



## Headteacher's Update

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

It has been an incredibly busy fortnight since the last update and I was particularly pleased to be able to welcome visitors to the school again in the form of prospective parents on our Open Evening last Wednesday. The evening was carefully planned to ensure a steady flow throughout the evening but we were still able to welcome over 500 families to the site over the four hour period. There were also a number of families who attended our Open Mornings this week, which allowed them to visit the school at a time when it is fully operational. Although there are numerous staff that I would like to thank for their work in organising the event, I would particularly like to thank and praise all of the students who supported the event either as helpers in departments or as guides for families. The children were an absolute credit to the school and I hope that they were able to gain confidence and learn about their own leadership qualities as the evening developed.

This week we have been talking about Mental Health in our whole school assemblies which have been ably led by Kika Bedborough (13C) and Lexie Hendrie (13M). We are putting a focus on helping the students understand how to listen when a friend approaches them with a concern about their mental health and who they can go to for help and support within the school community. Kika and Lexie also talked about the "Hello Yellow" campaign for Young Minds where we asked students to wear something yellow as part of their uniform to show our young people that they are not alone with their mental health. Members of our Year 13 and Year 12 leadership teams ran a successful cake sale in the quad and handed some prizes to students they felt had the best yellow accessory. Thank you to Mrs Coyle for her work in coordinating these activities.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week we were visited by a NHS team who vaccinated a large number of students over the two days. Having experienced some difficulties on Monday we were pleased to be able to report that the operation ran smoothly on Tuesday with all remaining students who had requested the vaccine being able to receive it. I would like to thank the NHS team and Mr Cahill for their hard work and professionalism in overseeing the management of the logistics of this programme. We have also been made aware that children who missed this opportunity but still wish to be vaccinated may do so **by contacting their GP after 5<sup>th</sup> November** (when the schools programme has concluded).

Despite the fact that a significant proportion of adults and children at the school have now been vaccinated we do want to continue to stress the importance of twice weekly testing using the lateral flow devices that are being provided free of charge. We do anticipate that there will be an increase in cases as we move into the winter months so it will be essential that we continue to adhere to all measures to help manage the spread of the virus. This also includes hand and respiratory hygiene.

This week the English Department has launched Bedrock Vocabulary with Year 7 students, as well as re-launched with Year 8 and Year 9 students. Bedrock Vocabulary is an online programme that helps students learn new vocabulary through a variety of tasks. It focuses on the vocabulary you might come across in textbooks, lessons or exams. We have been delighted to see the excitement this has generated particularly in Year 7 students as they begin to work through lessons and gain points for our leader boards. They have already come across vocabulary such as triumph, originate, formidable, and decontextualise.

Our next initiative, BookBuzz, will be for Year 7 and Year 8 students. This is a natural reading programme from BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity. Parents or carers will receive a letter explaining all this programme provides for students and how to take part next week. Thank you to Miss Duran and the English team for their work on this initiative.

Boys PE have had a successful week of fixtures. Firstly the Year 8 Rugby team took to the field for their first ever rugby matches. I am pleased to say they won two games from two and did not concede a single point. They represented the school to the highest standard and are looking forward to the next game on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October. The Year 10 boys were also in action against Bishop Ramsey in the first football match of the year. They were exceptional and were victorious with a 6-0 win. Well done to all involved.

Vyners hosted both the Year 11 and Year 10 Borough Netball Tournaments this week, which were a huge success with a large number of neighbouring schools attending. Vyners entered two teams for both age groups, highlighting the great commitment the girls show to their extra-curricular netball. 10A played some fantastic netball throughout the tournament and progressed all the way to the final, before narrowly losing to Bishop Ramsey to finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. While 10B showed their worth competing against all other A teams. 11A experienced versatility netball for the first time, having a lucky dip pick of playing positions before each match, which was an entertaining experience for all! 11A had great success finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 11B again displayed the strength of netballers at Vyners, competing closely with opposing school's A teams. Well done to all students involved!

Last Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September, Miss Hawes took students to English Schools Cross Country at Harrow School. We had 4 Year 7's, 9 Year 8's, 8 Year 9's, 4 Year 10's and 3 Year 11's selected. They ran a very hilly race with tough competition of regional/national standard. There were some amazing results particularly Luke Atkinson (8H) who came 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dylan Lewis (7H) who came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Year 7/8 Boys Competition as well as Issy Stone (9J) who came 11<sup>th</sup> in the Year 9/10 Girls Competition and Craig Sewell (10M) who came 14<sup>th</sup> in the Year 9/10 Boys Competition. Miss Hawes has informed me that the entire team performed incredibly well, so well done to everyone involved!



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On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October Mr Sorrell and Mr Beale took part in the 2021 Virgin London Marathon. They both had places in the 2020 event but it was postponed due to the Covid 19 lockdown. They completed the 26.2 mile course in 3 hours 55 minutes and 48 seconds, crossing the line together. They were both very appreciative for the support from family and friends around the course, particularly during the difficult miles around Canary Wharf. There were some sore legs on Monday morning and they could both be seen moving slowly down staircases, sometimes backwards. Mr Sorrell was running for Prostate Cancer UK and Mr Beale was running for Leonard Cheshire and you can still donate using the links below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marksorrelllondon2020>

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simon-beale8>



I would also like to congratulate Dylan Lewis (7H), who came 23<sup>rd</sup> out of London runners and 60<sup>th</sup> out of all the 196 under 13 runners from the UK in the London Marathon. Dylan was selected to represent Hillingdon in the London Marathon, which involved running the last few kilometres of the race against representatives from each of the other London boroughs and against athletes from the different regions of the UK. It was a great experience for Dylan and was a real achievement to be selected for such a prestigious event.



After sharing the news of Vyners' students' success at the London Youth Games last week, I was reminded of the fantastic achievements of Hadyn Timmins (8C) who won gold at the games whilst participating as part of the Hillingdon team in BMX racing. Congratulations to Hadyn on this fantastic achievement.

### Friends of Vyners - '100 Club'

Congratulations to all of the prize winners from the Friends of Vyners '100 Club' draws from the months of April to August 2021 (see attached). I would also like to pass on my sincere thanks to Mrs Karen Thompson for her commitment to this initiative.

The FoV '100 Club' has been an incredibly successful fundraising tool for our parent's organisation and has helped to provide our students with a wide range of facilities and resources that are often difficult to acquire from within our main school budget.

If you wish to participate in the '100 Club' then please complete the application form [\[click here\]](#) and forward it to [100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk](mailto:100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk)

Additional information and a link to the Friends of Vyners website can be found on the school website [\[click here\]](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**

### Headteacher Commendations

Harry Farrell - 9G  
Gracie Hart - 9G



# FriendsOfVyners

## '100 Club'



The FOV '100 Club' helps provide much needed finance for Vyners School while giving all members a chance to win cash prizes of between £25.00 and £100.00 in our monthly lottery draws

FOV '100 Club' membership helps supports the school by raising additional funds for projects currently outside the scope of existing funding. These contribute towards the running costs of the school minibuses, as well as purchasing Chromebooks for IT, soft seating for LRC and Reading Zone, display units for Science, new ovens for Food Technology, a 3-D printer for DT and much, much more.....

An annual share costs just **£1.00 per month** (payable as £12.00 per year) and there is no limit to the number of shares that you may buy

### '100 Club' winners:

#### **April 2021 - £25**

Kim Williams (28)  
Daljit Jheeta (137)

#### **May 2021 - £25**

Mrs Brenda Vaughan (56)  
Mrs Julie Heggie (219)

#### **June 2021 - £25**

Mrs Kerrie Hope (96)  
Imelda O'Halloran (161)

#### **June 2021 Quarterly - £50**

Mrs Melinda Holden (53)  
Karen Williams (149)

#### **July 2021 - £25**

Mrs Shaida Razaq (12)  
Tracey O'Keeffe (184)

#### **August 2021 - £25**

Mrs Melinda Holden (53)  
Cate Killeen (206)

*Please also remember to keep us informed if there is any change in address*

Simply complete the attached '100 Club' application form and send to the School office addressed to 'FOV 100 Club' or contact the Organiser via email at [100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk](mailto:100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk)