Vyners School

Striving for Excellence

Year 9 Update **13/11/2026**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a great week.

We had an exciting assembly for Year 9 all about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). DofE is a fantastic opportunity for students to build confidence, develop new skills, volunteer in the community and take on a memorable outdoor expedition. We would love to see lots of Year 9 students getting involved. Information regarding the DofE scheme will be sent out in due course. Please look out for this information letter in your inbox.

On a practical note, as the weather turns much colder, we have been reminding students to wear weather-appropriate clothing to and from school. At the moment, a large number of students are still arriving in the same lighter attire they wore during the summer and early autumn months, often without a warm coat.

We are very conscious that colds and seasonal illnesses tend to increase at this time of year, and we want to keep Year 9 healthy, comfortable and ready to learn. Anything you can do at home to encourage your child to wrap up warmly with a suitable coat over their school uniform each morning would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Kind regards,

Mr Abraham

Head of Year 9

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.

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.



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.

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.

Environmental sustainability week

Environmental sustainability week: competition and quizzes

Autumn Term Key Dates For Year 9

Autumn Term 2026	
Monday 26th to Friday 30th October – Half Term	
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
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	**End of Autumn Term (12.20pm finish)**