

## Headteacher's Update

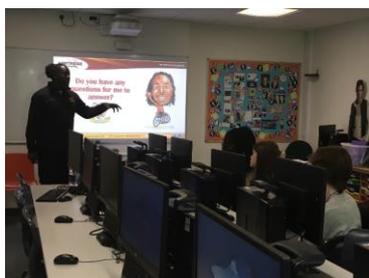
15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

The last seven days have been incredibly busy but, on a personal note, have been full of fantastically rewarding moments. I am going to start by mentioning the wonderful musical tribute that took place last Saturday afternoon, for the late Perry Parsons, MBE. The event was an opportunity for family, friends and students past and present to pay tribute to Perry with warm words and expertly played renditions of a number of memorable musical pieces performed by the different generations of the Vyners Swing Band. It was great to see the original band playing at the school for the first time in many years as well as some of our current students playing alongside swing band members from the different generations. It was an occasion that was enjoyed by all who attended and I would like to particularly thank Mrs Moore for her work to help organise this event.

I also had the pleasure of hosting two guests this week as part of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion month. Suzie Lavington for the *Art of Brilliance* joined us on Monday to deliver a series of workshops that focused on learning strategies for the development of self esteem, confidence and empowerment. The workshops are specifically designed for young women. However, as mentioned in a previous version of the newsletter, we are planning to deliver some workshops for our young men in the autumn term.

Jordan Jarrett-Bryan joined us at the school on Wednesday and delivered five different workshops and talks that focused on his career as a sports journalist as well as some of the work that he has been doing in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion issues. As an amputee and former GB wheelchair basketball player, Jordan proved to be an incredibly engaging personality for the students. He was also able to provide some incredible insights into what it is like to interview and work with some of the most famous sports people on the planet.

I would like to thank Jordan, not only for his time, but also for his positivity and energy, which I know was very much appreciated by the students. I would also like to thank all of my colleagues who have contributed to this update and led a number of fantastic student opportunities over the past seven days.



### VLT Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, four Year 7s took part in a Vanguard Learning Trust math's competition at Ruislip High School against six other schools - Isabelle Kelliher, Lincoln Tam, Jessie Dempsey and Amara Atwal. The game was the '24 Challenge' where you are given four numbers as you have to create the target of 24 using the four operations (multiply, divide, add, subtract). The rounds got progressively harder and included decimals and fractions. Each school was split into pairs.

Lincoln Tam and Isabelle Kelliher came joint second along with two other teams. There was a sudden death round which Lincoln Tam succeeded in and won Vyners second place.

### Miss Ward



### VLT Debating Competition

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July, four year 7 students represented Vyners School at the first VLT Debating Competition. The four students were Otto Keyte, Aidan McCay, Nyla Singh and Tumi Adebajo, supported by our new Head Girl Wemi Adebajo. The team opposed the motion 'The voting age should be lowered to 12 years old'. They did a fantastic job, winning the debate and consequently reaching the final of the competition, going head to head with Ruislip High School. In the final the students were given an unseen debate topic, given 10 minutes to prepare points of argument and structure their debate. Although the students were fantastic in the final, they were unfortunately pipped to the post at the final hurdle, and consequently came second in the competition. Given these students only started debating 2 months ago, they should be incredibly proud of their success! Well done Year 7 Vyners debate team.

### Mr Alhadeff and Miss Brown

### Science News

On Monday, the Year 12 Biologists made an arduous journey into central London to visit London Zoo as part of the conservation topic currently being studied. The weather, although bright and sunny, was extremely hot which affected both the humans and the animal exhibits in equal measure. We started the day with a lovely walk through Regents Park where students were able to get up close with various wildfowl such as Canadian geese as we made our way to the entrance to the Zoo.

The exhibits were informative and set up to give the animals as close an environment to the wild as possible. All the enclosures showed clear examples of enrichment where food/toys were used so animals could display normal behaviours. We were able to gain a clear insight into the pressures many species are under due to direct human interaction and the indirect effect of climate change around the world. The breeding programmes featuring In-situ and Ex-situ conservation were explained in detail and information about collaborations with Zoos and animal collections around the world was also provided.

As the day heated up we continued our trek around the Zoo, which has changed a great deal in the last few years. Animals were grouped together by continents and in many cases together in much larger combined exhibits. Many of these you could enter to get face to face with the less dangerous inhabitants. Excitingly, the critically endangered Sumatran Tigers had just had 3 cubs and we were able to see these precious bundles up close. At 6 days old they were as big as small domestic cats and totally reliant on their mother for survival.

After many ice creams and cold drinks were consumed we were ready to journey back to school. I would like to thank Mr Brooks and Ms Paul who helped lead this trip and a huge thank you to the students who conducted themselves fantastically throughout the day. Another thank you goes to the Mayor of London and TFL for the air-conditioning on the Met line which was very gratefully received.

I would encourage as many people as possible to visit London Zoo, or its sister Whipsnade Safari Park over the summer as it was a fantastic day out for all ages and your support does help with conservation projects around the world in these perilous times.

**Mrs Holt**

### Women's Euros Trip

A group of 40 students made the trip to Brentford Community Stadium to support the Women's Euros being held in England. The girls enjoyed a competitive game between Germany and Denmark and were won over by the passionate Danish fans, with the girls then supporting Denmark for the match. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and a fantastic opportunity to support Women's football.



### Year 9 Rounders



As our fixtures draw to a close for the year, we have finished with a very successful rounders season for all year groups, securing wins both in their

leagues and Borough Tournaments. Our Year 9 rounders team have had an exceptional season, winning the Borough Tournament and securing 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the league. Well done to all students involved.

### Heat Wave

With the expectation that there will be a heat wave during the early part of next week we have decided to make some adjustments to school uniform and some school activities on Monday and Tuesday of next week. A letter was shared with all parents and carers via Edulink this morning. A link to the letter can be found [\[here\]](#). We have now received notification that the temperatures on Monday are likely to be near 40 degrees on Monday afternoon, and given that this is the case we will not be able to manage the temperature in several areas of the school. **Therefore, we have decided to close the school at 2pm on Monday but will reopen as per usual on Tuesday morning.** The updated letter outlining these arrangements can be found [\[here\]](#). I would ask that all parents discuss the practicalities listed within the letter with their child. Thank you.

Finally, a gentle reminder that whilst the uniform expectations are slightly relaxed next week, students are still expected to meet the uniform requirements in relation to haircuts and jewellery. Please do not allow your child to have their hair cut less than a grade 2 at any point prior to the start of the school holidays. We would also like to reiterate that students are allowed one stud earring in the lobe of their ear, please ensure that any piercings in addition to this are planned so that they are able to be removed prior to the start of term in September.

Wishing all of our families a safe and comfortable weekend.

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**

### Headteacher Commendations

#### English

Rosie Taylor 9J

#### School Community Help

Steven Molloy 9J

Sean McDonald 9W

#### Work Related Learning

Lacey Gibbs 8W

William Gibson 8W

Stevie Green 8W

Karin Greeves 8W

Preston Hall 8W

Jack Harrison 8W

James Hockley 8W

Simonas Ivaskevicius 8W