

## Headteacher's Update

25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Whilst it has been wonderful to have experienced a concerted period of sunshine throughout the week, I have to admit that this week has been a challenging one. This has been primarily due to a higher than expected absence rate amongst our staff, mainly due to the rising number of Covid cases in the community. As always, we really do appreciate the patience of parents and carers in relation to these and similar matters and I am pleased to be able to report that staffing levels are closer to normal today. I would like to publicly thank all of the staff who have stepped in to support the lessons of absent colleagues this week as it has been a fantastic team effort.

Thank you to Mrs Coyle and members of our Year 12 prefect team who organised activities on Friday of last week to raise money for Comic Relief and charities working to support the victims of the crisis in Ukraine. We were delighted that the different events raised over £480 in total, which was a testament to the generosity of our students and their families.

As a reminder, next Friday will be a non-uniform day for all year groups. A voluntary contribution of £2 will be split between these two causes. We are encouraging students to wear yellow and/or blue to encourage friendship and/or red to support Comic Relief.

Following on from last week's sports news I would like to congratulate our Year 7 Girls Football Team and Inclusive Cricket Team for their achievements within the past week. The cricket team participated in the super 6's tournament on Friday and managed to progress to the regional stage as a result of winning all of their matches. The Year 7 girls fought valiantly in their county final on Monday but were defeated 4-0 by their worthy opponents, Highlands. However, reaching the County final remains a fantastic achievement. My warmest congratulations to everyone involved.

On a musical note, I would like to congratulate Orla Lepley (9M) for gaining a place on the Hillingdon Emerging Talent singing showcase! This borough-wide singing competition saw students competing for one of just 14 spaces in the final showcase event. The showcase will take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Global Academy in Hayes, with doors opening at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. We wish Orla the very best of luck and look forward to seeing her showcase her talent in the future on the stage at Vyners.

### Trust Awards

I was delighted this morning to be able to meet with the recipients of the Vanguard Learning Trust Awards winners for the spring term. As a reminder, these awards are only given to one individual per key stage for each term in the academic year. This term, the awards were given for the value of community. The three prize winners are Katie Gardner (7G), Jayden Desai (10W) and Reyes Pollard (12G).

Katie has clearly made an exceptional start to her time at Vyners. I was most impressed by the fact that she is recognised for putting the needs of others ahead of her own and for making every effort to try to ensure that all students have felt included since starting Year 7 in September.

Jayden has worked tirelessly to support the school's drive towards a sustainable future. He has produced promotional materials for the sustainability working group and has demonstrated high levels of leadership within the area of environmental sustainability within the school.

Reyes has devoted numerous hours towards community projects both within the school as well as the local community. This is something that he has been committed to throughout his time at the school and is something that is recognised by several community groups.

My warmest congratulations to all three students. They are extremely worthy winners and fantastic role models for their peers.



### **Term Time Holidays**

One of the knock-on effects of the global pandemic is the ever increasing number of rearranged holidays. As a reminder, holidays during term time will not be authorised. Whilst I do have a lot of sympathy for families having to pay incredibly high prices for holidays during the school breaks, we cannot support students missing time in school in such circumstances. Thank you to all parents and carers in advance for their support with this matter.

### **Smart Watches**

There are an increasing number of students who are wearing smart watches to school. This is absolutely fine. However, I would like to draw the attention of parents and students to the fact that these watches are not permitted in public examinations. In addition, students should not be misusing them during the day e.g. for messaging or playing games.

### **Year 10 Parents Evening**

The staff at the school are very much looking forward to meeting (virtually) with parents and carers of students in Year 10 during the consultation evening this coming Thursday. I must apologise as the booking form opened slightly later than 8.15am, as had previously been advertised but I hope that all parents have found the process to be straightforward since that time. As per my comments earlier in this update, it may well be the case that a small number of staff might be unavailable on Thursday. However, parents should feel free to contact staff outside of the consultation evening if they need to discuss an issue in greater detail.

Wishing all families a fantastic weekend.

**Gary Mullings**

**Headteacher**

### **Headteacher Commendations**

#### Work Related Learning

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Henna Dildar        | 8J |
| Aiden Edwards-Smith | 8J |
| Isabella Feroze     | 8J |
| Mia Harvey          | 8J |
| Henry Cino          | 8J |
| Thomas Hunter       | 8J |
| Lillie Lundie       | 8J |
| Benjamin McCormick  | 8J |
| Jake Peace          | 8J |
| Harleen Kaur        | 8J |

#### French

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Jessica Nwanshi | 10G |
| Jayden Desai    | 10W |
| Hussain Qadri   | 10G |

#### Photography

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Naya Lotay            | 9P |
| Aarththy Balakrishnan | 9H |

#### Pastoral

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Delphine Ville | 12H |
|----------------|-----|