

Headteacher's Update

8th July 2022

There are just two weeks left in this academic year. However, the school feels incredibly busy as staff (and students) are working very hard to conclude the term effectively whilst working to ensure that plans are in place for the autumn term. The INSET day on Friday was an opportunity for the whole staff to come together to focus on our priorities for the 2022-23 academic year before breaking off into teams to work on departmental planning. We do hope that these days do not inconvenience families too greatly and also hope that parents and students appreciate the value of days that allow us to focus on staff development and school priorities.

New catering partner

We are delighted to introduce Cucina to you as our new outsourced catering provider. Cucina will move into our school kitchen over the summer ready for the start of the new academic year. Cucina have been kind enough to share a promotional video with us, which we have shared with students in assembly. Here is a link to both the assembly presentation and the video ([Here](#)).

There are two important changes which we would particularly like to bring to your attention. Firstly, we will be getting rid of all single use plastic bottles from September. As a school we can no longer defend adding tons of plastic to landfill every year. Students will continue to have access in school to a range of water fountains. Cucina will also be introducing 'Generation Juice' a self service drinks machine, dispensing still and fizzy flavoured water. To avoid students going thirsty, it will be vital that all students bring a reusable, refillable container with them to school each day. Many of our students already do this. If your child does not yet have a bottle, can we ask you to purchase one over the summer? Please also make sure it is named.

Secondly, we will be discontinuing the disposable food boxes introduced during the pandemic for hot main meals. From September, students will be offered their meal on a traditional plate (with steel cutlery). Should they wish to take their meal outside, they need to bring a reusable container and their own cutlery. A number of you have already subscribed to the 'Munchbox' initiative started earlier this year. Boxes remain available on squid for £3 per box (whilst stocks last!). Students may however bring any sealable plastic box.

Governor and Trustees' Day

On Wednesday 29th June we were pleased to be able to welcome Governors and the Chair of VLT, Peter Davies to the school for part of the Trust's Governance Day. The group spent time in the morning listening to presentations from our SEND Coordinator, Ms Kendall as well as our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Bashford-Hynes before visiting lessons and talking to students after the morning break. In the afternoon, all Governors, Trustees, Headteachers and core trust staff met at the ACS

Hillingdon School to review the year and discuss the Trust's strategic approach for the year ahead. This will involve even greater collaboration and collective responsibility between the schools in order to ensure that we raise standards further and share the very best practice across the five schools and beyond. The day culminated with presentations for long service awards for the longest serving members of staff at each of the schools. I was delighted to be able to say a few words for our admissions officer, Mrs Kalsi who celebrated 28 years of service at Vyners in June this year. Her service demonstrates remarkable commitment and loyalty to the school and her award is very much deserved. I would like to thank Dr Lecky, the Trustees and Governors for all of their hard work as volunteers to support and challenge the schools in order that we can continue to raise standards for the children in our communities.



Imagination Fortnight

I would like to thank all staff in the Music, Drama and Art and Photography departments for their contributions to an excellent Imagination Fortnight that took place recently. I took the opportunity to participate in the West End visit to watch the Musical, Wicked along with the other 16 staff and over 170 students. I know that other staff and students enjoyed their visits to Mary Poppins in the West End as well as Art and Photography trips, including to the Tate Modern. At times it is worth reminding ourselves that we are fortunate to live on the edge of one of the most culturally rich and diverse cities in the world and it is fantastic to be able to involve so many students in such experiences. I am sure that we will develop our programme for the fortnight in the coming years.

Perry Parsons Memorial Concert

This Saturday, I will be welcoming Alumni as well as friends and family members to the school to enjoy a concert in the memory of former colleague, teacher, and swing band leader, Perry Parsons. The concert will commence at 3.30pm and conclude at 6pm. There will be a number of former band members playing on the day as well as memories shared by family and friends alike. My thanks go to Mrs Moore for coordinating this event and to all others who have made significant contributions.

Year 6 Transition Day

Tuesday 5th July was this year's Year 6 transition day for all students across the borough. At Vyners we welcomed our new cohort of just over 240 students to the school to have their first experience of secondary school life, including taster lessons, tutorial time and the slightly less interesting tasks such as getting their biometric fingerprints organised so that they can purchase items in the school canteen when they arrive in September. The students were a delight throughout the day and it was fantastic to see new friendships developing as the day progressed. We were also delighted to be able to welcome parents and carers to the school in the evening. They were able to experience some of our food offering from our new catering suppliers, order items of uniform and speak to some of our staff. It was a pleasure to be able to share a presentation with parents later in the evening alongside their Year Leader, Miss Hawes as well as have the opportunity to speak to some of the families thereafter. As much as we are looking forward to a break this summer, we are genuinely looking forward to formally starting with our new Year 7 cohort when they arrive in their Vyners uniforms in September.



Intermediate Biology Olympiad

For the first time at Vyners, Year 12 students were given the opportunity to compete in the 2022 Intermediate Biology Olympiad. This competition is specifically designed for year 12 students within the UK and run by UKBC. Approximately 9000 students compete each year in this competition however 60,000 students worldwide compete in different competitions run by UKBC. The Intermediate Biology Olympiad and other competitions are recognised both nationally and internationally by universities and other institutions for their rigour and effectiveness. UKBC works closely with the Royal society of Biology and many Russell group universities to bring these competitions to as many students as possible. The questions contain material that is linked to the AS courses covered in the UK but focus mainly on students ability to problem solve in novel contexts and develop ideas on cutting edge science as material from journals is often used.

The competition took place within the year 12 Examination fortnight and this unfortunately affected the number of students from Vyners who competed. We were clear that only top performing students would be awarded prizes and our students were competing against students nationally which would include schools that could be private and selective.

We would like to congratulate Delphine Ville (12H) for achieving a Highly Commended, Joshua Goode (12F) for Achieving a Bronze award and finally Wemi Adebajo (12C) who was placed amongst the top 10 percent of all students to achieve a Silver award. We would also like to congratulate all the students who took time out to compete in this difficult assessment.

Year 12 A-level Geography Cornwall residential

As part of the Edexcel exam board requirements, 17 Year 12 Geography students attended a fantastic four day residential trip to Cornwall this week. This was the first residential fieldwork trip the Geography department has been able to run since the Covid-19 pandemic.

The students studied and investigated Regeneration of Cornwall and Managing Coastlines - work directly linked to their exam board specification. It was a fantastic opportunity for the A-level students to study Geography in the field and see some of the places they have studied in the classroom in person. The trip was led by Miss Brown and Mr Heath, but the investigation was led by ex-lead examiner, treasurer and ex-chair of the Geographical Association and author of their A-level textbook, Mr Bob Digby. He took the time to discuss each student's plan for their NEA (coursework) and imparted some fantastic wisdom and knowledge throughout the four days.

Over the four days, the group were based in a clifftop hostel overlooking a beach - which was used every morning and evening for a swim, and the first Vyners Cornwall Beach Olympics. The trip included visits to the locations of Newquay, Watergate bay, Padstow, St Austell, the Eden Project, and Port Isaac - the filming location of Doc Martin, in which we were lucky enough to meet Martin Clunes! Finally, to round off the Cornwall trip, at the Eden Project the class were able to zipline over the Mediterranean dome.

The Year 12 students were a credit to the Vyners School community and we could not have been more proud of them - well done Year 12 Geographers!

Miss Brown and Mr Heath



Maths News

In April, some of our students in year 7 and 8 sat the UKMT Junior maths challenge. Seven students qualified for the next round, which is a fantastic achievement. Well done to William Gibson (8W), Luke Atkinson (8H), Logan Banfield (8M), Alfie Clark (8H), Rasheed Aldhahir (8M), Kaavye Sikka (8J) and Dylan Everett (8H).

A particular congratulations to Logan Banfield, who achieved a merit in the second round! Well done all!

VLТ Table Tennis Tournament

Vyners took part last week in the Vanguard learning trust table tennis tournament which saw Ruislip, Field End, Ryefield and Vyners compete against each other with students from Year 6 and 7. It was a fantastic event with all students getting a chance to play against a range of opponents with Vyners finishing second overall.

Well done to Ian, Zak Shaikh (7P), Dylan Lewis (7H), Ollie Kosak-Hine (7M) and Michael Durkan (7C) who represented Vyners.

Second hand school uniform

A number of outgoing Year 11 parents are always kind enough each year to donate their child's uniform to school, so that we might pass it on to other students. It is also very much a theme in school at the moment to improve our environmental credentials. We have therefore been inspired to set up our own 'Vinted' facebook page specifically for uniform items that can be passed on. The page can be accessed [here](#). This page is intended purely as a way of connecting the owners of unwanted uniforms with new students. Other comments or questions about the school should be directed to us via the usual routes and not posted here. Please note that the group is moderated by school and that any inappropriate or simply irrelevant content will be removed.

Like any other facebook marketplace group, items should be offered up by parents directly, for either a charge, or 'free to collect'. The school has a small stock of uniforms which it will itself add to the site shortly. We may also take items from the site to supplement our own small stock of items held in school. I hope parents will find this site useful. Thank you to the administrators of the 'Ickenham is the Best Village' facebook group for agreeing to publish this site to raise initial awareness.

Friends of Vyners '100' Club

Congratulations to all of the prize winners from the Friends of Vyners '100 Club' draws from the months of January to June 2022 ([click here](#)). The FoV '100 Club' has been an incredibly successful fundraising tool for our parents' organisation and has helped to provide our students with a wide range of facilities and resources that are often difficult to acquire from within our main school budget. If you wish to participate in the '100 Club' then please complete the application form [[click here](#)] and forward it to 100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk. Additional information and a link to the Friends of Vyners website can be found on the school website [[click here](#)].

Wishing all of our families a wonderful weekend.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Headteacher Commendations

Art

Connie Wilkins	8P
Matthew Murray	9F
Anmol Jhita	9H
Xerise Yousafzai	9H
Georgiana Rohan	9J
Issy Stone	9J
Yasmin Crawford	9M

English

Marina Hassanali-Hedges	7M
Qasim Sultan	7M

Leadership

Shay Higgs	10H
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Music

Matilda Hartree	7C
Mason Martin	7F
Isabelle Kelliher	7F
Adam Nadhmi	7H
Leo Stockwell	7H
Dylan Lewis	7H
Daniel Vigor	7W
Hannah Steele	7W

Pastoral

Emily Hussey	9F
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Work Related Learning

Sophie Rothwell	8P
Ava Spender	8P
Sara Sharma	8P
Megan Sullivan	8P
Blake Swinburne	8P
Oliver Trood	8P
Joshua Thomas	8P
Tehzeeb Uddin	8P
Jeevan Virdi	8P
Rishi Kumar	8P
Kush Yadav	8P
Khadija Ahmad	8W
Ariyan Ahmadi	8W
Adam Carstairs	8W
Oliver Edwards	8W
Sahana Ganesha Sharma	8W