

## Parent Bulletin

18th September 2026

We were delighted to welcome families, guests and friends of the school to our annual Awards Evening yesterday. These are always special events as they provide us with the opportunity to celebrate the many successes of our students in a formal manner. Along with the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Reeta Chamdal, our guest of honour and speaker for the evening was the Member of Parliament for Uxbridge and South Ruislip, Danny Beales.

Danny has visited Vyners previously on several occasions, most recently last year when he met our A level politics cohort. He clearly took a considerable amount of time and effort to draft a very well considered speech that, I believe, was enjoyed by parents, carers and students alike. It was a wonderful evening that allowed us to come together as a community to celebrate the many successes of our remarkable students.

I would like to thank all who attended on the evening. My particular thanks go to the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Reeta Chamdal for her attendance; Mrs Cahill, who travelled from Ireland to meet the recipient of the Neill Cahill Award; and our Trust CEO Dr Lecky. Thank you also to Mrs Claire Clarke for her continued support as Chair of the local Governing Body; Mrs Hampshire and her team from the Friends of Vyners for their support with refreshments; and Ms Derby, Office Manager and Ms Ogunlabi, Assistant Headteacher for their substantial work in coordinating the Awards event. I think everyone agreed that it was a wonderful evening.

### Mrs Zahraa Al Dhahir



Whilst the awards ceremony was a joyous evening, I did take a moment to pay tribute to the three members of staff that sadly passed away over the past year.

I have previously mentioned the wonderful Mrs Julia Lea, who passed away in July 2025 and also our incredibly talented Subject Leader for Art and Photography, Mr Matthew Wilcox, who passed away in June of this year.

It is with deep sadness that I share the news that one of our outstanding Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Zahraa Al Dhahir, passed away on Friday 11th September, after an extended period of illness. As well as being a talented artist and support assistant, Zahraa was also a positive and lovely human being. She leaves a husband and two children, Layan and Haya, who both currently attend Vyners. Our sincere condolences and very best wishes to all Zahraa's family, colleagues and friends.

### **Junior School Open Evening**

A gentle reminder to all families that our annual Open Evening will take place on Wednesday 23rd September, from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. A copy of the letter outlining the arrangements for the event can be found here [\[click here\]](#). As a reminder, students will be dismissed on Wednesday afternoon at 12.20pm so that the school can be cleaned and prepared for the evening. This will be followed by a late start on Thursday morning with students arriving on site from 10.30am, with tutorial sessions beginning at 10.45am. Thank you to all families in advance for their support. I would also like to thank all students who have volunteered as guides and ambassadors for the evening. The students really make the difference on these occasions.

### **Year 7 Parents Cheese and Wine Evening**

Whilst it was a long week for me, I also very much enjoyed meeting parents and carers of students in Year 7 at the cheese and wine event on Wednesday evening. Thank you to all parents and carers who were in attendance. We very much hope that they found the evening to be informative and that they had the opportunity to meet other parents at the school; particularly those parents who are new to the school. Thank you to Ms Ashe, Year 7 Leader and Ms Pape, Assistant Headteacher for their coordination of the evening and again to the Friends of Vyners for providing the lovely cheese and wine.

### **Year 7 and 8 Co-curricular Fair**

There was an incredible buzz of excitement in the main hall on Monday afternoon as all students in Years 7 and 8 attended the co-curricular fair. This is an event where students have the opportunity to find out from staff and members of the Sixth Form about the range of clubs and activities available during the autumn term and immediately sign up to participate. I am delighted to be able to inform parents that there are over forty different clubs available this term, including a range of sports, drama and music as well as specific interests such as cookery, chess and dungeons and dragons. Our aim is always that every child in Year 7 participates in at least one activity and that they continue to engage in the different programmes that the school offers as they progress through their time at the school. Please [\[click here\]](#) for the co-curricular activities.

I would like to thank the staff and members of the Sixth Form who willingly give up their time to run the activities that have such a positive impact on our students. As parents and carers will see, there have already been a number of excellent activities that have taken place during the summer and within the first three weeks of the term, all of which is possible due to the hard work and commitment of my colleagues at the school alongside the excellent engagement of the students.

### **Travelling to and from school**

At this time of year, it is not uncommon to have a surge in the number of cars that come into the area, particularly as parents and carers of students in Year 7 get used to the transition to secondary school. As a reminder, it is our preference that students either walk, cycle or take public transport to and from school as the overwhelming majority of families live within a mile of the school. This includes students in Year 7 whose friendship groups will be settling, which should allow for them to travel to and from school independently with greater confidence.

If, on occasion, parents have no alternative than drop off and pick up your child using their car that they do so at a reasonable distance from the school entrance, preferably avoiding Warren Road altogether. Please also do not feel inclined to drive into the area because it is raining as this causes major congestion. Please do not park across resident's driveways and avoid reversing into driveways or engaging in three point turns on Warren Road. One issue that has emerged this year is parents stopping in the middle of the road and children stepping out of cars, sometimes narrowly avoiding moving traffic. This is obviously incredibly dangerous and simply shouldn't happen.

I would also ask all parents and carers to be considerate to the residents of Warren Road. We are a strong and inclusive community that seeks to live by our CARE values and I would ask that we are all respectful, tolerant and considerate when dealing with others within our community.

Wishing all families a safe and enjoyable weekend

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**

## Walking Zone Map

Students at Vyners should be travelling to and from school in an active and sustainable way. Transport for London has created this Walking Zone Map. The Orange Zone is a 10 minute walk and the Blue Zone is a 15 minute walk. Please [click here](#) for the walking zone map.

Ideally, your child should travel to and from school actively, either by walking or cycling. However, some students travel a little further, an alternative sustainable option to the car is public transport or Park and Stride. Park and Stride is where you drive your child into the Blue Zone and drop them off in a permitted area before they walk the rest of the way.

With roughly 1,500 students, Warren Road and the surrounding area becomes extremely busy and dangerous when cars do maneuvers like U-turns in the road. Please have a look at more active and sustainable modes of travel to and from school (even on rainy days)

**Mr Heath, Geography Subject Leader**

## Free School Meals

At Vyners School, we are committed to ensuring that every student has the best possible environment in which to learn and thrive. As part of this commitment, we wrote to all parents at the end of the academic year to inform parents and carers that the Department for Education introduced the most substantial shift in meal provision in recent years from the start of the 2026/27 academic year.

The most critical change was the expansion of Free School Meals for students in Years 7 to 13 to **all households in receipt of Universal Credit, regardless of your annual earnings**. Eligibility now falls into two categories:

- **Targeted FSM:** This covers pupils in households on Universal Credit with earnings of £7,400 or less.
- **Expanded FSM:** This is a new category for pupils in households on Universal Credit with earnings **above** £7,400. These students are now entitled to a free meal every day.

It is vital to note that the "transitional protections" in place since 2018, which allowed a pupil to keep their FSM status even if household income rose, have now ceased. From September 2026, all households must meet the specific eligibility criteria to continue receiving the provision.

As we must perform annual rechecks for all claimants, we kindly ask all families to ensure their details are up to date. Any pupil not re-verified by 30th September 2026 may lose their funding status.

We understand that many families who were previously ineligible due to the income threshold will now be able to access this support. We strongly encourage you to apply before the summer holidays.

At Vyners, we use a cashless catering system. The daily allowance is automatically and privately credited to your child's account, and the payment process is identical to that of any other student. No one, neither staff nor peers, will be aware of who is receiving a free school meal. In order to ensure that your child receives their Free School Meal, please complete this [Google form](#).

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the School Office at [office@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:office@vynersschool.org.uk). All enquiries will be handled with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality.

Thank you for your continued support of Vyners School and for helping us ensure every student has access to the resources they need to succeed.

**Mr Millard-Healy, Deputy Headteacher**

## **Subject Ambassadors Visit to Hermitage Primary School**

The transition to secondary school represents a significant milestone in a student's educational journey. At Vyners, our student leaders are dedicated to ensuring this process is as seamless and positive as possible. This month, our Subject Ambassadors visited Year 6 students at Hermitage Primary School to deliver interactive taster lessons. These sessions were designed to alleviate transition-related anxieties and cultivate enthusiasm for the upcoming academic year. Below, Zoe Clements (10H) reflects on her experience returning to her primary school to inspire the next generation of learners.

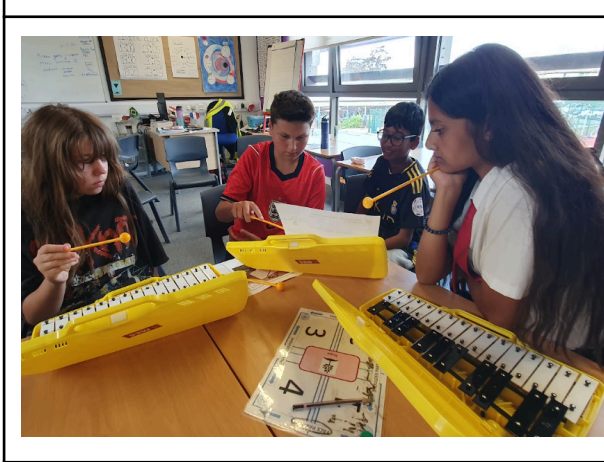
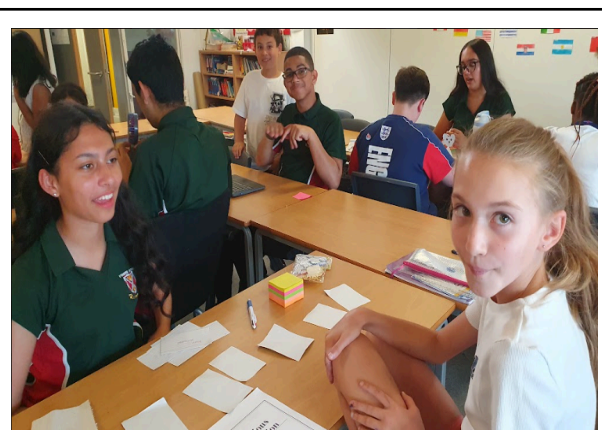
Such initiatives highlight the exceptional leadership, maturity, and empathy of our students. We extend our sincere gratitude to all the Subject Ambassadors who volunteered their time to reassure and motivate our new Year 7 cohort.

**Mr Bendifallah, Subject Ambassadors Programme**

### **Student Reflection: Zoe Clements (10H)**

On Wednesday, our Subject Ambassadors visited Hermitage Primary School with the primary objective of introducing Year 6 students to the diverse curriculum they will encounter in secondary school. By delivering fresh academic content, we aimed to build their confidence and help them feel more prepared for the transition this September.

As a Performing Arts and Drama Ambassador, it was a privilege to showcase a subject that Hermitage students do not typically study in depth. Providing them with a preview of our collaborative working methods helped demystify the secondary school experience. For me, returning to my former primary school to share my passion for the arts was a rewarding experience, and I enjoyed engaging with the younger students as they look ahead to their future at Vyners.



## Information Received

Please [\[click here\]](#) for information regarding webinars for parents/carers of ADHD/autistic children and young people.

## VLT Staff Vacancies

Please [\[click here\]](#) for the current staff vacancies across the VLT sites.

## Autumn Term Key Dates

| Autumn Term 2026                               |                                              |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 23rd September                       | Junior School Open Evening                   |
| Monday 28th September                          | Year 11 Parent Information Evening           |
| Tuesday 29th September                         | Year 9 Parent Information Evening            |
| Wednesday 30th September                       | Year 12 Parent Information Evening           |
| Friday 2nd October                             | FOV Quiz Night                               |
| Tuesday 6th October                            | Year 10 Parent Information Evening           |
| Wednesday 7th October                          | Year 13 Parent Information Evening           |
| Tuesday 13th October                           | Year 8 Parent Information Evening            |
| Tuesday 20th October                           | Sixth Form Open Evening (applications open)  |
| Friday 23rd October                            | Year 8 and Year 13 reports issued            |
| Monday 26th to Friday 30th October – Half Term |                                              |
| Friday 6th November                            | Year 11 reports issued                       |
| Friday 13th November                           | Year 10 reports issued                       |
| Wednesday 18th November                        | Governance Day                               |
| Thursday 19th November                         | Staff Conference (school closed to students) |
| Friday 20th November                           | Staff Conference (school closed to students) |
| Monday 23rd November                           | Occasional Day (school closed)               |
| Friday 27th November                           | Year 12 reports issued                       |
| Friday 27th November                           | FOV Quiz Night                               |
| Tuesday 1st December                           | Year 11 & 13 Trial exams start               |
| Thursday 3rd December                          | Senior Citizens' Christmas Party             |
| Wednesday 9th December                         | VLT Christmas Concert                        |
| Friday 11th December                           | Year 9 reports issued                        |
| Tuesday 15th December                          | Christmas Lunch                              |
| Wednesday 16th December                        | Vyners Christmas Concert                     |
| Friday 18th December                           | Year 7 reports issued                        |
| <b>Friday 18th December</b>                    | <b>End of Autumn Term (12.20pm finish)</b>   |