



Headteacher's Update

4th February 2022

It's been an incredibly busy week for students in Year 11 as they have received their trial examination results, participated in a careers event and had one-to-one meetings with either a senior or middle leader at the school. I always enjoy the one-to-one meetings as they provide me with some dedicated time to speak to students about their progress and give some advice about their exam preparation and post 16 courses. In addition to the advice and guidance in these meetings, I am delighted to be able to inform parents that Dr Martijn van der Spoel will be in school on Tuesday of next week and will be working with groups of students to support them with issues such as stress management, motivation and organisational skills.



I would also like to extend a large thank you to all the Year 13 students who helped support the Year 11 next steps/careers events, by preparing virtual and in-person presentations. A particular thanks must also go to Benjamin Surguy, Head Boy who was instrumental in managing the planning and preparation. We are grateful to all the time and effort that these students gave to this task and the positive impact in helping Year 11 students think about their future choices and also gain an insight into how to develop their own leadership skills.

The week culminated in the Year 11 parent's evening, which was again held remotely. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their engagement during the evening and I would ask that if they haven't already done so to take some time over the days ahead to talk to their child about their progress as well as their post-16 options and possible next steps.

Advance information for GCSEs, AS and A levels

The DfE has confirmed that advance information about GCSE and AS / A level subjects will be published by exam boards on **Monday 7th February**. The [JCQ guidance on advance information](#) is already available. Once we have reviewed the information from the various examination boards we will ensure that it is effectively collated and shared with students and parents prior to the half term break. This will allow students to structure a more focused revision plan given the disruption that most students have experienced across the country as a result of the pandemic.

School Production 2022 – Hairspray (2nd – 4th March)

I am delighted to be able to inform the school community that tickets will shortly be available for this year's school production of **Hairspray**. The cast have been working incredibly hard in rehearsals over the past five months and are now at the stage of fine tuning their performances, overseen by our wonderful Drama and Music staff. A link to Mrs Moore's letter can be found [\[here\]](#) which includes details on how to purchase tickets (from 10th February).

Jack Petchey Speak Out Hillingdon Finals

I would like to congratulate Reem Choudhry (10W), as she was unveiled as the **winner** of the Hillingdon final for the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge yesterday. Reem competed against the other representatives of each Hillingdon school. She impressed the judges as she spoke passionately about equality issues from a disability and learning needs perspective. Reem will now progress onto the national final, representing Vyners School, which will take place later this year. I am sure that everyone within the Vyners community will agree that this is an extraordinary achievement.

Indoor Athletics

Congratulations to the Year 7 and Year 8 boys and girls for their performances at the recent Indoor Athletics Finals. The Year 8 Boys were winners overall in their age category, with the Year 8 Girls and Year 7 Boys finishing second and Year 7 Girls, third. The Year 8 Boys will now progress to

the London Youth Games, which is an incredible achievement. The games will take place next week on Wednesday 9th February. We wish all involved the very best of luck.

Middlesex Cross Country

Six Vyners students represented Hillingdon in the Middlesex Cross Country at Harrow School last Thursday. Dylan Lewis (7H), Marli Pistorius (8J), Isabelle Stone (9J), Jemima Potter (9H), Aidan Gallagher (10H) and Jack Barrell (11H). Dylan came 4th in the Year 7 boys race; which is the best placing we have ever had at Vyners in the Middlesex Cross Country, whilst Isabelle finished 6th and has now been selected to compete in the Regional Finals and also to represent Hillingdon in the English Schools Championships. Dylan was also in the winning team for Year 7 but unfortunately there are no further competitions for the Year 7 age group. My warmest congratulations to all involved and the very best of luck to Isabelle in the national finals.

VLT Photography Competition

The Vanguard Learning Trust Photography competition is underway with entries being welcomed from staff and students across the five trust schools on the theme of *'happiness'*. The Vyners' Art and Photography department are leading this activity and I would particularly like to thank Miss Rose and Mrs Dineen for their work on this project. Students do not require specialist equipment as modern smartphones and tablets are capable of capturing excellent images. A flyer for this competition can be found [\[here\]](#). It would be fantastic if parents could encourage their children to enter.

Safer Internet Day - Your Guide to Gaming

I would like to draw attention to the safer internet day special event that is taking place as a remote activity next week. The event will take place on Tuesday 8th February and will be specifically focused on the issues related to young people and gaming. I am confident that parents will find this activity to be useful. A link to the 30 minute session can be found [\[here\]](#).

National 'Make Your Mark' Ballot

Every year there is a National 'Make Your Mark' ballot organised by the British Youth Council (BYC) to provide young people aged 11 to 18 a chance to communicate the topic they care about most. The results are then used by elected MYP (Members of Young Parliament) to debate the following year's manifesto.

The Hillingdon Youth Council (HYC) are requesting support to encourage every student to "Make their Mark". The ballot starts on 1st February and ends on 28th February. Both online and paper ballots will be counted on Tuesday 1st March with the full results made available on the 10th March for your awareness and possible use.

Information about the national 'Make Your Mark' can be found at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/make-your-mark. This includes a two-minute [promotional video](#) along with details that include a link to submit an [online vote](#). The process takes no more than a couple of minutes. We will be promoting this activity at the school in a number of different ways; it would be good to see significant numbers of Vyners students participating.

Road closures and punctuality

Unfortunately, punctuality standards at the start of this week were below what we would expect. Far too often, students identify traffic issues as the reason for the lateness. Given that we know that the overwhelming majority of students live within a mile of the school, in most cases this simply isn't acceptable. I am sure that parents are aware of the road closure planned on Harvil Road south of the Chiltern Line rail bridge from 7th to 18th February 2022. Given that this is the case, I would ask that families plan ahead and ensure that the disruption to travel that will ensue does not impact on future punctuality. As a reminder, students are expected to arrive on site by 8.25am at the latest and be sat in their tutorial by 8.30am.

Wishing you all a safe and restful weekend.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Headteacher Commendations

<u>Work Related Learning</u>		<u>Maths</u>	
Serit Hussein Nandha	8G	Tom Walshe	10G
Billy Manners	8G	Paris Inns	9J
Lucas Paige	8G		
Emily To	8G	<u>English</u>	
Ashmeet Viridi	8G	Aiza Ahmed	7H
James Worley	8G	Sophia Crick	7H
Frankie Baker	8H		
Grace Barrell	8H	<u>Sports Coaching</u>	
Isla Barrow	8H	Ross Baker	12H
Grace Biggs	8H		
Alfie Clark	8H	<u>Learning Journey</u>	
Lucas Dearsley	8H	Hussain Viramgamwala	9M