

Parent Bulletin

19th December 2025

Whilst the Christmas holiday definitely feels as though it has crept up on us, this week definitely felt seasonal as a number of traditional activities took place within the school community. I should mention first of all, just how proud we have been of all our students in Years 11 and 13 who have completed their trial exams this week in what has been an exemplary manner. I am sure that all students involved are rather tired and looking forward to a well earned break.

Christmas Events

Our Christmas dinner took place on Tuesday 16th December and I would like to thank the team from Cucina for what was a high quality meal enjoyed by 677 students and nearly 100 staff. The service element of the meal took approximately 90 minutes in total and involved a significant number of school staff volunteering to manage the queues, hand out cutlery, wipe down tables and replenish jugs of squash. It was a fantastic team effort all round; there was a lovely community feel in the canteen area of the school throughout the entire afternoon.



Another Vyners tradition is the Christmas door competition, the winner of which will be announced on Friday. I'm not involved in the judging of the competition this year but thought that I'd share three of my favourites that I have seen as I walk around the school.



VLT Christmas Concert

The VLT Christmas Carol Concert took place at St Lawrence Church, Pinner on Wednesday 10th December. Once again, all seats were taken as the six schools came together for a mixture of seasonal readings, carols and performances. The children's performances were wonderful and it was a lovely event that was enjoyed by all and captured the spirit of togetherness at this special time of year. We would again like to thank Mr Cullum, Director of music at Vyners for leading this activity and the Reverend Dr Seymour and his team at St Lawrence Church for providing the Trust with the opportunity to stage this event at such an inspiring venue.

Vyners Christmas Concert

The Vyners Christmas concert took place on Wednesday 17th December and was another demonstration of the exemplary standards within the music department at the school. The performances were wonderful throughout the evening and included choirs, orchestras, the excellent rock band, *Swakeleys*, as well as the latest iteration of our brilliant swing band. The evening was clearly enjoyed by all in attendance. Furthermore, having spoken to a number of the students involved it is clear that they gain so much from their involvement in music as well as the opportunity to collaborate with other students from across all age ranges. My thanks again to Mr Cullum and his team, both for the musical arrangements as well as other items of light hearted entertainment during the evening.



VLT Staff Awards Autumn Term

Two of our excellent staff have received Trust staff awards for the autumn term.

Mr Hall, Subject Leader for PE, was pivotal in supporting two different members of staff (on separate occasions) during the autumn term who were each taken seriously ill whilst in school. His willingness to step up in these moments of crisis cannot be appreciated enough. As a trained first aider, Mr Hall was calm, measured and controlled and it was primarily due to his actions that both members of staff were well cared for prior to the arrival of paramedic teams.





Mrs McLaren, Family Liaison Officer, has gone above and beyond this term in supporting staff and students as part of our pastoral team. Most notably, she has stepped in to ensure that student attendance processes have run smoothly during a period when the school was actively recruiting for a new attendance officer. She did this without any requirement for recognition whilst continuing to stay on top of her role as a Family Liaison Officer.

Congratulations to both colleagues for these awards and for their significant contributions to the school community.

VLT Student Awards Autumn Term

I would like to warmly congratulate three students who were the recipients of the Trust's Student Awards for the autumn term. The Trust value for the autumn term was *aspiration*.

The winner for key stage 3 is Maeya Patel in Year 7, for her outstanding engagement and progress in her academic studies since joining Vyners. Maeya is always looking for ways to improve and is keen to ask for feedback in a polite and humble way.



The recipient for key stage 4 is Otto Keyte in Year 11. Otto has demonstrated consistent dedication to his studies throughout key stage 4, and has a remarkable intellect and maturity. Otto unapologetically wants to succeed and collaborates with his peers and teachers to do so. We have been particularly impressed with how he takes on board feedback and how much that has helped him to progress so far.

Ashmeet Viridi wins the key stage 5 award as she has made a wonderful start to her life in the sixth form and has really engaged with the extra-curricular opportunities available to her. Ashmeet has aspired to make the most of her time in the sixth form by successfully becoming a prefect and is also planning to launch and run her very own debate club, to enable herself and others in the school community to develop the skills they need to succeed.



Three fantastic students who continually demonstrate the values of both the school and Trust.

Mrs Harvey NPQH

We are absolutely delighted to share the news that Mrs Harvey, Deputy Headteacher, has successfully completed her National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH). Mrs Harvey received the confirmation on Friday 12th December 2025 that she has successfully passed the rigorous programme and all its relevant assessments. This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to her commitment and dedication to educational leadership.

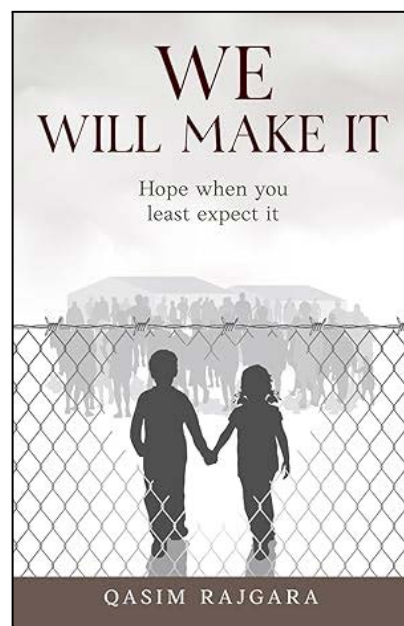
The NPQH is a highly demanding, 18-month programme specifically designed to prepare experienced school leaders for the challenges and responsibilities of headship. It requires participants to undertake challenging projects, demonstrate strategic leadership capabilities, and engage in continuous professional development. Successfully navigating this intensive course signifies that Mrs Harvey is fully equipped with the knowledge, skills, and understanding required to begin her journey as a headteacher.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Mrs Harvey. We are incredibly proud of her hard work and success, and we look forward to supporting her continued growth and impact on the lives of students and staff at Vyners and across the Trust.

Finally, I would like to thank all students and families who have sent messages or small gifts to staff in the lead up to the Christmas break. Whilst not expected, they are very much appreciated and make what is a great job a little more special.

I would like to briefly mention a book that I was given last week by Qasim in Year 9. Qasim has published a book of short stories on Amazon called *We Well Make It*. The stories are all focused on children from different areas of the globe who have been impacted by war and conflict but have managed to succeed despite all of their many challenges.

My thanks and congratulations to Qasim for this wonderful achievement. The book contains some very timely messages for this special time of year.



Wishing all families and friends of the school a wonderful Christmas holiday and a successful new year!

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Finals

On Tuesday 9th December, we had the pleasure of attending the Hillingdon regional finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out competition. Douay Martyrs hosted the event, due to being the winners of last year's competition, and did a fantastic job of welcoming and hosting! All of the students who represented their individual schools did a wonderful job, but I do have to particularly congratulate the two Vyners entrants, Kanni Touray (10G) and Millie Sowby (10J) who were both excellent during the the evening's workshops and presentation event, with Kanni placing second overall, only marginally losing out to a fantastic speech from the representative from Guru Nanak Sikh Academy.

In addition to this, Vyners had an even greater presence at this years final as Otto Keyte was invited to be a judge, after achieving second place last year; he sat shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Charnjit Gill (Poet and Spoken word artist); Hardip Begol (Board member of Ofqual and Oak National Academy); and Noel Simpson (Supported Transition Officer, Carers Trust Hillingdon, and founding member of R&B boy band Damage), in addition to other fantastic and notable personalities.

Thank you to the Jack Petchey Foundation and the Speaker's Trust for their continued efforts with this brilliant initiative for the young speakers of London and Essex. I must also extend my thanks the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Philip Corthorne for supporting the event on the evening, including handing out the certificates and prizes for the winners, as well several members of Vyners staff who were present to cheer on our excellent entrants.



Mr Nicholls, Teacher of English & Jack Petchey Lead

VLT Inclusion Project

During the Autumn term, we were proud to take part in an inclusion project as part of the Vanguard Learning Trust. Students were invited to submit entries in the form of artwork, poems, or essays that explored what inclusion means to them and to our wider community. As a school, we were delighted by both the high number of submissions received and the creativity, thoughtfulness, and insight demonstrated across all entries.

The submissions were judged externally, and the central team brought together selected pieces to create a collaborative Inclusion Mural, which can be viewed [here](#).

We were particularly pleased to celebrate the work of Maahi Sura (7M), who received a special commendation from Dr Lecky in recognition of the quality and impact of her entry.



We were also proud to see the work of other students: Jayden Dyal (9G), Isabella Jaques (8M), Thomas De Vere (7G), Lara Farrington (8F), Aaron Chin (8M), Farah Rahmani (8P), Myah Sidhu (8W), Shiloh Messing (8H), Radchanaavalli Puvichchelvan (8P), Judie Atoui (8J), Logan Haslam (7M), who featured as part of the mural, showcasing the strong commitment to inclusion across our school community.

Mr Millard-Healy, Deputy Headteacher

Autumn House Poetry

At the beginning of this term, pupils were invited to take part in the House Poetry Competition. The theme for this term was 'Changes', and we received over 60 submissions. After much deliberation, I am delighted to announce that this term's winner is Elsie Lewis-Zannini (8H) with her poem, *The Quiet Between Stars*. Congratulations to Elsie. Well done to all pupils who took part in the competition, with special mentions to Sienna Glaister (8J) and Bella Coleman (10C). Well done to Windsor, who achieved the highest number of submissions this term. Our next competition will be launched in January, keep an eye on your Google Classrooms for more details.

Many thanks to Mr Dennis and the Vyners Leadership Volunteer Team for their assistance with the judging of this competition.

'The Quiet Between Stars'

by Elsie Lewis-Zannini

There's a hush between stars,
not silence,
but a kind of breathing
the universe does when no one's looking.

I've tried to listen to it,
to catch the hum between heartbeats,
the echo between words we never said.

Maybe the quiet
is where we become real,
not in the noise of becoming
but in the pause
that lets us see what's already here.

I am learning
to rest inside that stillness,
to let it shape me softly,
like wind shapes dunes,
like time shapes love.

And maybe
that's all we ever do:
reach for light,
and listen
to what it leaves behind.

Mr Alhadeff, PSHE Coordinator

University Outreach Programmes

Pupils are continuing to take up opportunities for Super curricular activities with different institutions which will support their decision making and applications to courses when they go on to further study or work after leaving Vyners. The feedback from Year 12 pupils covers another selection of activities that pupils are continuing to engage with on an ongoing basis. The programmes in this feedback cover the Arts and Science strands from the Lucy Cavendish Academic Attainment programme (University of Cambridge), the Physics support programme from Oxford University and the Maths support programme from King's College University of London.

Mr Kelly, Oxbridge Coordinator

University of Oxford

COMPOS is a really good programme that has helped me a lot with both maths and physics. I've learned so much in such a short amount of time, especially through the monthly assignments we get in each subject. We also have 90 minute tutorials every week where we go over the content and ask questions. These tutorials make the harder topics much clearer and have really helped me feel more prepared and confident for A levels

King's College University of London

The King's Factor programme is also really useful. We get to go to King's college four times a term, where we get to practice maths with the help of university students. The sessions are always challenging in a good way as they push us to think differently and improve problem solving skills. Being able to work in a real university setting has been motivating and has definitely helped me grow in maths.

Viya, Year 12

Cambridge University

The Lucy Cavendish programme is a brilliant opportunity for anyone who wants to further their knowledge of their A-level subjects, as well as learn about career opportunities and have the chance to collaborate with like-minded peers from all over the UK. I take part in subject enrichment sessions in Physics, Maths and English, and they are extremely helpful to supplement and extend what was learnt in class. The programme is completely online and extremely accessible, with the leaders of the programme emailing each student directly to offer help on being able to complete it, and there are also opportunities to have academic discussions about a wide range of topics in the real world. Overall, this is an excellent opportunity and I couldn't recommend it enough!

Ruby, Year 12

Cambridge University

English Literature and History - Lucy Cavendish Programme

It is one session of each subject every month. The sessions last for 90 minutes each and we focus on expanding analytical and critical thinking through looking at certain texts/events that contribute to a certain theme. It definitely helps my subjects in school for me to understand certain concepts on a deeper level.

Leah, Year 12

Cambridge University

Taking part in the Lucy Cavendish Programme helped me to get a better understanding of preparing university applications and what studying at university is really like. The sessions helped strengthen my subject knowledge and are useful when it comes to revising key topics. They encouraged me to work more independently, while also developing my communication skills through the peer discussions session, allowing me to share ideas with other students across the country who are also taking part in this programme. Overall, this programme makes me feel more confident and better prepared for university, and gives me a clear idea of what will be expected of me for the next two academic years.

Claudia, Year 12

A Level Trip to Six the Musical

Review by Georgie Rohan and Lucy Mellor Y13

Our school trip to watch 'Six', the musical, was both entertaining and relevant to our study of the Tudors in History. Although the show is fun and modern, it reveals the darker side of the Tudor court, where power was constantly shifting depending on who was in Henry VIII's favour. The stories of Henry VIII's wives reflect how life at court was controlled by factions, ambition and the need to stay in the king's favour. This is something seen often when studying Tudor government and its factions. Catherine Howard's song, 'All you want to do', stood out to me, as it exposed how she was used by powerful men of the court and then shunned by that same court. It shows how little protection there was for people, even those married to the king. I enjoyed how the musical balanced humour and music with a serious message about power and survival in the Tudor court.



One of the things we enjoyed about 'Six' was how it shifted the focus away from Henry VIII and onto the women of the Tudor court, something we do not often explore in lessons. While A-level History concentrates vastly on the political aspects behind Henry VIII's marriages and how they affected the government, the musical focuses on the experiences of the women and their side of the marriage to Henry, on a personal level, which was interesting to see. Seeing the wives as individuals helped bring the period to life and made the Tudor court feel more human. Thus it was refreshing to learn about history from such a unique perspective, and it showed that understanding the lives of women at court is just as important as studying kings when trying to understand the Tudor period as a whole.

Anne of Cleves' song was another highlight of the show that brought some much-needed humour to the performance, especially following the ballad of Jane Seymour. Her confident and comedic attitude made the audience laugh, especially as she reclaimed her story and mocked how history often judges her unfairly. The song showed that not every Tudor marriage was tragic for the women, which has often been projected throughout history, therefore it was refreshing to see a character who survived the dangers of the court and came out stronger. This moment added balance to the musical, with a unique song choice that made it even more enjoyable to watch.

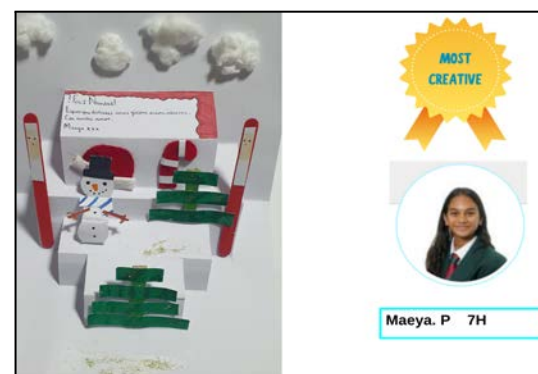
Overall, 'Six' was an extremely enjoyable experience, especially as A-Level students who particularly enjoy the Tudor topic. It brought the period to life in a fresh and engaging way for all ages in the audience. The combination of history with modern music and humour, the musical 'Six' makes history more compelling and relevant to a more modern audience who may not always see the value or excitement of studying history. We definitely recommend it!

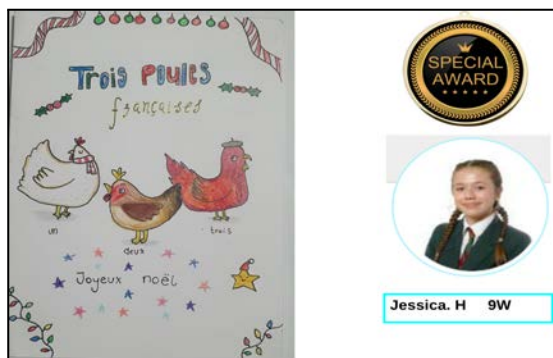
MFL Christmas Card Competition



A MIGHTY congratulations to all our MFL Christmas card competition entrants!

We received many amazing cards making it very hard for our Language Ambassadors to determine the winners.





MFL - GCSE in another language

Is your child thinking about taking a GCSE in another language?

If your child can understand, speak, read and write in one of the languages below, please direct them to see Mr Bendifallah as soon as possible in room 249.

Arabic	Bengali	Chinese	Gujarati	Italian	Japanese
Persian	Polish	Portuguese	Russian	Turkish	Urdu

Eligibility criteria:

Students aged 14-16 who are currently attending a community school and preparing for a GCSE in any of the above languages

Mr Bendifallah, Teacher of MFL

Sports Update

The Borough Cross Country was a success, mostly because we just missed the rain. Well done to all and especially our top 10 who progress to the Middlesex Championships to represent Hillingdon in February.

Year 8/9 Girls Race was particularly amazing with all three podium places going to Vyners' students.

- 1st - Elsie Fitzgerald
- 2nd - Anna Fear
- 3rd - Anna Knight

Other amazing achievements:

Year 10/11 Boys: 3rd Leo Da Costa

Year 10/11 Girls: 3rd Keira Wickenden & 7th Bella Da Costa Lima

Well done to everyone involved!



Ms Hawes, PE Department

Increase to canteen prices and daily catering limit from January 2026

There has recently been a Trust-wide review of the outsourced catering provision in VLT schools. The two year price freeze, increase in employers NI costs and continued food inflation has unfortunately negatively impacted the running of the contract.

Trustees have therefore approved a modest tariff increase (averaging at 2.68%) and an updated daily spend cap of £6.50 to help maintain a high-quality and sustainable catering service. The overall impact on average spend is expected to be low, and the Trust will continue to monitor pricing and meal uptake closely.

The daily spend allowance will be updated for the start of the spring term. The tariff increase will take effect from February half term. The Free School Meal allowance will also be increased to £3.05 from February half term.

These changes are being made after careful consideration of both the financial impact on the school of the current situation, but also the impact on families. There has not been a change to the daily spend limit in the canteen since the cashless system was first introduced in 2012. The impact of food inflation over the last 13 years has significantly eroded the products that students can buy.

If any parent feels that the new daily spend limit is unaffordable for them, please email the school at office@vynersschool.org.uk with the full name and tutorial of your child, and your preferred daily limit. Our IT team can set a reduced allowance on a case by case basis

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Trust Updates and Staff Vacancies

Please [\[click here\]](#) for a Trust update letter from Dr Lecky, CEO and [\[click here\]](#) for the VLT Newsletter, Autumn Term.

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

Lost Property

There is a huge amount of lost property in Student Services, including coats that have been left around the school. Please remind your children to check the lost property in Student Services if they have lost any items of clothing.

Student Services

Information Received

Denham Youth Football Club, U17 and U18 teams, are looking for players for the remainder of the season. They play on Saturdays morning in the Chiltern League. If you are interested, please contact Gary Waller, U17 Manager, tel: 07970 640182 or email: gw@extramanrecruitment.co.uk

Attendance Figures

Please find below attendance figures for w/c 8th December 2025

Year Group	Present Marks (%)
Year 7	95.12%
Year 8	95.50%
Year 9	92.24%
Year 10	94.10%
Year 11	90.60%
Year 12	96.49%
Year 13	Study / Exam Leave

Please find below the top tutorials for attendance for w/c 8th December 2025

Tutorial	Present Marks (%)
7G & 12J	100%
8F	98.62%
12F	97.85%

Spring Term Key Dates

Monday 5 th January	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Tuesday 6th January	Start of Spring Term
Tuesday 20 th January	Year 8 into 9 Options information evening
Wednesday 21 st January	Year 9 into 10 Options information evening
Friday 23 rd January	Year 8 & 9 options forms open
Friday 30 th January	Years 11 and 13 reports issued
Friday 30 th January	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 3 rd February	Year 11 parent consultation evening (online)
Wednesday 11 th February	Year 13 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 13 th February	Year 8 reports issued
Monday 16th to Friday 20th February - Half Term	
Monday 23 rd February	Sixth Form applications deadline
Friday 27 th February	Year 9 reports issued
Wed 4 th , Thur 5 th & Fri 6 th March	School Production
Friday 6 th March	Year 10 & 12 reports issued
Thursday 12 th March	Year 9 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 13 th March	FOV Quiz Night
Monday 16 th March	Year 8 and 9 options deadline
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 12 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 27 th March	Year 7 reports issued
Friday 27th March	End of Spring Term (3pm finish)