



Parent Bulletin

8th November 2024

The week ahead is extremely busy as there are several events, local and national, that coincide. On Monday, the entire school community will head to the astroturf area just prior to 11am so that we can come together as a community for our remembrance event. This has always been an important event at the school and I am sure that everyone involved will take the time to reflect on the many men and women who have fought in the different conflicts, allowing us to enjoy the freedoms that we experience to this day.

The week is the Vanguard Learning Trust's (VLT) sustainability week and is also designated as the anti-bullying week in schools nationally. There will be a wide range of activities taking place across the five VLT schools and in the local community throughout the week that have the aim of increasing our understanding of environmental sustainability and promoting sustainable behaviour. There will also be a daily quiz and other information shared by the trust via email to parents and carers throughout the week. Further information about the week's activities can be found in this update. I would like to thank Ms Brown, Assistant Headteacher, for all of her hard work coordinating the Vyners' activities.

I would also like to thank Mrs Bashford-Hynes, Assistant Headteacher, for her work leading our anti-bullying assemblies and coordinating tutorial activities during the same period. Every year the anti-bullying alliance ([click here](#)) focuses on a specific theme. This year, the theme is *Choose Respect*, which fits perfectly with the school's CARE values. You will note from the anti bullying alliance website that there is a call to arms that seeks *to empower children and young people to not resort to bullying, even when we disagree and remind adults to lead by example, online and offline*. This seems to have been lost in some parts of society, maybe more so since the pandemic, so it would be great if, as adults, we would all be able to model the types of positive behaviours that we wish to see in our children and young people by understanding that it is acceptable to hold differing views, political or otherwise, and opinions than others so long as those views are not extreme and / discriminatory. The support of our families is always greatly appreciated and we are also encouraging students and staff to wear odd socks on Tuesday as part of the national event to *celebrate what makes us all unique*.

At this time of year, our safer schools officers always share reminders to our students about personal safety. This is important throughout the year, but is more of a focus during the winter months once the clocks go back. One of the main issues in specific hotspots such as the Uxbridge High Street area is robbery of young people where they might be asked to hand over personal items. Whilst this isn't a weekly occurrence, we would also encourage our students to be cautious when travelling home from school. If walking to and from school, children should try to walk with friends and should not have expensive items on show. This includes ensuring that they are not wearing earphones or airpods and should avoid listening to music as this can minimise their awareness. Students should also stick to well lit, public routes and should avoid shortcuts through poorly lit areas. I would also like to remind parents and carers that children who cycle to school should be wearing a cycling helmet, have reflective clothing and properly working lights on their cycle to travel safely to and from school. If parents have any questions about travelling to and from school they should contact their child's Year Leader.

Finally this week, I would like to thank our safer school's officer, PC Boyle for her excellent knife crime workshop that she delivered to students in Year 8 on Tuesday of this week. The feedback from the staff and students that attended was excellent and it was so pleasing to see just how responsive the students were to the session and the activities that took place. In relation to this, I would like to remind all parents and carers that we will continue to participate in the Metropolitan Police Knife Arch strategy this year. This is an unannounced activity, whereby students are scanned and have their bags checked on a given day as they arrive at school. Whilst I have come to learn that this is not universally popular, it does have an impact and reminds all students of our intention to remain a knife and drug free school. I thank all parents and carers in advance for their support.

Gary Mullings, Headteacher

Children In Need 2024



On Friday 15th November, Vyners will be marking Children in Need Day with a charity day, which will include a non-uniform day for all students and staff. There will be a voluntary contribution of £2 per student payable via Squid, which will go to the Children in Need charity and also help to support our annual senior citizens Christmas party. We very much appreciate the support of our families for the charity as well as our senior citizens in the local community.

Vyners Staff Conference

We would like to give all parents and carers advance warning that our annual two day staff conference will be taking place on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November. These are two days of professional learning that are designed to ensure that all staff continue to develop their expertise so that we are able to effectively meet the needs of all of our students. This is increasingly important given the increasingly diverse learning needs of some of our students at the school. The school will be closed to all students on these two days. Whilst we are aware that some families use this as an opportunity for a short break, it must be stressed that all students are expected to attend school on Wednesday 27th November and Monday 2nd December and that these days should not be added on to any holiday time.

Year 12 Trip to Cambridge University

The Cambridge trip was a great experience where we were given the opportunity to learn about Robinson College, one of the colleges that form Cambridge. At first we were provided with information regarding the different courses that a student may apply to and we learnt about how a typical student life may look like (such as joining societies that provide many different experiences and allow a student to get to know many peers). After this, we were toured by Cambridge students who passionately explained their favourite parts of the college - such as the customisable milkshakes at the cafe. We were provided with complimentary dinner, allowing us to get a feel for the kind of foods that a student may eat on campus when not cooking for themselves. Also, previous students, including one who was previously a Ruislip High School student, answered questions such as how the university entrance exams and interviews may be conducted. Additionally, we walked through the city of Cambridge, which was a very calm area that differs vastly from the traffic of London. In conclusion, we were able to gather a sense of whether the

collegiate system within the small city of Cambridge would be befitting for us individually; enabling us to begin making the decision of considering Cambridge as a university choice by using our experience alongside new knowledge (eg the pooling system for students who may not have been accepted into their first choice college).

Khaled Chouman, Year 12 Student

Sport Update

U14 Stanley Lyle Bowl

The U14 girls played in the Middlesex cup on Wednesday 7th November in which they secured a comfortable 10 - 0 win. Goalscorers were Bow Mower (5), Libby Scarisbrick (3), Yelena Vukotic (1) and an OG. They move through to the quarter finals to play Nower Hill.

Ms John, Teacher of PE

Nut-Free School

Can I remind parents that we have a number of students in school with serious nut allergies. For these students, exposure to nuts can cause a potentially life threatening allergic reaction known as anaphylactic shock. This exposure can occur not only through eating nuts, but, in some cases, merely being in close proximity to them. The school canteen and food technology departments both operate on a 'nut free' basis. Could I ask all parents to support these students by taking the following steps:

- To not send their children into school with breaktime snacks, or food in their lunchboxes, which contains nuts.
- To ensure that any products brought in, for charity bake sales, or end of term social events are equally 'nut free'.
- Please can I ask parents to be particularly vigilant of chocolate selection boxes (e.g. Celebrations).
- If the opportunity presents itself, to have a discussion with their son or daughter as to why these products can be so dangerous for some.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a safe school environment for all.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Environmental Sustainability Week

Please click [\[here\]](#) for information on the activities taking place during the Environmental Sustainability Week (11th to 15th September) including slogan and image competitions.

Please click [\[here\]](#) for an information sheet about the '*how low can we go?*' challenge which will take place next week.

Students will receive their unique codes which will enable them to take part. The list of challenges is linked on the information sheet and they are very similar to those in the first environmental sustainability week. Staff will be on hand to support those students who have not taken part in the challenge before.

Students and their families are wished the best of luck with completing the challenges and working together towards reducing our carbon footprint.

Please click [\[here\]](#) for information on our keynote speaker, Jeremy Williams, the three objectives for the week and daily challenges.

Emma Jordan, VLT Executive Assistant

Parent Survey - Student transition to new academic year

We are inviting parents and carers to complete a trust wide survey that will enable us to review how students have transitioned into the new academic year. The survey is short and should only take a few minutes. We would encourage as many parents and carers as possible to complete the questionnaire regardless of the stage that their child is currently at. A link to the form can be found here ([click here](#)). The survey will remain open until the end of the day on Friday 22nd November.

VLT Staff Vacancies

Please click [\[here\]](#) for a list of vacancies within the Trust schools.

Friends of Vyners

Quiz Night

Thank you to those who attended the October Quiz Night - £770.00 was raised for the School.

The next Quiz Night will be held on Friday 22nd November. Please contact the FOV team at haganhurst47@btinternet.com for more information or to book tickets. Information required: party name / total number of people in party / provisional food order / name & e-mail or phone no for confirmation.

100 Club

Please click [\[here\]](#) for the winner for September and October 2024.

For more information on Friends of Vyners, please visit the FOV page on the school website [\[here\]](#).

Autumn Term Key Dates

Thursday 28th November	Conference - school closed to students
Friday 29th November	Conference - school closed to students
Monday 2nd December	Year 11 and Year 13 Trial Exams (until the end of term)
Thursday 12th December	Awards Evening
Monday 16th December	Christmas Concert (change of date)
Friday 20th December	Term ends (12.20pm)