against Latymer Upper School, in Hammersmith. They successfully secured their spot in round 2, against St Mary Magdalene Academy in Camden, with an 11-1 win.

Special mentions to goalscorers Amber Woolfrey (3), Libby Scarisbrick (2), Elsie Fitzgerald (2), Elia Calev-Matilla (2), Molly Smith (1) & Orlaith O'Donoghue (1).

Ms John, PE Department

Student Activities 2024-25

Please click [\[here\]](#) for a booklet outlining the planned Trust-wide student activities for 2024-2025. We hope parents and carers have had a chance to read the review of last year's activities, which was sent last week, and we are confident this year's activities will be equally successful in promoting our Trust-wide community. We look forward to the first event which will be the maths challenge on Wednesday 9th October 2024, hosted by Ruislip High School.

The next Trust communication will be a flyer about our Trust's environmental sustainability week, which is being held from Monday 11th to Friday 15th November 2024.

Emma Jordan, VLT Executive Assistant

VLT Staff Vacancies

Please click [\[here\]](#) for a list of staff vacancies (including support staff roles at Vyners).

Friends of Vyners

Click [\[here\]](#) for more information

Easyfundraising

You can now support our school every time you shop online - but we need your help!

We've teamed up with easyfundraising, allowing you to raise free donations from over 8000 retailers. **Until Wednesday 2nd October, everytime a new supporter signs up we will receive a £1 bonus donation when we reach 10 or more new supporters!**

It's quick and easy just follow this link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/foyners/>

Quiz Night

The FOV quiz night is on Friday 4th October - please click [\[here\]](#) for more information. The next quiz night dates are:

- Friday 22nd November 2024
- Friday 31st January 2025
- Friday 21st March 2025
- Friday 9th May 2025

100 Club

Please click [\[here\]](#) for a list of the 100 Club winners for June, July and August 2024.

Autumn Term Key Dates

Wednesday 25 th September	Junior School Open Evening (school closes at 12.20pm)
Thursday 26 th September	Late start (students arrive from 10.30am, registration at 10.45am)
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)