

# Weekly Vyne Bulletin

## **HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER** **18 January 2019**

I would like to start this week's newsletter by congratulating Ms Pape and Mrs Bashford-Hynes, both of whom delivered a presentation at the Central Methodist Hall in Westminster on Tuesday. The presentation formed part of the PiXL spring term meeting, which was attended by over 2000 school senior leaders from across the country. The PiXL network is a platform for the sharing of excellent practice and it was for this reason that Ms Pape and Mrs Bashford-Hynes were asked to speak about the Vyners Learning Journey, a concept which has now been adopted by hundreds of secondary schools. The Learning Journey was originally developed by Ms Pape and it charts the opportunities that are available for students to engage in the type of activities, including opportunities to lead, engage and volunteer that we believe help them to develop into the rounded and grounded individuals who are successful beyond their time at the school. My warmest thanks and congratulations to them both. If you would like to learn more about the Learning Journey then please contact your child's tutor or Year Leader.

Very much linked to the Learning Journey, I would like to congratulate Tadiwa Siguake (13C), Joseph Connolly (9G), Alfie Burgess (10G) and Ellie Coffey (10C) all of whom participated in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Romeo and Juliet at the Barbican last week. This was as a result of the RSC's Associate Schools Programme, which aims to engage students in Shakespeare through a long term partnership between the RSC, theatres and schools. The students performed extraordinarily well with professional actors and it is no small feat to perform to a packed theatre, on a central London stage, with an internationally renowned theatre company. An amazing experience and achievement for our students and the culmination of a lot of hard work behind the scenes. Congratulations to all involved and my sincere thanks to Miss Baccam for her excellent work in the ongoing development of the school's partnership with the RSC.

The upcoming Options Evenings, both for students in Year 8 and Year 9 are extremely important events as they aim to ensure that parents, carers and students are fully informed when making their GCSE options choices. Although these decisions are relatively straightforward for some, inevitably there are difficult choices for others, but as is always the case we recommend that students retain a broad and balanced approach to their GCSE options as this allows them to retain more 'open doors' in the future. The Year 9 Options evening will take place on Wednesday 30 January starting at 7.00pm and the Year 8 evening will take place on the following Wednesday, 6 February and will commence at 6.00pm.

I would also like to remind parents and

carers that the majority of our consultation meetings with parents take place during this term starting with the Year 11 Parents' Consultation evening, which takes place on Thursday 7 February and starts at 4.30 pm. As a reminder, it is our expectation that all parents / carers attend these evenings as they are extremely important events in relation to our ability to effectively support each child at the school. All other dates for parent meetings can be accessed via the calendar on the school website.

On Wednesday 23 January 2019, we will be holding our whole school Careers Day. The programme is designed to meet the needs of our students to make informed and confident decisions with their career management. The day will consist of each year group attending sessions in the Hall where they will be given talks by guest speakers from a range of different professions. From 3.00 – 5.00pm we will have several exhibitors attending from different business sectors as well as Further Education, Higher Education and a Careers Counsellor. The Fayre is an excellent opportunity to meet a range of colleges, universities, apprenticeships and employers. This will be invaluable to all parents from Years 7 - 12 in helping you to gain first-hand knowledge and guide your child about the world of work. Parents and carers who wish to attend should report to the Main School Hall at 3.00pm. Unfortunately there will be no parking on site. Those planning to visit are asked to either walk or park off-site. As always, I would ask that if you are driving and parking in the local vicinity that you please be considerate of local residents when doing so.

### **Uniform Reminder**

I would like to give a gentle reminder that students in the main school should not be attending school with any form of extended eyelashes or coloured nails. We have had a small number of students who have done so recently, often with items that cannot be easily removed. I would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

### **Weather Reminder**

You may have seen that there have been extraordinary amounts of snowfall on the continent with countries such as Austria and Germany experiencing some of the worst conditions in the last 30 years. Although the chance of snow that had been forecast for next week seems to have dissipated it is probably a good time to remind parents and carers that the school will always take a reasonable and proportionate response to challenging weather conditions and will always aim to keep the school open when safe to do so. We will always take into consideration whether the site is safe, whether sufficient numbers of staff can get to the school to safely care for the students (remembering that much of the staffing body travel a considerable distance to the school each day), and whether there is sufficient heating to keep students and staff warm enough. If a decision is taken to close the school for any reason we will always aim to communicate this to parents via

the school website as well as through social media platforms. If a decision is made to keep the school open during adverse weather conditions the expectation is that families make reasonable arrangements for children to arrive at school even if it might take additional time to do so. I would also ask that during the cold weather that students dress appropriately and wear items such as coats to and from school rather than sweatshirts and hoodies. I am extremely hopeful that we can get through the spring term without even a dusting of snow. Fingers crossed!

### **Gary Mullings**

Headteacher

## **Headteacher's Commendations**

### **Pastoral**

8G Devina Daby

### **Work Related Learning Day**

8G, Jahnvi Gudi, Abigail Heggie, Cameron Hibbs, Matthew Hunt, Caitlin Kelly

### **Notification**

Some Parents/Carers are reporting that they are not receiving all emails from Vyners School. If this is the case for you or anyone you know could I please ask that you check your Junk/Spam folder in the first instance. If you do not find the Vyners School emails in there then please contact [office@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:office@vynersschool.org.uk) so we can investigate further.

If you find that Vyners School emails are ending up in your spam/junk folder then what you need to do is put Vyners School in your Safe Senders List. Below are instructions on how to do this if you use Gmail or Hotmail/Outlook. If you use another email provider then a quick internet search should provide you with instructions on how to do it for your particular email provider. The bulk of emails from Vyners School will come from the domain [@schools.ps-connect.cloud](mailto:@schools.ps-connect.cloud) and from [office@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:office@vynersschool.org.uk)

### **Gmail**

There is no Safe Senders List in Gmail but the easiest way to ensure emails don't end up in spam is to add the Vyners School email addresses to your contacts list.

### **Hotmail/Outlook**

Go into the Hotmail/Outlook settings menu and select "options". On the left hand side you will see a list of options, one of which will be "Junk Mail" and under that "Safe Senders". You will want to add [@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:@vynersschool.org.uk) & [@schools.ps-connect.cloud](mailto:@schools.ps-connect.cloud)

The above actions should hopefully prevent your email provider from putting Vyners School emails into the Junk/Spam folder.

## **CURRENT JOB VACANCIES**

Vacancies currently exist for an enthusiastic **Learning Support Assistant (LSA)** and a **temporary part-time 6th Form Administrator**.

For more details please contact Frances Webb:

[fwebb@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:fwebb@vynersschool.org.uk).

