



Headteacher's Update

21st October 2022

As we approach the half term break I would again like to thank parents and carers for being so supportive since the start of term. As mentioned previously, it has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers attending the information evenings as well as supporting in a number of different ways. I think that it is fair to mention that, as is the case in all schools, the expectation is that we are operating as normal, whereas the facts are that we are still experiencing several knock on effects of the pandemic with the area that is most acutely being felt is that of staff and student attendance as well as issues related to mental health, but we are confident that the strong partnerships that we have with parents and carers will keep us in good stead going forward.

On a similar note, the government has published performance data from the summer 2022 exams for all secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges this week. This is the first time that data has been published since the start of the pandemic. The Department for Education has been clear that, given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on different students, schools and colleges, this data should be treated with caution. Amongst other issues, it has been made clear that the ability to rank schools is no longer available, as the government is clear that schools cannot be compared this year. One of the measures included in the government website mentioned above is our Progress 8 figure, which is a relative measure based on students' progress from primary school in eight subjects. A score of 0 means the school adds an average amount of progress to students. A score between 0 and 1 means the school adds an above average amount of progress to students. A score between 0 and -1 means the school adds a below average amount of progress to students. You will also be able to look at the local authority average for all the key measures, but not be able to directly compare schools. A link to the performance webpage can be found [\[here\]](#).

On an entirely different note, I was delighted this week (amongst other things) to have received confirmation

that we have received the Music Mark Award. Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education, championing and supporting access to music for all children and young people. Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education, championing and supporting access to music for all children and young people. In association with the Hillingdon Music Service, Music Mark has recognised the value that the school places on music. Whilst I will not attempt to summarise the extensive work that happens within the music department at the school, I would like to highlight that Mr Cullum is currently leading music sessions in a number of local primary schools including some within the trust. As well as providing opportunities for children in key stage 2 to experience music lessons from a specialist teacher, we are hoping that this further increases the level of engagement in music in secondary schools and potentially an increase in lifelong musicians. Thank you once again to Mr Cullum and Mrs Coyle for their hard work and commitment. It is fantastic to see music and the other arts continuing to flourish at the school.

My final comments this week are focused on the trial examinations that will start towards the end of November and continue through to the Christmas break. Students in Years 11 and 13 should be receiving the timetable for examinations via the school website today [\[click here\]](#). I think that it is a good time to remind students that these exams should be taken seriously and that it is an opportunity to learn about the process. What we try to avoid is that students' first legitimate experience of their papers is in the final summer series as they require opportunities to learn from their errors prior to that. This is why genuine effort is required at this stage. Whilst students should be getting some rest and recharging their batteries over half term, for some, it will be a good time to get themselves organised. The earlier this happens the better. Year teams and classroom teachers have been sharing revision materials and strategies with students throughout their courses and there is additional material on the

school website. However, research has shown that the number one revision strategy that makes the most difference in examinations is the regular use of practice papers as the understanding of the exam requirements and application of knowledge and skills is the main requirement in each examination. Good luck to all of our students.

Wishing everyone a fantastic half term and wonderful Diwali celebrations to all concerned.

Gary Mullings, Headteacher

Parent Information Evening

The Year 8 Parent Information Evening took place on Wednesday night with tailored talks from Mr Brooks on the challenges facing this year group's context, Miss Maxwell on PSHE and Mental Health, Mr Peran on helping your child with their long term memory, 'stickability' and retrieval practice, and Mr Cahill on the importance of attendance, supercurriculum and the Vyners Learning Journey. The opportunity to then meet tutors afterwards was welcomed by parents, many of whom were coming into the school for the first time. The presentations from each of our evenings are made available via the school website. As a reminder, the link to the page can be found [\[here\]](#).

Mr Cahill, Assistant Headteacher

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

On 15th and 16th September, a group of fifty Year 10 students took part in the annual Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshops, where students participated in various activities to enhance their confidence to verbally express themselves and build up their public speaking ability. After some warm-ups to get their creative juices flowing, the students then had to think of a topic on which they could speak, without a script, in front of their peers and the facilitator from the Jack Petchey Foundation. All students made amazing progress in just one day, with everyone delivering moving or humorous speeches (even those determined they could never speak in front of a group!).

Zoe Johnston (10M), Ellie Williams (10F), (Ali Mansoor 10G), (Cynthia Kanagarajah 10F), Aaliyah Alhassan (10J), Freddie Sleet (10C) and Khaled Chouman (10C) were selected as the Workshop Finalists and tasked with improving their speeches to deliver to a panel of teachers on 12th October. We are happy to announce that the Vyners Finalist

moving on to the Regional Final is Khaled Chouman, with Ali Mansoor as the Runner Up. Huge congratulations to them and to all students involved. The Regional Final will take place at Vyners School on 6th December.

Miss Duran, Assistant Subject Leader, English

Y11 Geography Field Trip

On Tuesday 18th October, 90 of our Year 11 students took part in a Geography field trip to Epping Forest. The students were assisted by a team of experts who helped them gain a solid understanding of various data collection techniques. They learnt a variety of techniques including accurate depth and velocity readings. All of our students had a fantastic time enjoying what was a beautiful day in Epping Forest, developing key skills that will be essential in them attaining their GCSE qualification.

Mr Hey, Teacher of Geography



UK CanSat Competition 2022-2023

Vyners Science Lab team (VSLT) is representing Vyners School at the CanSat competition organised by The European Space Agency. The competition runs from October - April each year. The CanSat competition offers a unique opportunity for students to have their first practical experience of a real space project. They are responsible for all aspects: selecting the mission objectives, designing the CanSat, integrating the components, testing, preparing for launch and then analysing the data. Vyners School will be competing against schools from across the UK this year for the first time. The competition winner will be competing against European countries, Canada, Slovenia, Latvia and Lithuania in the final stage.



Vyners Science Lab Team Members

Ross Bell (10J) - Team Leader and Electronic Manager

Khaled Chouman (10C) - Outreach and Parachute Designer

Joud Mohammad (10F) - Computational Designer Manager

Freddie Sleet (10C) - Hardware Manager

Vanessa Daoud (10J) - Structural Designer

Roselle Taylor (10J) - Structural Designer

Black History Month Literacy Challenge

Science department is celebrating the achievement of the black scientists to provide richer, more diverse accounts of scientific history. KS3 students will be researching the journey of the following five famous scientists during half term:

1. Mae Jemison
2. Marie Maynard Daly
3. Patricia Bath
4. Percy Lavon Julian
5. Philip Emeagwali

Mr Peran has posted the required instructions on google classroom. After half-term, students will complete a mini-quiz challenge on the aforementioned scientists. We would really welcome parents encouraging their child to participate in this challenge.

Mr Peran, Assistant Subject Leader, Science

Sports News

Year 7 Boys played their first rugby fixtures this week - they performed very well. They lost in the final of the Grasshoppers Cup on Tuesday whilst also being undefeated in the borough beating Queensmead and Douay Martyrs on Thursday. Well done boys!

Mr Hall, Subject Leader, PE

English Schools Cross Country Competition in Hertfordshire was a difficult course in tricky weather conditions on Thursday. A particular mention to Issy Stone (10J) who came 4th and Sudeys Sharif (10P) who came 5th.

Miss Hawes, Teacher of PE

The Moon, Jupiter and Saturn

Recently there was a rare event where Jupiter was the closest it's been to us since 1963 and it was in opposition (basically meaning the Earth is between the object and the sun). It's a rare event to have both of these conditions which basically means having the best chance of viewing the planet. One of our GCSE Astronomy students, Emily Harding (9C), managed to get some brilliant photos using her telescope. The first picture is of Jupiter - it might look a bit blurry but when you consider it was over 360 million miles away I think it's really impressive for an amateur astronomer! The second picture is of our moon and is a really beautiful shot with fantastic detail. The last one is of Saturn which I think is perhaps the hardest one to read but you can still see the rings.

Miss Forde, Teacher of Science



Cashless Catering Consultation

Thank you for all the responses to the recent survey regarding the spend limit in the canteen. It is very clear that most parents do not wish to see the limit increased (only 22% of responses were supportive of an increase). It is therefore our intention to leave the daily limit at £5. If you expressed a wish for your child's limit to be increased, we will be contacting you individually to arrange this. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Weekly Attendance Figures by Year Group w/c 17.10.22

Year Group	Weekly Attendance
Year 7	96.8%
Year 8	95.7%
Year 9	94.1%
Year 10	94.4%
Year 11	92.1%

Top 3 Tutorial attendance this week w/c 17.10.22

Tutorial	Weekly Attendance
7C	99.3%
7G	98.7%
7W	98.4%

Headteacher's Commendations

STARS

Ibrahim Khalid (7H)
Ava Queenan (7M)
Katie Gardner (8G)
Otto Keyte (8J)
Ayaan Hussain (8W)
Marli Pistorius (9J)
Emilly Musz (9M)
Khadija Ahmad (9W)
Mika Assumption (10P)
Chloe Rooney (12F)
Aquif Parpia (12G)
Amar Bawa (12H)
Shobhan Sharma (12H)
Phoebe Gardner (12W)
Katie Ginger (13W)

Science

Oliver Trood (9P)
Tehzeeb Uddin (9P)

Languages

Nicole Knight (11C)
Denis Kobizevs (11G)
Ethan Goardou-Marcelin (11G)
Khalid Youssef (11W)
Sara Al Hourani (11W)
William Greeves (12W)

CARE Values

Aman Lota (11C)
Ella Brown (11C)
Matheus Da Silva (11C)

Work Related Learning

Zoheib Aadan (8F)
Sultan Abu Irshaid (8F)
Genna Bains (8F)
Jasmine Baldwin (8F)
Nathan Betts (8F)
Jessica Wells (8F)





FriendsOfVyners

F.O.V. QUIZ NIGHT (with Fish & Chips)

Friday 11th November 2022

Friends of Vyners quiz nights are fun, not too serious & not too hard...

Open to anyone including students in years 11 & above. Feel free to bring friends & family!

Prizes for all winning team members and a **RAFFLE** to raise funds for FOV (additional raffle prize donations always gratefully accepted).

Maximum team size is 8 – come along as a team or join up with others on the night.

Doors open 7.30pm & the quiz starts at 8pm

Please bring your own drinks and pre-dinner nibbles

Advance reservations preferable (via e-mail or phone) to aid with catering, however you may just come along on the evening. CASH ONLY payment to be made on the door.

PLEASE NOTE CONTACT DETAILS:

Ticket Hotline Number text or phone: 07973 297056

E-mail: haganhurst47@btinternet.com

Information required:

Party name/Total number of people in party/Provisional food order (may be changed on the night)/Name & e-mail or phone for confirmation

Fish & Chips & Quiz ticket @ £14.00: Number required: _____

Chicken & Chips & Quiz ticket @ £12.00: Number required: _____

Sausage & Chips & Quiz ticket @ £12.00: Number required: _____

Veggie Burger & Chips & Quiz ticket @ £14.00: Number required: _____

Chips only & Quiz ticket @ £10.00: Number required: _____

Quiz ticket only @ £8.00: Number required: _____

Student Quiz ticket only @ £3.00: Number required: _____