



## Parent Bulletin

31st January 2025

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As parents and carers will be aware, the school received a two day Ofsted inspection on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. This was very much welcomed as there was a firm belief in the school that we were very prepared for an inspection. This was an ungraded inspection due to the fact that the school received an Outstanding judgement at the point of its previous inspection in 2019. This means that whilst the inspection team does not have the authority to change the current grade of the school, they are seeking to see whether the school has maintained its standards since the last inspection. Any judgement that a school has failed to do so, would result in a graded inspection within a specified time period.

Whilst we are limited to what we can share at this time, I can report that the two days were positive and that the whole community made a concerted effort to showcase the school. I would like to thank His Majesty's Inspector (HMI), Sam Johnston and her team for the manner in which they conducted the inspection. It is quite clear that Ofsted, as an organisation, has learnt from the tragic death of Ruth Perry and is ensuring that inspections are no longer combative or overly stressful for school staff.

Thank you to all stakeholders (parents, carers, staff and students) who provided feedback to the inspectorate over the two days. Over 190 parents completed the online survey and we are pleased that, at the time of the inspection, over 90% of parents stated that they would recommend the school to another parent. However, we do understand that not every parent or child has the same experience in any school and we will be working to ensure that we can resolve at least some of the issues highlighted in the feedback commentary. I was delighted that staff were overwhelmingly positive about working at the school and that students, in both surveys and meetings with inspectors, were able to demonstrate that they are proud to be members of the school community.

It takes up to thirty working days (six weeks) until the final report is published. Unfortunately, during that time schools are directed not to share the provisional outcomes with students or parents. However, I am more than happy to share that I believe that the (provisional) outcome and feedback that the school received in this inspection provides us with extremely solid foundations to work on to continue our continuous journey of school improvement.

One immediate area that we are continuously trying to improve is overall school attendance. To use the words of the lead inspector, *'attendance is on the cusp of returning to pre pandemic levels'*. We know that attending school poses genuine challenges for some children, but this is a very small minority for whom we continue to do our best to support. However, for us to return to 95% plus attendance that was last achieved in 2019, it is essential that all students are attending as well as they possibly can. Whilst we remain in the top 30% of schools nationally for attendance, our analysis of the data shows that authorised attendance remains higher than average for Hillingdon. Whilst having higher than average authorised attendance and low unauthorised attendance might seem like a positive, it suggests that there are probably too many occasions where parents and carers are allowing their children not to attend when they reasonably could. This is particularly the case at the start and end of terms when it is obvious that some families are taking extra days for holidays or similar reasons. I would again ask the support of all families to alleviate this issue.

Thank you once again to all stakeholders for their ongoing support in what we are trying to achieve for our students. I very much look forward to sharing the final report with all stakeholders when it is published later this term.

### **Dame Judith Weir Visit**

I was delighted to be able to welcome Dame Judith Weir to the school for the third time on Tuesday. Dame Judith was the Master of the King's Music between 2014 and 2024, appointed by Queen Elizabeth II. It is quite wonderful that such a well regarded and elite musician continues to make the time to support student musicians with their composition work as part of their GCSE and A level studies. My sincere thanks to Dame Judith and thank you also to Mr Cullum for arranging the visit for the benefit of our students.

### **Mark Hague Memorial**

Mark's family has informed us that there will be a memorial next Friday 7th February to celebrate Mark's life. The memorial will take place at The River Garden in Harefield from 3pm. Family, friends and former colleagues are welcome to attend.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Finally this week, I would like to thank Mr Beale, Subject Leader for History, for sharing resources for all tutorials to reflect on the Holocaust Memorial Day and specifically the eightieth anniversary of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

In recognition of its significance, the Holocaust is the only historic event which is compulsory within the history curriculum. It remains clear that we need to continue to ensure that we all understand the horrors of the past, why they happened and be able to apply that understanding to today so that we are able to spot the signs of hatred and the seeds of further atrocities. With the many conflicts that have taken place in different regions across the globe in recent years, it does appear that some of those lessons have not been learned.

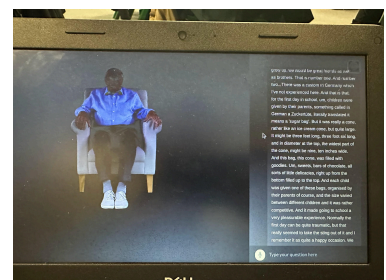
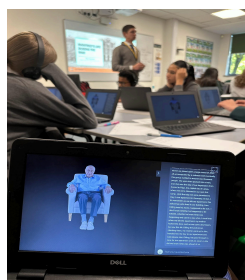
Wishing all of our families a peaceful weekend.

**Gary Mullings  
Headteacher**

### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Today marks 80 years since liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has published a range of resources that can help students understand the holocaust and other acts of genocide. This has been shared with all students through their google classrooms. It features survivor testimony, links to more information and a very good FAQ. The link for the resources can be found [here](#).



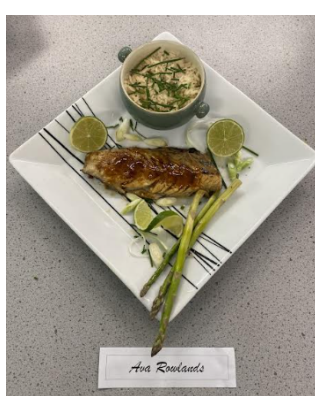
This is not the only way that the Holocaust is remembered at Vyners. All students in Year 8 study the Holocaust as part of the History National Curriculum. The history department also invited the Holocaust Educational Trust into the school earlier in the year to conduct their Testimony 360 project. A group of students from years 9-13 were able to interview Manfred Goldberg about his experience of surviving the holocaust using an AI assisted recording. Students asked questions and this was matched to responses that had been recorded from 5 days of interviews with Manfred. It allowed for a dialogue to develop between the two. Students then put on VR goggles and were given a 360' tour of various locations from Manfred's life. With less and less survivors able to give their testimony, this resource will become invaluable in connecting students with survivors of the holocaust. Here is a short video from the Holocaust Education Trust that demonstrates these resources in [action](#)



**Mr Beale, Subject Leader, History**

### **Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition**

Our Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been working hard in recent weeks to prepare, cook and present an inspiring range of complex dishes as part of their GCSE non exam assessment. This year's theme is 'International Cuisine' and our young chefs have mastered beautiful dishes from every corner of the earth. After half term, the students will cook their final three dishes as part of the practical element of the NEA. Keep up the good work!



**Mr Welch, Assistant Subject Leader, Design and Technology**

## Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our Year 7 students who attended the Vanguard Learning Trust's 'Spelling Bee' competition. A warm thank you to the following students who supported team Vyners: Franek Glusinski (7M), Laura Guttridge (7F), Myah Sidhu (7W), Diren Arora (7P), Pavan Ghandial (7P).

A huge well done to the participants: Niall Gallagher (7H), Dylan Scourfield (7H) and Leo Curtin (7M). A special mention to Lisa Prevo (7W) who came first in taking the crown of Trust Best Speller! A tremendous effort - well done! Taking part in a competition like this is an achievement in itself, and winning is an incredible accomplishment.



**Ms Hussain, English Department**

## Friends of Vyners

### **The Friends of Vyners Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

We would like to give notice that the AGM for the Friends of Vyners School (PTA) will be held on Thursday 6th March 2025. The meeting will start at 5pm and be held at the school.

Friends of Vyners play a vital part in the school community and all parents and carers, as automatic members of Friends of Vyners, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the children/students at our school. The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTA Committee, who represent the association throughout the forthcoming year. Nominations should be sent in advance of the AGM for anyone wishing to stand as an Officer or Ordinary Committee Member, for the first time. Existing committee members wishing to stand for reelection do not have to be nominated again but should inform Friends of Vyners of their intention to stay in their role.

If you would like any further information please email [friendsofvynersschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofvynersschool@gmail.com). If you would like to attend the AGM please reply to [friendsofvynersschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofvynersschool@gmail.com) no later than Monday 3rd March 2025.

We look forward to seeing you on 6th March!

Best Regards,

Dominique Hawkins & Lucy Greenfield  
Co-Chairs, Friends of Vyners School

## **VLТ Support Staff Vacancies**

Please click [\[here\]](#) for the list of VLT support staff vacancies.

## **Spring Term Key Dates**

Wednesday 5th February      Year 11 Parents Evening (online), 4.30pm to 7.00pm  
Thursday 13th February      Year 13 Parents Evening (online), 4.30pm to 7.00pm

17th - 21st February          Half Term

Tuesday 11th March          Year 9 Parents Evening (online), 4.30pm to 7.00pm  
Thursday 20th March          Year 12 Parents Evening (online), 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Friday 4th April              Term ends (3pm finish)