

Weekly Vyne Bulletin

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER **Friday 6 September 2019**

A warm welcome back to the start of another school year during which we will be celebrating the school's 60th Anniversary. We have been particularly pleased to have been able to welcome our new Year 7 intake, which exceeds 240 students in eight tutorial groupings. I would also like to thank all parents and carers who have supported us by ensuring that their child has returned to school with the appropriate uniform standards and properly equipped, ready to fully engage in the wide range of learning opportunities on offer.

As much as I enjoyed the summer break and the additional time that I was able to spend with family and friends, it was also a pleasure to be in attendance during the two examination results days during mid and late August. On each occasion the school hall was buzzing with excitement as outgoing cohorts in Year 13 and Year 11 received their envelopes containing their final grades. It was another successful year at GCSE level with a record 87% of students achieving the threshold of grade 4 and above in both English and mathematics, whilst over 30% of all grades were achieved at 7, 8 or 9 (equivalent to the legacy A*/A grades). Our success at GCSE level has also contributed to a significant number of students enrolling onto courses in the Sixth Form this year. This is something that we are obviously delighted about. Our outgoing Year 13 students performed well with 54% of all grades being achieved at A*-B. Three students achieved two A* grades alongside two A grades in Maths and Science based subjects, with a further two students achieving one A* and three A grades. We were also delighted that two students achieved two A* grades each in the Arts subjects. The overwhelming majority of students have been able to progress to their first choice of University or Higher Level Apprenticeship with others being able to progress via reserve choices. This year's destinations include Russell Group universities such as St Andrews, Southampton and Warwick. This will also be the third successive year that students from Vyners will have been accepted to study in the United States.

We will, of course, have the opportunity to celebrate many of our students' successes at our Annual Awards Evening, which takes place on this coming Thursday, commencing at 7.30pm. Our guest of honour this year will be the Rt Hon Nicholas Hurd MP

who has been the Member of Parliament for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner since 2010 and is currently serving as the Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office. We very much appreciate what an extremely busy time of year this is for Nick and that he will be taking time out of his schedule on at least two occasions over the coming months to visit the school (he will also be at the official opening of our new building in November).

One small challenge that has arisen at the start of this term has been the slight overrun of the building works that took place within the existing school buildings. The new building looks stunning, even at this stage and is on schedule for completion and occupation during the October half term. Phase 3 of the school development (phase 1 being the Astroturf) will be the redevelopment of the existing buildings, which is due for completion by the end of the autumn term. To enable the contractors to meet the deadline we had to agree to some of these works taking place over the holiday period. This has involved converting our existing library into two new science classrooms, redeveloping the performing arts and fitness studios, as well as extending other areas and installing new toilet facilities. Invariably, when dealing with slightly older public buildings all is not quite often as it seems and the contractors did encounter unexpected issues that initially interrupted the progress of the works. This in turn has meant that the contractors had to work tirelessly during the final days of the holidays to ensure that the school was habitable when the students first arrived. I must apologise to the parents of the Year 7 cohort who brought their children onto the quad on Tuesday. The area was not particularly clean as a result of the overrun. However, I would like to thank Cathal O'Kane and his team from Farrans as the end results are quite stunning. In addition, my thanks also go to our Facilities Manager, Mr Seabridge and his team for facilitating the project during this time and helping to ensure that the school was in great shape on Wednesday morning when the first lessons took place. I have posted some of the images of the school last week and this week on the school's Twitter page. As mentioned earlier, the official opening of the new build will take place on Friday 9 November 2019, after which we will be more than happy to welcome parents, alumni and friends of the school around our fantastic school facilities.

Finally, this week I would like to make another plea to all parents and carers to be as considerate to residents on Warren Road and other surrounding residential streets as possible throughout the academic year. My main concerns are in relation to traffic and parking at the start and end of the school day. There are far too many cars attempting to drop off and pick up at these times and I would, where possible, encourage students to walk or cycle to school. If that is not possible, then I would ask that you 'Park and Stride' ie that you drop your child off and pick your child up further away from the school and alleviate the pressure on Warren Road. It was quite noticeable this week that some parents have opted to do this; it is greatly appreciated. Finally, if you do stop on Warren Road at any time then please do not park across driveways. This can greatly inconvenience our neighbours and we do take great pride in being a neighbourly and community minded school. Thank you all in advance for your assistance. I am very much looking forward to another fantastic year at the school.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

- Tuesday 10 September, FOV meeting 7pm
- Thursday 12 September, Awards Evening 7pm
- Tuesday 17 September, Year 11 Tutor Evening 6pm
- Tuesday 24 September, school photographs for years 7, 12 and siblings
- Tuesday 24 September, Year 13 Tutor Evening 6pm
- Wednesday 2 October, Year 6 Annual Open Evening 5.30pm, early school closure 12.30pm
- Thursday 3 October, school starts later 9.30
- Friday 4 October, FOV meeting 7.30pm
- Tuesday 8 October, Year 10 Tutor Evening 6pm
- Thursday 10 October, Year 7 parents Cheese and Wine evening 6pm
- Tuesday 15 October, Year 12 Tutor Evening 6pm
- 21-25 October Half-term

