



Parent Bulletin

20th March 2026

On Friday and Saturday of last week, I had the pleasure of attending the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) national conference in Liverpool along with circa one thousand school leaders across the country. The conference provides the opportunity to listen to significant leaders in the field of education as well as to attend workshops that have the aim of sharing the very best practice in specific fields from a range of excellent practitioners. I've been fortunate this year to have been co-opted on ASCL's Council, which is its governing and advisory body. This presents a number of opportunities to me as a school leader, one of which was to attend a closed question and answer session with the Education Secretary, Bridgit Phillipson MP which took place immediately after her keynote speech that highlighted the government's priorities for children, families and education that were published in the education white paper in late February. Bridgit Phillipson made a number of key policy and strategy points. However, the overarching message to the delegates on the day was that the white paper was devised in partnership and needs to be delivered in partnership between government, schools and families. It is an incredibly challenging policy paper but widely recognised to have lots of positive elements for the sector, children and families within it with significant changes to the national SEND strategy, changes to the national curriculum, GCSEs and A levels as well as investment into early help and family hubs to ensure that schools can focus less on social issues that arose as a result of the pandemic and more on teaching and learning. There is an awful lot to do in the white paper - the next five years should be very interesting.

Parent Guidance on School Complaints

Whilst I may well be tempting fate, I do believe that it is highly important to discuss school's complaints procedures from time to time. Nationally, complaints to schools are at an all time high. The reasons given for this are primarily focused on what is described as the broken relationships between families and the state, including schools since the pandemic. Whilst we do welcome complaints that help us to improve our processes and procedures, many school leaders across the country have complained about the nature of some of the complaints that they receive, the conduct and language expressed by some parents and the fact that some parents seem to take a degree of pleasure in the fact that school leaders can become tied up in extensive complaints procedures, which is time that would be better spent leading their respective schools.

As mentioned in previous communications, I do believe that parents and carers at the school are well balanced and constructive when articulating a complaint and that most understand the process for escalating complaints as outlined in our school policy. Examples of behaviours that I particularly appreciate include when parents carefully identify where they are highlighting a concern rather than a complaint and where parents recognise that their child's version of events is one side of a story and that another individual's perception of events may differ. It is for these and other reasons outlined that I welcome the recent publication from the DfE and other interested parties of the **Parent guide to school complaints** [\[click here\]](#). This document and the Trust's **Complaints policy** [\[click here\]](#) can be found on the Policy section on the school's website ([click here](#)).

Whilst not perfect, I do genuinely feel that this guidance goes a long way towards supporting both schools and parents in ensuring that issues can be raised and addressed in a constructive manner, which in turn supports students and helps maintain strong relationships between home and school. I would ask all parents and carers to take the time to review the document (particularly if they are thinking about communicating feedback, concerns or complaints) ensuring that they contact the most appropriate member of staff at each stage. Again, I would like to thank parents and carers at the school for their constructive and measured approach, even at the most challenging times.

Meningitis and Septicemia

I am sure that parents and carers share our concerns about the recent cases of invasive meningococcal disease in the Canterbury area of Kent in recent days. The outbreak response is focused on antibiotics for close contacts and those who attended Club Chemistry between 5-7th March. There will also now be targeted local vaccination programmes in Kent, as per the information in the press release - [Cases of invasive meningococcal disease notified in Kent - GOV.UK](#). We wish to convey the message from the London Borough of Hillingdon that there is currently no action that schools and early years settings in London are being asked to take.

Families should continue to come forward as standard for their normal routine vaccinations. Information on vaccinations can be found here [Meningitis - Vaccination - NHS](#). Vaccinations offer some protection against certain causes of meningitis but not all.

It is therefore always recommended that everyone:

- Knows the signs and symptoms of Meningococcal disease and knows how to protect themselves and others.
- Check that they are up to date with all their routine vaccinations

Further information on meningococcal disease is available from:

- The NHS: [Meningitis - NHS](#)
- [What is meningitis? Symptoms, risks and how to protect yourself – UK Health Security Agency](#)

Trends in Mathematics and Science Study

I would like to thank all parents and carers of the students in the two Year 9 groups of students who will be taking part in the Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) on Monday and Tuesday next week. TIMSS is an international project that helps schools understand how children around the world learn maths and science. The Field Trial is an early stage of this project, designed to test and refine the activities and questions before the main study in 2027.

Vyners is one of several schools across the country chosen to help ensure the study is fair and representative. Taking part allows our pupils to contribute to important research that supports teaching and learning in the UK and internationally. The researchers have selected two groups of students from Year 9. We hope that this is a positive experience that helps support an incredibly important research project.

Finally this week, with the end of Ramadan yesterday, I would like to wish all families celebrating Eid today, Eid Mubarak and wish all families celebrating Easter during the Easter break a wonderful Easter at what is the holiest time in the Christian calendar.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Vyners Ramadan Assembly

During the past month, students in Years 9 and 10 have delivered assemblies on the significance of the month of Ramadan. The assembly has given students and staff the opportunity to learn about how and why Muslims fast during Ramadan, as well as the emphasis on community and charity during the month. Students shared their experiences of what it is like to fast during a school day and what they are looking forward to on Eid Ul Fitr - the festival that marks the end of fasting.

A key message of the assembly was that Ramadan is an important month for Muslims, that it is a month of religious activities, self-reflection and that it gives Muslims the opportunity to recognise and be grateful for what they have. Additionally, it is also a time to extend generosity and support to those in need locally and globally.



Thank you to Anas Aadan (9F), Adam Khan (9H), Eshan Ansari (9P), Alex Bucpapaj (9W), Fatima Farah (10H), Layla Quraishi ((10W), Nina Heidari (10M) and Zaina Ehsan (10P) for volunteering their time for the assembly and delivering it confidently to students and staff across Vyners - congratulations to these students for their input, direction and performance.

Wishing our students, their families and members of staff Eid Mubarak.

Ms Huzair & Ms Amin

Medical / Vaccinations Update

Following the recent outbreak of meningitis in university students, the Hillingdon School Nursing Team has put together some information on teenage vaccinations and where to get them.



Childhood Immunisations



It's important that vaccines are given on time for the best protection, but if you or your child missed a vaccine, contact your GP to catch up. You can also contact Vaccination UK who provide all the school-aged immunisations in Hillingdon and surrounding boroughs. All school-aged immunisations are normally given in school. Vaccination UK also run catch-up clinics, you can book onto a catch-up clinic if you think your child may have missed having a vaccine in school.

HPV The HPV vaccine helps protect against human papillomavirus (HPV). It's recommended for children aged 12 to 13 years old and people at higher risk from HPV. Normally given in year 8.	Td/IPV vaccine (3-in-1 teenage booster) The Td/IPV vaccine (also called the 3-in-1 teenage booster) helps protect against tetanus, diphtheria and polio. It's recommended for children in school year 9.	MenACWY The MenACWY vaccine helps protect against life-threatening illnesses like meningitis and sepsis. It's offered to teenagers in school but can be given up to the age of 25 if it's been missed. Normally given in year 9.	Meningitis can spread very quickly in places like universities and colleges. Make sure all your vaccinations are up to date before starting university or college, including the MenACWY vaccine and both doses of the MMR vaccine.
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Speak with your GP if you think you or your child needs the MMR.

Vaccination UK
Website: [Vaccination UK | School Vaccinations & Newborn Vaccinations](https://www.vaccinationuk.co.uk)
Email: schools@vaccinationuk.co.uk
Tel: 01462 416 644

We have also been asked to share a letter with parents / carers from Vaccination UK giving details about the meningitis vaccination [[click here](#)].

Student Lockers

Calling all parents in Years 7-10!

Have you paid for your child to have a school locker? Does your son or daughter actually use that locker ?

Our experience in school is that students need their locker less and less as they get older and learn how to organise themselves better.

If your child no longer uses their locker, we are happy to refund the outstanding part of your rental payment, in exchange for their key being returned to reception. Handing an unused locker back to us saves you money and also enables us to offer the locker back out to a student who would like it.

Please email the school office (office@vynersschool.org.uk) if you would like to return your child's locker.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

School Uniform

Please [[click here](#)] for information from Uniform4Kids (one of our two preferred suppliers) giving details of the closure of their Northwood shop.

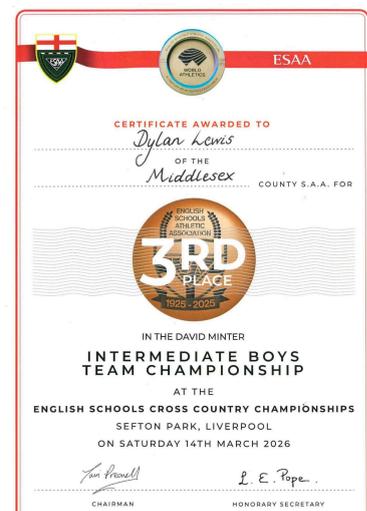
Parents are reminded that both of our suppliers can take online orders and do a weekly drop off of purchased items to school. We will also be running our popular programme of 'pop up' shops during the school holiday. Keep your eye on the 'uniform' section of the school website for more information!

Miss Williams, Business Manager

PE Update

Cross Country

Last weekend, Dylan Lewis represented Middlesex in the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Liverpool. Over a 5k course, Dylan finished 17th overall out of a total of 335 athletes. In the team event, Dylan won a bronze medal as part of the Middlesex team and was the highest placed Middlesex runner in the race. Congratulations Dylan!



Trampolining

Charlotte Piepenstock became British schools champion on Saturday at the National schools trampolining final in Derby, first place overall (year 7-9 girls advanced). It was a strong performance (83.96) with good execution and time of flight and she finished 2 points clear of second place. Congratulations

Charlotte, we are really proud of your achievement.

Mr Hall, PE Department



Music Update

A Disney Celebration: Thursday 23rd April 2026

Our concert this term will be celebrating the Fantasmic world of Disney, with pieces ranging across the Disney Universe!

- String Orchestra
- Sax Group
- Chamber Orchestra
- Swing Band
- Woodwind Ensemble
- Concert Band
- Gospel Band
- Choir
- And a number of smaller performances

Time: 6.30pm (doors open at 6pm)

Dress Code: **Anything Disney** (please do feel free to dress up for the occasion, there will be a prize!)

Cost: **£7 per person and free for under 16s** with all profits made going towards the Music Department and funding projects for our wonderful musicians. Cash will be taken on the door, **no card payments** will be accepted.

Prepare for an experience that will take you 'to infinity and beyond'.

Please park in the school car park and make your way to the old school entrance at the top of the school for entry.

I do hope you will support your child's participation.

Whole School Music Survey

Every year we ask parents what instruments their children play so we have a good idea of the musical range of our pupils as many study outside of school as well as inside. If your child does play an instrument (this also includes singing) please could you fill in this quick survey [\[click here\]](#).

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Please [\[click here\]](#) for a letter regarding instrumental and vocal lessons.

Mr Cullum, Head of Music

Deaf Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) News

It has been an incredibly busy and productive week for our Deaf Specialist Resource Provision (SRP)! We kicked things off with a trip to the cinema in Uxbridge for the Into Film Festival to see Paddington in Peru. This was more than just a movie trip; it was a valuable opportunity for travel training, where students practiced navigating the Underground. We also focused on road safety, emphasising the importance of staying alert for traffic - especially quiet electric cars.

To round out the week, we were proud to host the Children's Hearing Services Working Group. This meeting brought together The National Deaf Children's Society, Audiologists, Teachers of the Deaf, Speech and Language therapists, Consultant Pediatricians, and representatives from parent forums to discuss the latest news and best practices in Deaf education and care.

Mrs Langley and Mrs Burwood, Teachers of the Deaf

Super Curricular Update

Please [\[click here\]](#) for an update on activities that have taken place over the last couple of weeks for students in Years 11 and 12 involving talks from different universities and presenters.

Mr Kelly, Oxbridge Coordinator

Design and Technology

LEGO & Textiles Clubs

Unfortunately, the Design and Technology Department must postpone the LEGO & Textiles Clubs until further notice. We apologise for any disappointment or inconvenience this may cause. We are working to resume these sessions as soon as possible and will provide you with an update regarding new dates once they are confirmed. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Mr Babra, Design and Technology Department

Lost Property

We have a significant accumulation of **lost property** and our storage bins are now overflowing! We kindly ask that you encourage your child to visit the lost property area by the end of term to claim any missing items, including glasses that your child might have left in classrooms, coats, water bottles and PE kits.

Please ensure all personal belongings are **clearly labelled** with your child's name, as this allows us to return items to their rightful owners immediately. Any unclaimed, unlabelled items will be donated to charity or recycled during the upcoming school break.



Student Services

Attendance Figures

Please find below attendance figures for w/c 9th March 2026

Year Group	Present Marks (%)
Year 7	96.46%
Year 8	95.60%
Year 9	93.80%
Year 10	94.18%
Year 11	91.77%
Year 12	95.17%
Year 13	93.29%

Please find below the top 3 tutorials for attendance for w/c 9th March 2026

Tutorial	Present Mark (%)
7J	100%
10G	99.03%
12M	98.52%

Spring Term Key Dates

Friday 27 th March	Year 7 reports issued
Friday 27th March	End of Spring Term (3pm finish)

Summer Term Key Dates

Monday 13th April	Start of Summer Term
Friday 17 th April	Year 13 reports issued
Tuesday 21 st April	Year 11 reports issued
Wednesday 29 th April	Year 10 parent consultation evening (online)
Thursday 14 th May	Year 8 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 15 th May	FOV Quiz Night
Monday 25th to Friday 29th May – Half Term	
Thursday 4 th June	Year 7 parent consultation evening (online)
Monday 15 th June	Student Photos - Y8, Y9, Y10
Friday 19 th June	Year 7 reports issued
Tuesday 22 nd June	Year 12 UCAS Day and Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 24 th June	Sports Day (year groups tbc)
Thursday 25 th June	Sports Day (year groups tbc)
Thursday 25 th June	Year 10 reports issued
Friday 26th June	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 11 into 12 Induction Day
Friday 3 rd July	Year 8 reports issued
Thursday 9 th July	Year 12 emergency parents evening (online)
Thursday 9 th July	Year 12 reports issued
Friday 10 th July	Year 9 reports issued
w/c Monday 13 th July	Silver awards assemblies – Years 7, 8, 9 and 10
w/c Monday 13 th July	Year 12 work experience week
Friday 17th July	End of Summer Term (12.20pm finish)
Thursday 13 th August	A Level results day
Thursday 20 th August	GCSE results day