

Headteacher's Update

27th May 2022

Over the past week, the staff at Vyners have been saying their fond farewells to students in Years 11 and 13 as they finished their lessons for the final time and embarked onto their periods of study leave. Last Friday was the turn of the Year 13 cohort. It was an enjoyable afternoon with the entire year group attending their leaver's assembly and barbeque in Vyners traditional fancy dress. One of the most touching moments took place at the end of the lunch period when a large number of students in the main school initiated a spontaneous round of applause for their more senior peers. I must say that it has been an absolute pleasure to have witnessed this group of students progress their way through the last seven years. We wish them the very best in their A level examinations and look forward to their prom and results day. Thank you to Mrs Lane, Mrs Harvey and the Sixth Form team for organisation of this activity alongside their work to support the students over the past two years. I would also like to thank all of the students and their families for the generous gifts that they shared with a variety of members of staff throughout the week.

Students in Year 11 are now at the end of their second week of written examinations and, on the whole, the feedback has been positive. We have all been impressed with the manner in which they have approached their studies, revision and exams. A number of departments have been running morning sessions to help students to make final preparations ahead of their exam sessions. This has included the Science Department who have been running 'Tea, Toast and Teachers' sessions before school on the day of each GCSE morning Science exam. This has given students the opportunity to revise, ask any last minute questions and de-stress before they go into the exam. These sessions have proved to be incredibly popular and have supported a range of students across Year 11.



This afternoon's leaver's assembly was an opportunity for the cohort to reflect on their time at Vyners as well as thank the people who have assisted them along the way. I would like to thank Mr Abassi and the Year 11 team for all of their hard work to support the students in Year 11, particularly in the past two years and wish all of our Year 11 cohort the very best of luck for the remainder of their examinations.

One student who has been balancing her GCSE studies with her sporting commitments is Jess Costa (11F). Jess has, in recent weeks, been selected to play for the Portuguese U16 women's football team and recently played in fixtures against Belgium and England in Portugal. Our huge congratulations to Jess. We very much look forward to seeing her making progress in the seasons ahead.

Royal Society of Chemistry Poster Competition

This term KS3 pupils were invited to take part in the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Poster Competition on the theme "Chemistry Around Us". This included schools from across Chiltern and Middlesex which included North and West London and parts of adjacent counties of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. The aim was to stimulate students' interest in chemistry and its importance in the world around us.

The five best posters were selected by the Science team and Year 12 Chemistry Students. These posters will be submitted to the RSC as the Vyners School entries to the competition. The standard of entry was very high and the judges had a very difficult time in selecting winners.

Year 7

Winners: Aditya Dusseea 7H & Benji Hampshire 7W

Runner Ups: Tumi Adebajo & Emilija Asakaviciute 7W

Year 8

Winner: Chloe Sims 8M

Runner- Up: Khadija Ahmad 8W

Wild-Card Entry: Avomo Mba Nguema 8H

All the participants will receive a certificate for their hard work and ingenuity in producing their posters.

I would like to thank all the participants for their engagement, dedication and hard work.

The departure of students in the examination years at the May half term usually leads to a slightly quieter period in the school year due to the reduced number of students on site and number of lessons taking place. Whilst this is usually the case, the staff remain busy as this is the time of the year when we review the progress made against our strategic plans and start to plan ahead for the coming academic year. Shortly after half term I will be sharing the parental survey with all parents and carers. We would really appreciate a high return rate this year as this does help to inform our planning. It also feels as if we are at a point where the overwhelming majority of activities should be in place as normal and that we should be looking to take advantage of new opportunities. One area that remains a concern is attendance. Whilst the attendance rates at Vyners are above the national averages they are still not comparable to pre-pandemic levels. This, despite the fact that there are currently only a handful of positive Covid cases amongst the school community. We really do need to see a significant shift in student attendance in the second half of the summer term. This will provide us with a healthy platform to exceed our 96% attendance target.

Finally this week, I would also like to thank Mr Beale and Miss Brown for their inspiring assemblies this week that celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Many students also participated in the Jubilee lunch on Wednesday, whilst staff were able to enjoy Jubilee tea and cakes during their morning break earlier today. I think that it goes without saying that the main celebrations for most families will be during the [Platinum Jubilee Weekend](#) when the nation will be marking the Queen's seventy years of service and with this in mind I would like to wish all families a wonderful half term break and joyous Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Gary Mullings

Headteacher