



Headteacher's Update

6th May 2022

I am sure that the May Day Bank Holiday was a welcome break for many of our families. Furthermore, the Eid celebrations on Tuesday to mark the end of Ramadan meant that this was a relatively short week at school for some staff and families. Despite this, it has felt calm and productive and I have really enjoyed visiting lessons and speaking to students about their learning. I have also been delighted to see so many students at Vyners engaging in a wide range of leadership activities as their work contributes to the school and wider community and helps them, as individuals, to develop and grow.

School Travel and Road Safety (STARS)

This week the School Travel and Road Safety (STARS) Student Leadership Team delivered our whole school assemblies to promote the up and coming event, Active Travel Week 9th to 13th May. Next week, they will be running 3 competitions; The Tutorial Step Count - recording the number of steps to school. The Golden Bike - selecting 1 bike each day to win a prize. The Art Piece - creating an art piece to promote active travel, either email it to Mr Heath or place it in 255 on Friday 13th May.

The main idea behind the Active Travel Week is to promote sustainable and healthy travel to and from school. From the data the project team has collected, it is evident that 25% of our school community travels by unsustainable means, with car usage being the main issue. Research shows that there is a well established link between excessive car usage and cardiovascular disease, air quality and pollution. However, there is also an impact on mental health. It has been identified that the morning rush hour conditions have a negative effect on students causing added stress. Additionally, the increased levels of physical activity through either walking or cycling at least part way of their school journey also benefits student well being. As such, if we can promote more active travel there will be an increase in physical and mental health, decreasing stress and boosting cognitive capabilities.

The STARS team is one of six student leadership working groups that are ensuring that there is student input within the school's strategic plans and actions. The other five areas of focus are Teaching and Learning, Student Mental Health and Well Being, Anti-bullying, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability. Each group is achieving fantastic work

behind the scenes and are making an impact within the school community. I will ensure that I provide an update from the various groups in the newsletter as we progress through the remainder of the year.



Year 7 English Project on Inspirational Figures

Recently, Year 7 students in Mr Kunig's English class took the initiative to write formal letters to a role model or public figure of their choosing. The task encouraged students to engage in their wider communities, both local and global. Some students chose to write to grandparents, some chose to write to footballers. Politicians, writers and even members of the royal family received letters from Vyners students.

So far, there have been four replies. The Palace has written twice, once to Jessie Dempsey (7J) and a second time to Deen Exaltacion (7P), Safirah Van Duin (7J) and Lexie Zannini (7J) who wrote to the Queen. Her Majesty sent Vyners School a card and letter thanking Vyners students for their best wishes for the Jubilee year (see attached). Marcus Rashford sent a signed photograph to George Burton (7H) and Siya Khosa (7W) received the same from Jurgen Klopp, who was the first and speediest to reply.

The students were thrilled to see their efforts rewarded and have developed a passion about engaging as active citizens. Many wait expectantly to see if replies from politicians, technology moguls and other figures have arrived. I've been led to believe that they do ask every day! Congratulations to all students involved and my thanks to Mr Kunig for his leadership of this excellent writing activity.

Residential Trips

We are delighted to be able to inform all parents and carers that a list of proposed residential trips and visits through to the academic year 2024-25 is now available [via the school website](#) under the Activities link. Whilst the list is not definitive, we do wish to alert families to the activities that have been proposed to date so that those who wish to participate can plan ahead both logistically and financially. Over this period of time, we are hoping to see that the engagement with such visits get back towards pre-Covid levels and that all students at the school are able to participate in at least one activity. We are very much aware from our annual parental survey that parents are keen for such activities to take place and we are also very close to our day visits and extracurricular activities getting back to these levels also. Parents will note that many of the opportunities are planned to repeat every year (or two). If your child cannot get a place first time, they may be another chance in the future

Inspire Women day at RAF Northolt/Aston Martin

What a fantastic trip! We were invited to RAF Northolt, where our girls had the opportunity to interact with Female Ambassadors at RAF doing all sorts of roles and jobs. Starting with medical professionals, Explosive Ordnance disposal, Engineering, Musicians, Air ambulance, Legal services, Aircrew, Operation VR and an RAF aircraft flying in just for the event. The highlight of the day was when a Chinook flew around ([video link](#)), and we had the chance to sit in the cockpit of a Chinook.



RAF's partner 'Aston Martin Cars' attended the event with their latest cars and female design and engineering apprentices. They showcased their apprenticeships and careers together with the RAF. I am happy to announce that soon our students will have the golden opportunity to start Level 3 or degree apprenticeship with Aston Martin/RAF.

Mrs Kaur

GCSE and A Level Exams

Finally this week, with the practical examinations underway and the start of the written examinations just over a week away, I would like to wish all of the students in Years 11 and 13 the very best of luck over the coming weeks. Having spoken to a number of students in each cohort over recent weeks I have been impressed with their attitude towards their studies and their level of focus and determination.

As a reminder to parents and carers, students should, at this stage, be spending a good proportion of their time applying their knowledge and skills using past papers. It is important that these are evaluated using the mark schemes and that any errors are fixed. This is an area parents can readily support their child as well as by ensuring that they have a quiet place to study and are looking after their well being throughout.

If parents require any further information about supporting their child throughout this phase then please visit our [Exam Information](#) page in the Student Zone area of the website. Alternatively, please contact your child's Year Leader for general advice or subject teacher for specific advice related to the subject.

Have a great weekend.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Headteacher Commendations

Pastoral

Benjamin Thompson	13W
Jessica Gill	13G
Luke Boxall	10H

Work Related Learning

Jaskaran Daudher	8M
Adam El Uahabi	8M
Ellie Gaffney	8M
Finlay Harris	8M



WINDSOR CASTLE

To: The Students at Vyners School

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the letters which you sent to Her Majesty.

The Queen was glad to hear from you and, although unable to reply to you personally, Her Majesty was touched that you chose to write to her as part of your English project on inspirational figures.

The Queen greatly appreciated the nice things you said, and I am to thank you again for your messages of good wishes to Her Majesty in this, her Platinum Jubilee year.

Richenda Elton

Lady-in-Waiting

19th April 2022