

Headteacher's Update

18th March 2022

PE and Sport

March is always a busy month for sport in the school calendar, mainly due to the fact that the final few weeks of the term mark the end of season for many of the autumn / winter pursuits. There have been a number of notable successes that have been shared with me by the PE department this week and much to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

Issy Stone (9J) continues to impress with her cross country running. She has now progressed through to the English Schools National Cross Country Championships, which will take place at Hop Farm in Kent on Saturday 19th March. This is a huge achievement for Issy as she will be representing Middlesex and competing against the very best distance athletes in her age category. We wish her the very best of luck.

Sophie Wilkinson (11H) has been selected to represent the London Region for the U18 Inter-Regional Waterpolo Team in Blackpool this weekend (19th and 20th March). This is another fantastic achievement; we wish Sophie the best of luck for the two days. There are a number of students at the school who take part in waterpolo and it is becoming increasingly popular. Other notable participants include Yolanda Ginman (11H), Hannah Wilson (10W) and Robyn Kell (10W).



The Year 7 Boys football team pulled off a fantastic win in the Middlesex Cup Final overcoming St Ignatius to claim the title for the first time in Vyners' history. This is clearly a fantastic achievement for all students and staff involved. A special mention must go to George Burton (7H) who scored a hat-trick in the 4-2 win.

Year 7 County Champions

Billy Drinkwater (7G) (GK)	Blessing Okito-Nkoy (7W)
Archie Wilkinson (7C) (captain)	George Burton (7H)
Michael Durkan (7C)	Ryan Franklin (7C)
Freddie Austin (7C)	Rio Knight (7P)
Malik Taitt (7W)	Jonah Capp (7H)
Oliver Young (7C)	

The girls Borough Netball finals for Years 8, 9 and 10 also took place this week. All Vyners' teams finished in 2nd place after some fantastic performances. On Wednesday it was the turn of our Sixth Form who took to the court in the Borough Basketball finals finishing in a well deserved 4th place. Our boys were also involved in a first XI Hockey fixture against Merchant Taylors School finishing 4 - 1 victors after a very impressive performance against a strong MTS side. These boys deserve a special mention as they have shown fantastic independence and commitment leading and managing hockey this academic year. Finally this week, the Inclusive cricket side have been competing against the best in Middlesex at the super 1 tournament today (Friday). We wish them the very best of luck and look forward to learning more about their experiences.

Next week sees more fixtures and finals taking place which is amazing to see post Covid restrictions. On Monday we have the Year 7 Girls Middlesex football final. Wednesday sees the Year 10 boys in basketball action in the Borough finals, whilst the Year 9 boys take to the courts themselves for a friendly fixture versus Bishopshalt. On Thursday it is time for the Borough Rugby semi finals which will see our Year 10 and Year 11 compete against Haydon and our Year 7 team take on Douay Martyrs. My thanks as always to Mr Hall and his wonderful team for their commitment to extracurricular sports at the school.

Brazilian Visitors

I was delighted to be able to welcome Regis Borges and Josebene Lime from the Fiems Federation of Schools in Brazil to the school this morning. Regis and Josebene were accompanied by Phil Hawkins who is the founder and CEO of *Aprender*, which is an international education development charity. Phil has been working with schools in Brazil for a considerable amount of time and it was a pleasure to be able to take him and his colleagues on a tour of the school and share some of our experiences and learning as we have progressed as a school. It was a pleasure to host three individuals that showed so much interest in our work. The students that they met were fabulous as always!



House Bake Off

Our annual House Bake Off competition took place in the Food department on Thursday 17th March and the standard of competition was exceptional! With spaces for the competition filled in record time, a packed food room witnessed our very worthy winner being crowned House Bake Off Champion 2022.

This year's winner is Suren Kukadia (7P). Suren produced a real show stopper; a sumptuous chicken curry with homemade naan bread. His prize is a personalised apron and Bake Off Champion certificate.



Second place went to Harriet Murray (8G) who cooked a technically challenging crème brulee served with melt in the mouth shortbread.

Simrath Josan (7P) took the final place on the podium with a faultless millionaire shortbread. Thank you to all competitors, parents and carers who made the event possible. We are looking forward to the next cooking competition already!

Mr Welch



STaRS Park and Stride Map

Earlier this week, the school received its 'Park and Stride' map [\[here\]](#), which is a result of our participation with the School Travel and Road Safety scheme. The map outlines key zones where parents and carers should consider dropping off or collecting their children on occasions when they feel that car use is necessary. As mentioned previously, our data shows that the majority of students at the school live within walking distance.

The main objective of this mapping exercise is to dissuade parents from converging in the immediate vicinity of school, whilst encouraging school children to engage in healthy exercise (walking). By doing so, this alleviates the traffic issues in the immediate area around the school which, in turn, creates a far safer environment for children as they travel to and from school. We would really appreciate it if parents would study the map carefully and consider engaging in this initiative as it would be of great benefit to students at the school as well as the wider community. My thanks once again to Mr Heath, TfL and the team at the London Borough of Hillingdon for their excellent work on this strategy.

VLT Photography Competition Winners and International Day of Happiness

Today is the International Day of Happiness, which is a day that was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 and whilst there are clearly social, economic and political issues that are impacting on all of us to some extent, I think that it is important that we remain optimistic for our children.

With that in mind, I am delighted to be able to share the results of the VLT Photography competition [\[here\]](#), which was based upon the theme of 'Happiness'. There were in excess of 100 entries from students and staff across the trust, with Vyners being very well represented in each category.

A blind judging technique was used (without names of entrants or schools) to ensure impartiality and I am delighted to be able to congratulate Tia Bajalyte (7W), Oliver Whicker (8C) and Hannah Steele (7W) who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the KS2 / KS3 category. Mollie Gregory (9M) and Jennifer Holden (11M) achieved 1st and 2nd places respectively in the KS4 category and Emeraishe Sigauke (13F), Muskaan Tariq (13F) and Hannah Latham (12M) claimed the top three prizes in the KS4 category. Last but not least, congratulations to Mr Twyford who placed third in the staff category. Congratulations to all involved. I will ensure all prize winners receive the prizes before the Easter break.

Thank you once again to Mrs Vine, Miss Rose and Mrs Dineen for their excellent work in coordinating this activity.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful weekend

Gary Mullings
Headteacher