

Headteacher's Update

14th October 2022

Like many of you, the drop in temperatures this week has meant that we have had to finally bow to pressure and turn the heating on in the school for the first time this academic year. I had hoped that we would get through to the October half term, but it appears that we have fallen short. On a positive note, we are pleased to be able to report that our brand new boilers in the legacy part of the building are working well and will provide heat and hot water in a much more efficient way. Not very exciting, I know, but we do very much appreciate the support of the Governors and Trustees with this project that has meant us investing over £100, 000 to ensure that the school is well protected and is able to function in an increasingly sustainable way. I should note that we have plans to ensure that all light fittings across the school are LED, which will also assist in our sustainability efforts.

Other than dealing with heating issues, the main highlights of my week have involved talking to and meeting with students. This is by far the best part of my role, whether that is visiting students in the classroom, talking to students in the quad or canteen queues, or meeting with students on a Friday morning, which is when I hand out the Headteacher's Commendations. Whilst I do have to deal with some of the more challenging issues that some of our students and their families face, it is always easy to remind myself just how fortunate I am to work with such a wonderful group of young people.



Parent Information Evenings

There were two more parent information sessions this week for parents and carers of students in Years 10 and 11. We were delighted with the level of attendance at both events. However, our target for these important evenings is 100%, so we would urge all parents to do their very best going forward to be in attendance. Each session is tailored to the specific year group so that we can address the main issues that are relevant at that stage. The Year 11 session was primarily focused on preparation for the trial examinations in November / December as well as providing some initial information about the summer examination series. We were delighted that our friend (and educational psychologist), Dr Martijn van der Spoel, was able to attend the evening to share with parents some of the work that he will be doing with our Year 11 students to build their confidence and help them prepare for the challenge of external examinations.



Parents of students in Year 10 experienced a different format. Their evening started with a talk from their Year Leader, Ms Pope but was then followed by the opportunity to engage in a series of parental workshops on themes such as creating healthy habits, positive mental health and the importance of extra curricular engagement. We do hope that all parents and carers have found the evenings to have been of benefit. The presentations from each of our evenings are made available via the school website. A link to the page can be found [\[here\]](#). Finally, returning to the theme of 100% attendance, we are very much looking forward to seeing parents of students in Year 8 this coming Wednesday evening and Year 12 on Thursday evening.

Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, Mr Beale and members of the school's diversity group delivered an assembly to all year groups on this year's theme of "Time for Action: Time for Change". Students learnt about the erecting of the statue of John Chilimbwe on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square, The Bristol Bus Boycott and the school's focus in ensuring the History is Everystory at Vyners. To carry on their learning every tutorial Google Classroom has a Black History Month calendar of activities and a reading and viewing list to help them engage with diverse voices on Black History.

Mr Beale, Subject Leader, History

International Walk to School Month

October is also **International Walk to school month**, which aims to encourage schools to promote active travel behaviour within their school community in a fun and interactive way. It's also an opportunity to be part of a global campaign which can get your students walking alongside young people in over 40 countries.

Throughout October, schools have been asked to consider how **traffic pollution contributes to climate change and the effects it has on mental and physical wellbeing**. By increasing the number of staff and students that walk (or cycle) to school, we are able to reduce our carbon emissions, improve our physical and mental health in addition to creating a safer environment for the children outside the school gates.

On Thursday afternoon, our new STARS Student Leadership Team had their first meeting of the academic year with our borough trainer from the TfL. This year, we will be focusing our energies on environmental sustainability and air quality in line with the **International Walk to school month**, as well as trying to achieve the STARS Gold accreditation.

I am glad to announce that our team has doubled in size this year with students from across all key stages taking part! This has been a big focus for us as a school. We have attempted to offer leadership skills and opportunities to all students, as well as hear as many of their voices regarding the issues that affect them. With such a large team of various age groups, we will be able to get a more holistic approach to monitoring traffic related concerns and solutions. It has been great to see our returning members be so supportive and helpful towards our newer members, sharing ideas and solutions without judgement. From this one session alone, we have already received great ideas for our 22/23 STARS activities.

Our first challenge set by the TfL is to collect data on the environmental quality around our school area. The data will be collected from a variety of different sources; Particulate Matter, Leaf Tar Spots and Lichen Analysis. Once collected we will analyse the data and write a scientific report on our findings to share with the wider school community.

Mr Heath, Geography (STARS Coordinator)

Sports News

Rugby has got 'off to a flyer' this year with Year 8 and Year 9 squads currently unbeaten for a combined 20 games since the start of term. This has been topped off by both squads winning the Ealing Borough 'Grass Hoppers' tournaments this week and last. We very much look forward to Year 7, 10 and 11 fixtures kicking off this week through to half term.

Mr Hall, Subject Leader, PE

Netball fixtures started for all year groups this week and wins were secured across the age groups. Vyners hosted the Year 11 Borough Tournament on Wednesday, with 11A securing an excellent second place finish, narrowly losing to St Helens in the final. The 7A, 8A, 9A, 10A and 11A squads all had successes against Haydon this week, with Year 7s getting their first taste of competitive netball at Vyners. Very well done to all students involved. A full list of next week's fixtures are listed below.

Miss Powick, Deputy Subject Leader, PE



Sports Fixtures Week Commencing 17 October

Monday 17 October

Year 9 Boys Football v Ruislip (home)

Year 9 'B' Netball v Douay Martyrs (home)

Tuesday 18 October

Year 7 Boys Rugby Grasshoppers Tournament (away)

Year 7 Boys Football v Haydon (away)

Year 8 Boys Football v Haydon (away)

Wednesday 19 October

Year 9 Boys Rugby v Ruislip (home)

Year 7 'A' Girls Netball v Rosedale (home)

Year 8 Girls 'A' Netball v Rosedale (home)

Thursday 20 October

Year 7 Boys Rugby v multiple borough teams (home)

Have a fantastic weekend

Gary Mullings

Headteacher

Headteacher's Commendations

Work Related Learning

Ekam Sangha (8C)

Archie Wilkinson (8C)

Oliver Young (8C)

Efrata Zewdie Samuel (8C)

Tia Smith-Hurst (8C)

Haris Riaz (8C)

Science

Aidan Gallagher (11H)

Weekly Attendance Figures by Year Group

Year Group	Weekly Attendance
Year 7	96.2%
Year 8	95.6%
Year 9	94.8%
Year 10	94.1%
Year 11	95.6%

Top 3 Tutorial attendance this week

Tutorial	Weekly Attendance
7H	99.7%
9F	99.4%
8H	98.3%