

Parent Bulletin

4th April 2025

Leading a large organisation such as Vyners requires a significant amount of time to solve problems. The variety and complexity of issues that arise in a large secondary school can be quite remarkable. I'm delighted that we appear to be much closer to resolving the issue that, along with hundreds of schools across the country, we have had with the payment company, sQuidcard. Our Business Manager, Miss Williams, shared a letter with parents and carers this week outlining the progress that has been made and the steps that parents need to make to ensure that the appropriate funds are received where necessary ([click here](#)). We are sorry that parents have had to deal with this situation but are pleased that the issue appears to be getting towards a satisfactory resolution.

As mentioned in previous updates, the school has migrated to a new management information system this week. This is not something that we would usually do in such a short period of time. However, similar to the Squidcard system, we were left with little choice by our previous supplier. Overall, the migration has gone well and I would like to particularly thank Mr Newbey, Assistant Headteacher, for his leadership of the Vyners leg of this trust wide project. As with many IT projects, there have been some minor issues that were difficult to anticipate. One issue that many parents will be aware of is that the Edulink platform that both staff and parents use to access student information, will require all users to create new accounts. Information has been emailed to parents which explains how to create a parental account. I would again like to apologise to parents for the inconvenience caused.

Vanguard Learning Trust awards

This week, I was delighted to award the VLT awards to three students and two staff for the Spring Term. Our staff winners are Mr Babra and Mrs Tighe. I can say with some authority that Mr Babra continually goes above and beyond in an effort to ensure that the students get the best deal possible in the DT department. He does this against the ongoing challenge of trying to recruit teachers to work in the department. This is a national issue as fewer and fewer design and technology specialists are entering the teaching profession. Mrs Tighe works tirelessly as the Key Stage 4 Family Liaison Officer, supporting our pastoral teams to ensure that all students attend well and have the opportunity to achieve good outcomes. Congratulations to both colleagues. The awards are well deserved.



Alongside the staff awards, there are also three recipients for the student awards this term; one from each key stage. The Key Stage 3 award goes to Chloe Hodgkinson. Chloe receives the award as she is someone who continually supports her peers, demonstrates a strong sense of teamwork, and always contributes positively to the school community. Caitlin White receives the Key Stage 4 award for her engagement in school and community events. Caitlin is also a prefect who performs her duties to an excellent standard. The award for Key Stage 5 goes to Matin Oghabi for his commitment to helping younger students with additional learning needs. Matin's mentorship is commendable and has made a difference in children's confidence and everyday lives. His work within the Vyners' community displays a level of compassion and empathy that is well beyond his years. Chloe, Caitlin and Matin fully embody the school and trust values and are excellent role models for their peers. They are three students amongst the many at Vyners who make a significant contribution to the school community on a daily basis.



Chloe Hodgkinson, KS3



Caitlin White, KS4



Matin Oghabi, KS5

The term ahead

Hopefully, the summer term will provide us with the opportunity to take further steps forward as a school community. It will, of course, be the term when our students in Year 11 and 13 sit their examinations and I would like to take the opportunity to remind them of the importance of the Easter break to get themselves organised (if they haven't already done so), work through their revision plans and most importantly, recharge their batteries so that they are energised for the term ahead.

Finally, I would like to say Eid Mubarak! to all of our families who celebrated Eid al-Fitr earlier this week and wish all of our families a very happy and peaceful Easter.

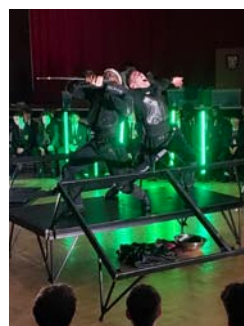
Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Box Clever Theatre Company comes to Vyners!

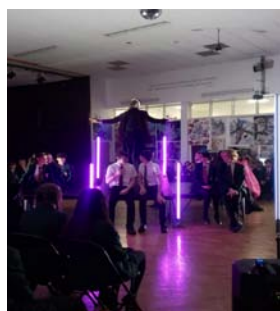
The London-based award winning, writer-led Box Clever Theatre Company, dedicated to the creation of contemporary theatre for young people, visited the school on Thursday 20th March, bringing *Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde* to life for our Year 11 students and on Friday 21st March; a production of Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth* with engaging, dynamic performances and interactive workshops.



The Year 10s and 11s thoroughly enjoyed the modernised interactive productions, with lots of audience participation, giving them renewed energy and enthusiasm for both these classic pieces of literature! This was a fantastic opportunity for students to see the texts they are currently studying for their GCSEs!



Three actors performed both the texts in just over an hour, followed by a workshop to help the students learn more about some of the key themes.



As well as being extremely informative, the actors were all approachable and enthusiastic. Physical theatre, lightsabers, audience participation ... a very clever interpretation of both these masterpieces!

Ms Goode, Assistant Subject Leader, English

Hamlet Visit in Stratford-Upon-Avon

On Friday, I had the fantastic opportunity of visiting Stratford-upon-Avon with my English class, along with Year 13 students also studying English Literature, to watch the RSC's "startlingly fresh" and "compelling" spectacle of "Hamlet" ([East Midlands Theatre Review](#)). Directed by Rupert Goold, it is set on a "sort of Royal Yacht Scandinavia" and takes place "over the course of only one night" (suggested "via a red digital onstage clock").

This trip was a vibrant and impactful day, which vividly translated the concepts and analytical discussions within our class into a tangible and exhilarating theatrical display.

The day kickstarted with an intensely interactive workshop revolving around themes in Hamlet, directed by a brilliant RSC actress. Starting with some warm up tasks, which helped us in taking on the mindset of a performer, we then moved on to working in smaller groups on a crucial scene of the play, and acting it out with different styles or actions each time. This underlined to me how interpretation can completely change the perception of a character, not only for an audience but for the actor themselves.

After a short breather, we delved into the unique structure and thrilling atmosphere of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Sitting at the very top, I could see every moment clearly and distinctly. The vibrant and light-hearted conversations of the huddles of people (and their anticipation), the gradual dimming of the lights bringing those same conversations to an abrupt halt, but most integrally the intricate details of the play itself; the "roiling wake of waves down-stage" ([Guardian review](#)), the tumultuous and ever-shifting boat deck, but also the constant movement and action of the characters. This interpretation of the play, ultimately, effortlessly interweaves the notions that Shakespeare perpetuated in the 17th century along with modern, refreshing theatrical elements, resulting in a performance enjoyable and engaging for all.

The meticulous care and attention that went into this production was evident in every single aspect, and we saw this being explored further as a class in the Q and A discussion led by part of the remarkable team of actors at the end of the performance. Lewis Shepherd, for instance (the actor of Laertes normally, who performed as Hamlet last night), underlined how the modern alternatives, particularly the setting and stage, accentuated the sense of "franticness" and allowed for an even more "immersive experience".

A huge thank you to our teachers in the English department for organising this unforgettable trip. We would also like to sincerely thank Mr and Mrs Cahill for partially funding this trip as part of the Neill Cahill Memorial programme for students studying English in the Sixth Form.



Primary School Science Outreach

On Wednesday 19th March, Ms Holt, MsGabeyre and Dr Ganguli-Roy visited Glebe School to share some exciting Science activities to promote STEM week in their school.

We shared hands-on activities through the Biology of the movement of limbs, the Chemistry of cabbage indicators and the energy transfers of Rube Goldberg machines in Physics to bridge the gap between Primary and Secondary School Science.

The students were introduced to Secondary school concepts and were able to use a wide range of Science lab equipment. Activities were also shared where they could build on in the Primary classrooms or even independently do at home.

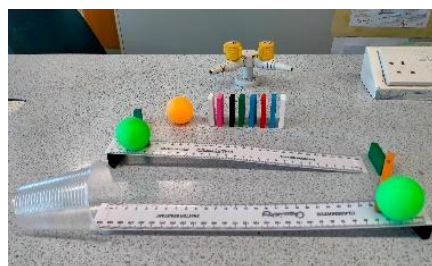
In Biology Ms Holt demonstrated a mechanical limb to show movement in the human body. She then led an activity for students to build their own moving 'robotic hand' with card, straws and string, simply a few of her favourite art things!

Dr Ganguli-Roy wowed students with the Chemistry of colours. Students used lab equipment to crush their cabbage, filter the solution and then test their indicator on a range of household substances found in the kitchen, to produce a rainbow of colours.

Ms Gabeyre introduced the students to Rube Goldberg machines, using equipment such as rulers, lolly pop sticks, ping pong balls and dominoes to build chain reactions to study energy transfers in everyday objects. The students then independently made and tested their own set-ups.

From the student voice..." We loved the way we had to work as a team to work things out".. and " it was cool to use equipment we've never used before".

Glebe School made us feel so welcome and supported. This was our first Primary school partnership with them and definitely won't be our last. Looking forward to future projects together.



Dr Ganguli-Roy, Teacher of Science

VLT Science Challenge

On Wednesday 26th March six of our Year 7 students took part in the annual VLT Science challenge at Hermitage Primary School in Uxbridge, where a couple of our students were excited at the chance of returning to their previous school to meet some of their ex-teachers.

Our students were up against the other schools in the Vanguard Learning Trust and we took 3rd place. Our team Lisa Prevo, Jess Hobbs, Mia Connor, Ben Scanlon, Sebastian Feneck and Amelia Kopczak navigated through challenges to identify the elements, solve a Periodic table jigsaw and answer general knowledge questions in a very closely fought elemental battle.

Congratulations to Field End Primary School and Hermitage Primary School who took 1st and 2nd places respectively. In the end it came down to a nail-biting tie breaker. In the end, our special guest, Dr Lecky had the honour to use her expertise to ask the tricky tie-breaker questions.

What I loved about our students was their teamwork in favouring accuracy over speed and overcoming their initial nervousness to grow their confidence. A special shout out to Ben Scanlon who stepped forward to answer his individual question on the spot. From our student voices '*It was really fun*'- Jess Hobbs, '*We learnt a lot*',- Lisa Prevo, '*It was a great opportunity and we enjoyed the snacks!*' – Ben Scanlon

An expertly run competition where we were made to feel very welcome at the Hermitage Primary School. All the competitors showed a real depth of knowledge which was amazing to watch. Looking forward to smashing the VLT challenge next Year!



Dr Ganguli-Roy, Teacher of Science

Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition

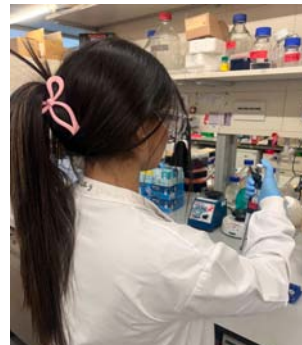
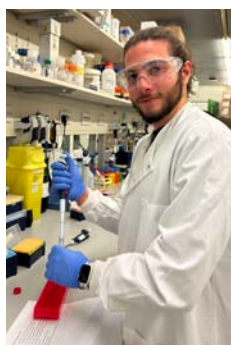
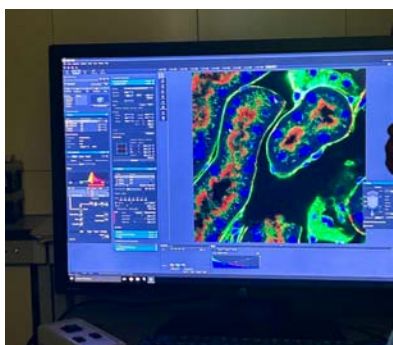
Our talented Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students completed the final practical element of their GCSE NEA last week. The challenging format requires our young chefs to cook three dishes at once. This year, the theme for the dishes was international cuisine. Lemon meringue pies, creme patissiere fruit tarts, ravioli with home-made pasta are just a few of the sumptuous delights served up by our delightful year 11s. Both classes were a credit to themselves and performed beautifully. Well done all, and thank you for your hard work.



Mr Welch, Assistant Subject Leader, Design and Technology

Year 12 Medical Society

Members of the Vyners Medical Society (Daisy, Yara, Weronika, Khaled, Mortaza) were invited to spend a day at UCL's Cancer Institute. The day was situated around learning more about cancer, current projects around cancer research and the cutting edge technology that is aiding researchers in their new discoveries. We carried out a small practical on DNA in UCL's laboratory, learnt more about the layering in light microscope imaging and had insightful talks from doctors of oncology, lecturers and current students at UCL's cancer institute. Overall it was a very successful and insightful day.



Daisy, Year 12 Student

Sports Update

U14 Girls Middlesex Final

Some of our girls in Year 8 & Year 9 took part in the Middlesex U14's Jan Palmer Cup Final on Tuesday 18th March at Rectory Park. The game was a very tough game and all players fought really hard. A goal from Bow Mower in the first half saw us take the lead, and an equaliser from Cardinal Wiseman in the second half unfortunately led to penalties after 70 minutes - a position no team wants to be in. After a tactical GK change from Cardinal Wiseman for the penalties they saved our 4th penalty. Luckily, Erin O'connor managed to save their 4th.... and 5th leading us to victory! This has not been done in at least 8 years, and coming away from the previous 3 years runners up makes this an outstanding achievement.

Jasmine Dhaliwal was awarded player of the match by the competition organiser.



Miss John, Teacher of PE

Spring Concert

There was a festival atmosphere at this year's Spring concert with tents, glo sticks and hay bales as well as some outrageous costumes! The 'Rock and Pop' theme did not disappoint with our fantastic musicians donning wigs and moustaches to perform a range of nostalgic and contemporary tunes - from artists such as The Beatles, Whitney Houston and Robert Miles. The 'rave' item was particularly unique and a lot of fun was had by all!

'That was the best fun I've had in ages!' - Y10 Parent

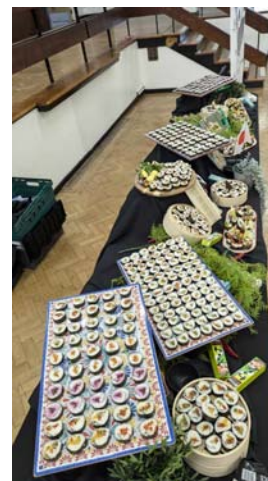


Mrs Harvey, Deputy Headteacher

Sushi Tasting in the Canteen

We were delighted to welcome in the Executive Chef from our catering partner, Cucina, on Wednesday 26th of March. He prepared a range of vegetarian sushi for students to sample. Well done to all our students who stepped out of their comfort zone to try something new - double points to those that tried the wasabi!

Thank you to all of the catering team and Cucina for hosting this event



Miss Williams, Business Manager

VLT Updates

Please find below links to two VLT Newsletters:

- [10-Year Anniversary, Special Edition Newsletter, March 2025](#)
- [VLT Newsletter, Spring 2, April 2025](#)

Please click [[here](#)] for the VLT staff vacancies

Summer Term Key Dates

Tuesday 22nd April	Term starts
Tuesday 29th April	Year 10 Parents Evening (online), 4.30pm to 7.00pm
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 9th May	Friends of Vyners Quiz Night
Thursday 15th May	Year 8 Parents Evening (online), 4.30pm to 7.00pm
26th - 30th May	Half Term
Thursday 5th June	Year 7 Parents Evening (online), 4.30pm to 7.00pm
Friday 27th June	Staff Development Day (students not in school)
Friday 18th July	Terms ends (12.20pm finish)

Please click [[here](#)] for the link to the co-curricular activities page on our website for the summer term timetable.