Vyners School

Striving for Excellence

Parent Bulletin 6th November 2026

Welcome back to a new half term. I hope all families had a restful and enjoyable half term break. The weeks leading up to Christmas are always among the most vibrant and busy in the school calendar. The weather has clearly turned colder and whilst the heating is most definitely on at the school I would ask parents to ensure that their children come to school warmly dressed with good layers and suitable outdoor coats. We would also stress the importance of high levels of hand and respiratory hygiene to ensure that illness is kept to a minimum and that students are able to maintain excellent levels of attendance. We look forward to a successful, productive second half of the term and to working in partnership with you all over the coming weeks.

Farewell to Heather Danpure

On Wednesday 21st October, I was delighted to join senior leaders within the Trust to say thank you and farewell to Heather Danpure. Heather ended her long association with the Trust and its schools in July when she stepped down from her role as a Trust Member. Members are a group of experienced former Governors and Trustees who oversee the work of the Trustees. During a period that has spanned in excess of thirty years, Heather has been a Governor at both Vyners and Ryefield schools, spending time as the chair of each board at various times. Heather then spent nearly a decade as a VLT Trustee before more recently becoming a Trust Member. Her years of service to local schools has always been on a voluntary basis and I can say with first hand experience that she has always provided school leaders with a high level of challenge and support as is the case with the most effective Governors and Trustees. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Heather. We very much hope that she finds at least a little time to visit us on occasion in the future.



U1 Bus Incident - update

Parents and carers may be aware of the shocking incident that occurred on the U1 bus in Uxbridge earlier this week. Further to my communication on Tuesday [click here] I am able to share that we have had additional information from the police that has confirmed that no school aged children were involved. They were also able to confirm that the incident did not involve a knife (as I believe was widely circulated on social media) but that there was a high degree of violence involved that meant that the victim was hospitalised. As mentioned previously, these are relatively rare incidents and whilst we do a significant amount of work in school to educate students about keeping safe (for example, the *Your Life, You Choose* workshops) we would always ask parents and carers to speak to their child about remaining vigilant and keeping safe whilst travelling to and from school.

Rewards Trip to Chessington

On Monday 19th October, 150 students attended the rewards trip to Chessington World of Adventures due to their excellent conduct during the previous academic year. As set out in the behaviour policy, the majority of students who attended received either 0, 1, 2 or 3 consequences for the entirety of the 2025-26 academic year which, we believe, demonstrates excellent attitudes and behaviour over an extended period of time. We do understand that there were a number of students who just missed out on this trip and were very disappointed to do so. Furthermore, I would also add that we always look at ways to improve all aspects of the school including how we reward students and it is for this reason that I will be asking our newly formed student parliament to review our rewards strategy before the final draft of the behaviour policy is ratified by the local governing body at the end of the month. I will update parents and carers regarding the policy at that point. Congratulations to all those who attended this year and many thanks to Ms Ogunlabi, assistant headteacher, for organising this activity.

Parental Concerns

We have noticed this term that there has been a tendency for an increasing number of parental concerns with emails headed as ***safeguarding concern***. This has meant that they are, at least in the first instance, sent to and reviewed by the safeguarding team. Whilst a behaviour concern can be a safeguarding issue, most concerns should be directed to pastoral teams or, if subject based, the classroom teacher or subject leader. Using the term *safeguarding concern* during correspondence has led to an increased load for our safeguarding team as they have to re-direct concerns or regularly reply to behavioural and friendship group concerns. I would like to stress that we take all parent concerns seriously but we do need to be in a position whereby we can ensure that concerns are addressed by the correct individuals and teams within the school and that our excellent safeguarding staff have the capacity to be proactive as well as deal with child protection issues as and when they occur. I would like to thank parents and carers for their support with this matter.

Remembrance Service

I would like to inform all parents and carers that we will be holding our remembrance day service on Wednesday 11th November. We are hopeful that the weather is fair so that we can bring the whole school community together on the astroturf shortly before 11am. We are also selling poppies in school and I would encourage children to bring a small amount of money to school in the coming days to purchase a poppy and support the Royal British Legion.

Finally this week, I would like to wish all families celebrating Diwali in the coming days a bright, joyful and prosperous Festival of Lights.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Year 7 Workshops

On Wednesday 4th November, Year 7 students took part in a whole day of interactive workshops. The *'Your Life, You Choose'* workshops are being delivered in schools across the borough with the aim of educating Year 7 students about a range of issues that can derail the lives of young people, for example, knife crime, different forms of grooming and substance abuse. We welcomed speakers from the Safer Schools team, the Youth Justice Service, KISS (Sexual Health and Wellbeing Programme), the London Ambulance Service and SORTED (drug and alcohol support service for young people) who each delivered separate workshops. The students handled the day with exceptional maturity especially when listening to and discussing hard hitting topics. We would like to congratulate all students who took part for their excellent behaviour and response to our visitors. Our visitors were incredibly impressed by the levels of maturity and engagement that were demonstrated by all students throughout the day.

Ms Ogunlabi, Assistant Headteacher

Allergy Aware School

Many parents will be aware of 'Benedict's Law' and the importance for all organisations to ensure individuals who suffer from an allergy are not exposed to something that could trigger a potentially fatal allergic reaction.

There are many things that an individual may be allergic to, and it is not realistic to try and remove all of them from the school environment. There is something we can all do though, to make the school environment a little safer.

For some students, exposure to nuts can cause a potentially life threatening allergic reaction known as anaphylactic shock. This exposure can occur not only through eating nuts, but, in some cases, merely being in close proximity to them. The school canteen and food technology departments both operate on a 'nut free' basis. Could I therefore ask all parents to support these students by taking the following steps:

- To not send their children into school with breaktime snacks, or food in their lunchboxes, which contains nuts.
- To ensure that any products brought in, for charity bake sales, or end of term social events are equally 'nut free'. Parents should be particularly vigilant of chocolate selection boxes (e.g. Celebrations).
- If the opportunity presents itself, please have a discussion with their son or daughter as to why these products can be so dangerous for some.

If you are the parent of a child who has a serious allergy, please can I stress the importance of making sure the student has BOTH of their adrenaline autoinjectors on them at all times. These devices need to be quickly accessible by school staff should they be needed.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a safe school environment for all.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Remembrance Day - RBL Poppy Appeal



As a reminder, the Sixth Form Executive team are selling poppies with all donations going to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Please see the QR code to enable anyone to make a donation online. If your child would like to purchase a poppy we will need cash payment as this goes directly into the charity boxes that we have with the poppies supplied by the RBL. They also provide us with a box of RBL wristbands, rulers and reflectable poppies if your child would like to purchase something other than a poppy.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party will take place on Thursday 3rd December 2026. If anyone would like to donate small items for the raffle such as chocolates, selection boxes, mini Christmas puddings, packs of mince pies, toiletry sets, candles, etc, please could they be dropped into the school office either by your child or yourselves.

If anyone works for a company that would like to donate some items please contact me office@vynersschool.org.uk with details.

Many thanks for your help in advance.

Ms Derby, Office Manager

A Day of Remembrance and Creativity: Students Visit the Battle of Britain Bunker

On Wednesday, a group of our students from military families joined young people from six other primary and secondary schools across the borough for a remarkable educational trip to the historic Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge. Jointly hosted by the London Borough of Hillingdon and the charity Never Such Innocence, the day provided a unique platform for reflection, creative expression, and historical discovery.

Throughout the visit, students participated in immersive creative workshops designed to help them explore the themes of service and Remembrance. One group took part in a songwriting workshop with musician Otto Aday, collaborating to compose and record an original song that examined why honouring past and present sacrifices remains so vital for their generation. Meanwhile, the second group joined author and poet Dani Abrams for a creative writing workshop, crafting evocative verses that captured the human experience from three distinct perspectives: those who went to war, those who remained on the home front, and those who continue to remember today.

A central highlight of the day was a guided tour deep into the subterranean hub of No. 11 Group RAF Fighter Command during World War II. Descending 60 feet below ground, students entered the preserved Operations Room where controllers directed fighter squadrons during critical phases of the Battle of Britain and D-Day. Standing right above the iconic map table, plotting counters, and original sector clocks, they saw the historic nerve centre preserved exactly as it was in 1940. Afterwards, students explored the interactive Visitors Centre, engaging with personal accounts, touch-screen displays, and wartime artefacts that brought RAF Uxbridge's heritage to life.

Our students conducted themselves with the utmost respect and enthusiasm throughout the trip, representing the school admirably alongside their peers from across Hillingdon. Their thoughtful

contributions in both the creative sessions and historical discussions made the event a resounding success.

The lyrics to the song that they created are:

Never lose hope, your stories we will know
Never lose hope, as the poppies grow

You showed us freedom
And now we all know too

I see your courage in your heart
I see your bravery from the start
Though you're not here, your loyalty keeps us near

Never lose hope, your stories we will know
Never lose hope, as the poppies grow

You showed us freedom
And now we all know too

Never lose hope
Never lose hope











Mr Millard-Healy, Deputy Headteacher

Year 11 Rise to the Challenge at the Borough Netball Tournament

We ran the Year 11 Borough Netball Tournament, a unique 'Versatility' event where players are randomly assigned positions each match to test their adaptability, skill and team spirit. Vyners entered two teams into the 12 school competition, and both showed incredible strength and determination throughout the day. It was a fantastic showcase of how much these players have grown over their five years of netball at Vyners, delivering some genuinely beautiful, high quality netball.

Vyners A had a stellar run, battling all the way to the Semi Final's. A nail-biting Semi-Final against Bishop Ramsey A, Vyners held their nerve to secure a dramatic 3-1 victory thanks to some brilliant last minute goals!

That victory set up a tense final against our familiar rivals, Northwood College, whom we had already faced earlier in the pool stages. Unfortunately, luck wasn't quite on our side, with a few uncontrollable external factors coming into play (Miss Hawes' assembly on Attribution Theory certainly springs to mind!). While we just missed out on the top spot, we still finished as proud tournament runners-up, taking home **2nd place out of 12 schools** which is a phenomenal achievement.

The best news of all? We've already beaten Northwood College in the league this season! Huge congratulations to all the Year 11 players who represented the school so brilliantly. You should all be exceptionally proud of your performance and versatility!

Miss Hawes, PE Department

Cambridge University Lecture

Pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities that stretch them beyond their normal curriculum and recently one of our Year 12 pupils went to Peterhouse College, Cambridge University, for a talk. His description describes how much he enjoyed the opportunity and it is something that I would recommend other pupils think about taking part in activities that are offered to their respective Year groups.

Mr Kelly, Oxbridge Coordinator

Languages in the World

A few weeks ago, I had the exciting opportunity to attend Languages in the World, a talk at the University of Cambridge, held at Peterhouse Theatre, exploring the importance of languages in today's interconnected world.

The event featured several speakers from varying professional backgrounds, including journalism and international diplomacy. Hearing their perspectives gave me a greater appreciation of how languages can shape our lives beyond the classroom.

One of my biggest takeaways was just how many doors learning a language can open. Whether in business, international relations, travelling, or everyday communication, languages allow us to connect with people from different backgrounds and understand cultures beyond our own.

As a Spanish A-Level student myself, the experience encouraged me to look at language learning from a wider perspective. It reminded me that studying a language is about much more than just

vocabulary, grammar, and exams; it is about developing a skill that can create opportunities throughout our lives.

I am incredibly grateful for being able to attend this event. It was a memorable experience that reinforced one important message: languages don't just help us communicate with the world; they help us understand it.

Leon, Year 12

Update: Free Period Products Scheme

We are pleased to remind our school community that we participate in the **Government's Period Product Scheme**, providing **free** menstrual products to all students who need them. This scheme aims to promote period dignity, tackle period poverty, and ensure that menstruation is never a barrier to education.

Key Information:

- **Who is it for?** Any student who menstruates. This includes students who have forgotten their supplies, come on their period unexpectedly, or whose families are experiencing financial hardship.
- **What is provided?** Through our supplier, PHS Group, we stock a variety of environmentally friendly, reusable, and single-use products.
- **Where?** Year Leaders' office (051/161) just inside the door or Mrs McLaren's Office KS3 Family Liaison Officer (051a)

Mrs Bashford Hynes, Assistant Headeacher

Movember - M4M Challenge

Miles for Matt, Miles for Men is this year's movember challenge. Mr Hall will be running 5 km every hour for 24 hours, 120 km in total. Staff and students will be able to join Mr Hall running throughout the 24 hours and will be informed how they can take part. Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health. As a school community we lost a dear colleague and teacher this year in Mr Wilcox and as a community we are raising money to support ALL men's health. Donations, contributions, your support and growing a hairy upper lip would go a long way.

Date: Start 3pm 26th November - Finish 3pm 27th November

Donation Link: https://movember.com/m/miles4men

Friends Of Vyners

The next Friends of Vyners Quiz Night is on Friday 27th November. Please [click here] for further details.

Staff Vacancies

Please [click here] for the current staff vacancies across the VLT sites.

Attendance Figures

Please find below attendance figures for w/c 19th October 2026

Year Group	Present Marks (%)
Year 7	96.12%
Year 8	94.26%
Year 9	96.05%
Year 10	91.82%
Year 11	92.77%
Year 12	93.55%
Year 13	93.25%

Please find below the top 3 tutorials for attendance for w/c 19th October 2026

Tutorial	Present Mark (%)
9P	98.62%
12R	98.49%
9C	98.39%

Autumn Term Key Dates

Friday 6th November	Year 11 reports issued
Friday 13th November	Year 10 reports issued
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
Friday 18th December	**End of Autumn Term (12.20pm finish)**