Vyners School

Striving for Excellence

# Year 7 Update 13/11/2026

## Assemblies this week

Our assemblies over this week have provided wonderful opportunities for both celebration and reflection across the school community. A huge well done to 7G for delivering a truly beautiful assembly on Diwali, sharing the meaning and traditions behind the Festival of Lights with their peers. In addition, Mr Beale led a thoughtful assembly exploring the importance of Remembrance Day, encouraging students to reflect on why we continue to honour and remember those who have served.

## Remembrance service

This week, students came together to mark Remembrance Day with a reflective service held during their lessons. While poor weather meant we were unable to hold our usual whole-school ceremony out on the Astro, the entire school community still united as a poignant poem was broadcast over the tannoy, followed by a respectful two-minute silence. We were incredibly proud of the maturity and thoughtfulness shown by our students as they paused to honour and remember those who have served and sacrificed.

## Thank you Mr Smith

We would like to inform parents and carers that Mr Smith, form tutor for 7H, will shortly be leaving us at the end of the week. Mr Smith has been a hugely valued member of our school community, generously stepping in during many times of need as a dedicated long-term cover teacher within the English department. Alongside his work in the classroom, he has been a fantastic tutor to 7H, offering consistent support and guidance to his students. We would like to thank him sincerely for his hard work and commitment to the school. He will be greatly missed by both staff and students, and we wish him every success in the future.

Saying goodbye also brings us the opportunity to welcome Mr Wainwright, who has been working alongside Mr Smith since before half term to get to know 7H.

## November - Be Bright Be Seen




With the clocks having gone back and the evenings getting darker, many children are travelling to and from school in low light. As part of the Be Bright, Be Seen campaign and to mark Road Safety Week (15–21 November), children will be taking part in assemblies and classroom activities focused on staying visible and safe near roads. Families can help reinforce this message at home by encouraging children to wear brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing during dull daylight hours, and adding reflective accessories, such as armbands, bag tags, or clip-on reflectors, when it is dark. If your child cycles or scoots to school, please also check that they have working white front and red rear lights, and remind them to stick to well-lit routes and safe crossing points.

## Your Life You Choose

On Wednesday 4th November we held the 'Your life, you choose' programme delivered by the Metropolitan Police, involving other agencies such as the London Ambulance service, Safer Schools Police, Youth Justice Service, Youth Engagement Team and SORTED from The London Borough of Hillingdon. It is a serious crime intervention programme, aiming to educate and build resilience in young people. It is successfully being delivered to year 7 students in secondary schools across Hillingdon, as part of their PSHE programme.

The feedback from the event by staff and students was positive, with students showing excellent conduct, asking thought provoking questions and taking a healthy interest in the topics. I am extremely proud of the students' engagement and maturity throughout the whole day.

If you would like to discuss this further with your children please refer to the following resources. If you have any specific questions and require additional support and guidance please contact the safeguarding team via the main reception at office@vynersschool.org.uk.

- NSPCC- Talking about drugs and alcohol
- NSPCC - Talking about difficult topics
- The Ben Kinsella Trust - Resources for parents
- Childline - Online grooming

## Drop Everything And Read (DEAR)

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a love of reading at Vyners School, students take part in our weekly Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) campaign, where 20 minutes of lesson time is dedicated solely to independent reading. To ensure everyone gets the most out of these sessions, it is essential that students bring appropriate reading material to school every day. This can be either fiction or non-fiction, whether a gripping novel, a biography, or a book exploring a favourite hobby or subject, provided it is suitable for their age and reading level. Regular reading helps build focus, expand vocabulary, and boost confidence across the curriculum, so we kindly ask for your support in reminding your child to have a book packed in their bag each morning.

For inspiration on choosing the right text please see this fantastic resource created by Ms Goode: 50 books to read before age 14.

## Assessments

Reminder shared from the last update- From 6th-18th November students in Year 7 are likely to experience end of unit or topic assessments in their normal lessons with their class teachers for the first time. We do try to ensure that these are adequately spaced out so that students do not have too many assessments at once; this is a loose window of time open to teachers to plan and arrange assessments. The information gathered by teachers will form part of the information used to write the progress checks next half term. Each individual class teacher will communicate with their class about what to prepare and when the assessments will be via Google Classroom.

## Messages from London Borough of Hillingdon's Send Advisory Service

Parent Information session

Parents and carers are invited to attend a free drop-in Parents' Information Session on Wednesday 2 December 2026, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, at Yiewsley and West Drayton Community Centre (228 Harmondsworth Road, West Drayton, UB7 9JL). This event will offer practical advice and support to help families navigate their child's journey, giving attendees the opportunity to meet local organisations and service providers, learn more about Children's Social Care and SEND reforms, and share their views on services across Hillingdon. Refreshments and a play-and-stay crèche will be available throughout the session. To find out more and book your place, please visit the Parents' Information Session booking link.

SEND Family Support: Santa's Grotto & Christmas Market

Families caring for children and young adults with SEND (along with their siblings) are invited to SEND Family Support's Santa's Grotto & Christmas Market on Saturday 12 December 2026, from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, at Oak Wood School (Sutton Court Road, Uxbridge, UB10 9HT). Entry is £8 per child/young adult and includes a visit to Santa's Grotto with a choice of a Hasbro gift (while stocks last) or a £5 gift card, plus a selection box. Alongside festive stalls, live entertainment, sensory play, arts and crafts, a sensory petting zoo, and local SEND support stands, there is also a quiet Santa's Grotto Only option with a separate entrance for children who prefer to avoid noise and crowds (optional bouncy castle passes and food/refreshments will also be available). Please note that families must be signed up with SEND Family Support to attend, and advance booking is essential: you can book for the Santa's Grotto & Christmas Market or book for the quiet Santa's Grotto Only. For more information or to register with the charity, visit the SEND Family Support events page, email events@sendfs.co.uk, or call/text 07752 169849.

## Safeguarding Snapshot

This week's safeguarding snapshot is regarding Com Networks (also known as The Com and including groups such as 764). They are online groups of people who set out to cause serious harm, both online and offline, through physical, sexual and financial crimes. Members gain status within the group by obtaining the most extreme and disturbing content. This includes coercing young people into recording or sharing images of sexual or physical abuse, either of themselves or of others. Please [click here] for further information.

## Friends of Vyners AGM

Friends of Vyners will be holding their annual general meeting on Wednesday 25th November at 6pm. We will be discussing events for the rest of the school year to continue fundraising on behalf of the school and children. If you would like to dial into the call please email friendsofvynersschool@gmail.com for further details.

## Autumn Term Key Dates

Please be reminded that school will be closed to students on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Monday 23rd November.

| Autumn Term 2026 | |
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| 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 | 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 |
| 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)** |