



## Headteacher's Update

21 January 2022

I would like to start this week's update by again thanking parents and carers for their support with regard to the issue of face coverings. Having now had a reasonable period of time to review our procedures, I think that it is reasonable to remove the mandatory use of face coverings in classrooms from Monday morning. However, I must stress that face coverings will remain mandatory in all other areas of the school buildings (such as corridors and canteens) and that students should only remove their face coverings once seated and should cover their faces before moving to their next lesson.

Students who wish to wear a face covering in their lessons will be allowed to do so and I would also like to reassure parents that students have been very supportive of their peers in similar circumstances when they have continued to cover their faces voluntarily. Staff will, on the whole, continue to teach from the front of the classroom and social distance where possible. However, they will, in most instances, continue to wear face coverings when moving around the room to support individual children.

With regard to attendance, our figures for the main school (Year 7-11) remain above the national average but below what we would expect in a non-pandemic year. The national attendance rate for secondary schools for the week ending 14 January was 89.4%, whilst our attendance rate stood at slightly above 92%. Whilst Covid related absence is unavoidable, I would again stress the importance of good attendance for all students and the avoidance of any unnecessary absences. As is always the case, the support of parents is always appreciated.

## Maths Department News

There are a number of courses that student mathematicians within the school have got involved with since the start of this term. Some of our most able pupils in Year 12, possible Oxbridge candidates for STEM subjects, have had the opportunity to take part in the online Higher level problem solving courses run by the Advanced Maths Support Programme. The course is designed for any A level

Mathematics students who have an enquiring mind and wish to develop their problem solving ability for their A level studies and beyond.

Participation in such activities is particularly useful for those students who wish to make the first steps in preparing for university admissions tests such as the MAT, TMUA and STEP examinations. These sessions, which will continue until March on a weekly basis, complement the other opportunities at A level that pupils are getting involved in including the D.R.E.A.M. lessons run by Mr. Kelly and the Ritangle competition that finished just before Christmas. Students are also looking forward to taking part in the Maths Inspiration show in February.

## Rotary Club Young Chef Competition

On Thursday 20th January the Vyners Food Department hosted this year's Rotary Club Young Chef competition. The Borough's finest young chefs were tasked with preparing, cooking and presenting a complex two-course meal in two hours. With a strict budget of £20, the judging criteria included the level of skill, execution and the overall sensory appeal. Representing Vyners were the talented trio of Devina Daby (11G), Harry Stone (11G) and Theo Pook (10C). After much deliberation from the judges, we were delighted to see Theo awarded second place for his tender, flavoursome hoisin beef main and sumptuous brownie with mixed fruit dessert. The standard of competition was extremely high and all contestants were highly commended by the judges. Thank you to all of our competitors for making it such an enjoyable event and to Mr Welch and the team in the Food Department for their hard work and dedication.

## Young Writers Success

Finally this week I would like to congratulate Nuala Borley (7C), Jessie Dempsey (7J), Dion Vakani (7J), Daniel Vigor (7W) and Alexander Feneck (7J) as they each been selected to have their poems published in the Young Writers Poetry Anthology titled *Empowered - Poetic Voices*.

This year marks the 30th year that the annual competition has taken place and Young Writers were able to confirm that they received over 12,000 entries.

We were delighted to learn that all of the Vyners' entries were chosen for this year's publication. Each student receives a bookmark and certificate for their notable achievement. *Empowered - Poetic Voices* is scheduled to be published on 11th March 2022. The school will receive a complimentary copy and we will ensure that those parents who wish to purchase a copy will be provided with the details of how to do so. Congratulations once again and my thanks to Mr Kunig in the English Department for his hard work and support.



Gary Mullings  
Headteacher

### **Headteacher's Commendations**

#### **Work Related Learning**

Rajdee Kandola 8G

Grace McGlynn 8G

Rory Shaw 8G

Harriet Murray 8G

Anton Rogatin 8G