

Parent Bulletin

4th October 2024

On Friday 20th September, I had the pleasure of participating in the Year 8 World War I battlefields trip to Ypres in Belgium. This was a visit that brought back great memories for me as it was one that I had done whilst at secondary school, albeit it had been a residential visit back in the late 1980s. There was much about the visit back then that has remained with me today. It remains one of the most profound experiential learning experiences that I have had and really brought home the horror of war and some concept of the scale of just how many commonwealth servicemen lost their lives alongside the incredible impact that it had on the lives of so many.

The seventy Year 8 students that participated in the visit were near impeccable, and the feedback that I received about the seventy students who made the same trip on the following Friday was the same. We visited a number of museums and cemeteries including the Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Ceremony and Memorial in the Ypres Salient, which has over 11,000 graves and a stone wall surrounding the cemetery which is an incredible memorial to the missing.

In the evening, we headed into central Ypres and had the privilege of attending the Last Post ceremony that takes place every evening at 8pm. The Last Post, the traditional final salute to the fallen, is played by the buglers of the Last Post Association ([click here](#)) in honour of the memory of the soldiers of the former British Empire and its allies, who died in Ypres Salient during the First World War. Remarkably, the ceremony has taken place every evening since 2nd July 1928, with the exception of a four year period during the Second World War. I felt particularly honoured when Mr Beale, Subject Leader for History, asked me alongside two of our wonderful students, Rose Mendonca and Micah Okugbeni, to be part of the ceremony, laying a wreath on behalf of Vyners School.

The visit itself was twenty two hours on the go, and it definitely took some time to recover on Saturday, but the opportunity to return to the Ypres Salient thirty five years after my first experience and this time with a new generation of young historians, was one that will live long in the memory. Thank you to Ms Solely for organising such a wonderful educational visit.



Open Evening and Open Mornings

I would like to thank all staff, students, parents and local residents for their support for our open evening and open mornings over the past week. It has been fantastic to receive such positive feedback about the school from many of the visitors, both verbally and via email. Ultimately, it is always the students that act as guides and subject ambassadors that receive the most praise, which is fair and correct as they represented the school in such an impressive manner. I would also like to make a special mention to residents who live in the immediate area as many of them were significantly disrupted by the influx of visitors into the area. I did receive a small number of complaints about some of the parking and behaviours of a minority of visitors. However, all of the correspondence was balanced and constructive and we will continue to work with our neighbours in an effort to ensure that our events and activities do not cause any more disruption than is reasonable.

Parking and Punctuality

On a related matter, I would again ask parents and carers not to drive into the immediate area to drop off or collect their child. This is particularly a problem when it rains heavily. On Monday afternoon, the area was brought to a standstill and it took a significant amount of time to clear the area, which caused major disruption to normal road users. I would ask parents to consider the sheer size of the school (over 1500 students) and how, even a small increase in car use at these times can significantly disrupt the entire area.

Similarly, punctuality has been very poor on certain days. More often than not, students report traffic problems as the reason for being late. I must stress that the school is located in an area that will always experience traffic issues at some point in the week. This needs to be planned for and cannot be used as an excuse when it generally can be anticipated.

Contacting the School

I would also like to give a gentle reminder to parents and carers about the new Vanguard Learning Trust Home-school communication protocol [[click here](#)] and particularly which states that parents and carers should avoid using work or business email addresses when contacting the school and should always use a personal email address when communicating about personal (not work or business related) reasons.

I do appreciate that some parents may not currently have a personal email address and that this may cause them to have to acquire one. However, I must stress that it is not good practice to use work related email addresses in personal circumstances and, in some instances, it may contravene workplace policies.

As a reminder, parents and carers can update their personal information, such as address, email or mobile number on the school system. The easiest way to do this is through the Edulink app./ Once logged on, please click on the **Update Information** tab. This will take parents to their personal information that can be edited by deleting and / or adding information. Once all information is updated please ensure that it is saved by clicking on the 'Save' button. I would like to thank all parents for their support in this matter.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful weekend.

Gary Mullings, Headteacher

Whole School Photo 2024

We are delighted to be able to share the latest whole school photo with you. The school's copy will be added to all the other photos outside Mr Mullings' office in the next week or so. Please do take a look when you are next in school.

Should you want your own copy of the photo, please follow the instructions below. Please note that all photos must be ordered directly via Tempest Photography (not via the school). If you order in the first 2 weeks, your photo will be delivered free to school. Orders after that time will be posted out to your home address, for an additional cost

Tempest Photography are pleased to report your whole school group photograph is available to view and order via the following weblink:

Whole School Group - <https://htmp.st/541034-244>

Please include your child's full name to assist with distribution at the school.

Order within two weeks to avoid P&P charges. (Delivery to school).

For assistance, please call 01736 752411,
Option 3 - Place an order (P&P applies), Option 5 - Customer services

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Vyners Futures Fund

Many of you will be aware of our 'Futures Fund'. This is a voluntary donation scheme, under which some parents have been kind enough to make a modest, but regular financial donation to the school.

The fund allows the school to invest in items that our budget would not otherwise cover. Student picnic tables and two sets of external canopies are amongst the items funded so far. The school undertakes that all funds collected via the scheme will be spent directly on our students. Funds will not be used to meet the cost of items which our curriculum budget should properly cover.

If you are not already making a donation, and feel able to do so, we would be incredibly grateful. The next project we wish to investigate is covering over the double tennis courts. This is a very ambitious target, but would enable students to have a third covered area both for PE lessons and for their social time.

Full details can be found in the letter [\[click here\]](#). Thank you to every family who is able to support us in this way

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Year 7 YLYC

On Wednesday 9th October 2024, students in Year 7 will be taking part in the The Metropolitan Police PSHE programme 'Your life, you choose'. It is a serious crime intervention programme, aiming to educate and build resilience in young people around addressing themes of knife crime, county lines, grooming and peer pressure. In conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, other agencies such as the London Ambulance service, Safer Schools Police, Youth Justice Service, Youth Engagement Team and SORTED from The London Borough of Hillingdon will be delivering sessions. Students will attend 5 different workshops across the school day and their normal school timetable will be collapsed. This event forms part of your child's PSHE curriculum.

If you have any specific questions regarding this event and require additional support and guidance, please contact the safeguarding team via the main reception at office@vynersschool.org.uk.

Ms Ashe, Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Hello Yellow for World Mental Health Day

Thursday 10th October marks World Mental Health Day, the school will be celebrating this by raising awareness of the importance of talking about Mental Health through assemblies and tutorial activities. We will also be supporting YoungMinds by raising money through their Hello Yellow Campaign. We would like as many members of the school community to wear something yellow for the day, this item must supplement the school uniform - to be clear this is not a non uniform day. Suggested items:

- ribbons
- socks
- pin badges
- tie (a yellow tie may be worn instead of the school tie)
- hair accessories/hats

We will be asking for a suggested donation of £1 to support YoungMinds charity. This donation can be made through sQuid.

You can find more information and support for Mental Health for young people by visiting these organisations:

- [YoungMinds](#)
- [Mental Health Foundation](#)
- [Kooth](#)
- [Shout](#)

Mrs Bashford-Hynes, Assistant Headteacher

Year 7 Parent Information / Cheese and Wine Evening



On Thursday 19th September we welcomed new parents of Year 7 students to our school hall for the Year 7 Parent Information Evening. This event, as always, is supported by the Friends of Vyners team who catered for the evening with Cheese and Wine. We were also delighted to host representatives from Hillingdon Stronger Families. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the event and took advantage of the opportunity to mingle with the Year 7 Tutors and listen to a presentation from Mr Abraham and Miss Pape. If you missed the event, the presentation slides were distributed via email to the relevant parents.

Miss Pape, Assistant Headteacher

MFL European Day of Languages

To celebrate European Day of Languages on Thursday 26th September, the MFL department held a KS3 bake off competition. The cakes were judged by our newly appointed Year 10 Language Ambassadors after school. Ambassadors voted on the appearance and taste of the cakes and found it extremely difficult to come to a decision! We had some amazing entries again this year and we would like to congratulate the following students:



1st Place:
Eduard Pistorius 8M



2nd place:
Hadia Khelwatty 7P



3rd place:
Jack Dua 7G

Pictures of all entries can be found on this link [\[click here\]](#)

Miss Vigo, Teacher of MFL

Opening Evening

Opening Evening was a really enjoyable experience, it was so lovely to interact with so many enthusiastic Year 6's, and to give them a small taster as to how fun art at Vyners can be. It was also nice to see the art department come together as a collective and really create a safe and fun environment. The children were shown various types of Banksy style stencils, given 3 different colours of paint along with some sponges to fill out their chosen stencil- all made on a huge piece of paper with a wall like texture (like Banksy). As the evening progressed we ran out of space on not one, but two sheets of very large paper! And therefore had to start doing small individual pieces on A4 sheets. What I really liked was the individuality, as many children were picking their different stencils and mixing the colours of paint to really make their small pieces of art their own, with many wanting to take their art home! Overall a really lovely evening.



Daisy Whitford, Year 12 student

Sports Update

U13 FA Schools Girls Cup

On Wednesday 2nd October we welcomed St Mary Magdalene Academy for the second round of the cup. All girls battled hard, with a first half goal from Elsie Fitzgerald and an equaliser in the second half, we moved through a goalless bout of extra time to penalties. Maya Rabheru battled hard under the pressure to stop two of their goals whilst we scored four to put us through to round 3. Penalties were scored by Erin Campbell, Libby Scarisbrick, Elsie Fitzgerald and Orlaith O'Donoghue.

Ms John, Teacher of PE

Cross Country

Last Thursday the cross country team competed in Round 1 of the English Schools cross country championship. This event took place at Harrow school on a challenging course in the worst of weather. The team competed in the Juniors (7/8) and Intermediates (9/10) against schools from across the county. As a school we are one of the few state schools to compete against some very well known schools such as Harrow and St Benedicts. The students performed tremendously well and were an absolute credit to the school. A special mention must go to two of our competitors Elsie Fitzgerald (Year 8) and Dylan Lewis (Year 10). Elsie just missed out on the top spot in the juniors by 1 second, an incredible performance. Dylan went one better and sprinted home in first place with a comfortable lead over his nearest rival, he will look forward, no doubt, to running the course again in the individual competition in a few week's time. A proud day for our athletes and is testament to their hard work and dedication.



Mr Hall, Subject Leader, PE

Middlesex Cricket Awards

Harrison Landon (9P) was invited to attend the Middlesex Cricket Awards which was a great honour. It was a great experience for him and he was able to talk to a few players including the Disability Player of the Year and see Mike Gatting (England captain in 80's/90's) present awards to the male and female youth players of the year.



Year 7 Netball



The 7A netball team had their first fixture against Oakwood yesterday. A fantastic start to the Year 7 netball journey and a great opportunity to play against another school and try to develop good relationships on court. The girls worked incredibly hard and some played out of position for the second half. They won this match 21-0.

Well done all! Player of the match: Jas

Miss Hawes, Teacher of PE

Lost Property

There is a lot of lost property in Student Services that has been found since the start of September.

If your child has mislaid anything, can you please ask them to visit Student Services at break, lunch or after school.

Thank you.



VLT Staff Vacancies

Please click [[here](#)] for a list of current staff vacancies across the VLT sites.

Autumn Term Key Dates

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)