



Headteacher's Update

4th November 2022

The half term break seemed to go by at an alarming pace last week but it was pleasing to see the staff and students return to school seamlessly at the start of the week. The autumn term always tends to be the busiest. It is the longest by a good two weeks, but there are an incredible number of activities in the calendar that we aim to fit in. Next week, as well as the Year 13 parent's evening on Thursday, we will be commemorating Armistice Day on Friday, which is the 11th November. Our Sixth Student Executive team will be visiting tutorial rooms throughout this period, selling poppies for staff and students who wish to make a donation to the Royal British Legion. If parents wish to support this they should send their child to school with an amount of money that they would like to donate.

On Friday 18th November, we will have our one and only non-uniform day of the year in aid of Children in Need. There will be a £2 voluntary donation to the charity for students who wish to participate. However, we are very much aware that this might not be appropriate for all families in the current financial climate so we will ensure that students are able to wear non-uniform with their peers even if they are not able to donate the £2. There will be a number of charitable activities taking place throughout the day led by students in the Sixth Form and some members of staff, which hopefully will ensure that we are able to raise a good amount of funds for this fantastic charity.

I would also like to make parents aware of our annual two day staff conference that will be taking place on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th November. The school will be closed to all students on these two days. This year will actually be the tenth anniversary of the staff conference at Vyners and all of our teaching and non-teaching staff will be engaged in development activities across the two days. Whilst many parents and carers have taken the conference days as an opportunity for a long weekend family break, I would like to politely remind parents that this should not become an extended break beyond the allocated days and that students should attend school on Wednesday 23rd and Monday 28th November as per usual. Thank you to all parents for their support in this matter.

Home Learning Survey

Thank you to all parents and carers who responded to our recent home learning survey. As always, we try to do our best to ensure that our policy and practices are informed by the latest guidance and research as well as benefiting from input from relevant stakeholders. At this point, we feel that it is important to provide feedback about what parents and carers have told us. We were delighted to learn that the overwhelming majority of parents (93%) see the value of home learning and closely linked to this 45% of parents of students in the main school (years 7-11) felt that home learning has a large impact on their child's life outside of school, which suggests that a reasonable balance needs to be met between studying independently and having the opportunity to engage in other activities outside of school hours.

The majority of parents who responded to the survey felt that the right amount of home learning is currently being set or that there is, at times, too little. Only 12% of parents felt that too much home learning is being set currently. We also asked parents of students in key stage 3 (years 7 and 8) whether they would prefer to only have home learning set in the core subjects of English, maths and science. 30% of parents responded positively to this suggesting that the majority of parents would prefer their child to have a broad range of subjects for their independent study.

The final area of significance asked parents about their preference for a home learning rota. The outcome here was relatively split with 55% of parents in favour of a structured home learning rota that provided their child with a definite fortnightly home learning plan (as a reminder, Vyners operates a two week timetable).

We have found the feedback from parents to be particularly useful. We will now use this information along with subject based information and research from organisations such as the [Education Endowment Foundation](#) to formulate our new policy and practices. As a reminder, the school's Learning Resource Centre and Sixth Form study room are both supervised for independent study until 5.00pm from Monday to Thursday. Remaining in school to complete home learning tasks is particularly beneficial for students who

do not have a suitable quiet space to study at home, need extra support to complete home learning or for those who struggle with motivation or procrastination. It would be great to see both venues full of learners throughout the remainder of the academic year. My sincere thanks to Mr Cullum, Subject Leader for Music for leading on this activity.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thank you to all parents and carers of students in Year 11 who attended the Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday. All information from the evening including the Options Brochure, Sixth Form Prospectus and presentation slides from the evening can be found in the Sixth Form area of the school website. A link to the page can be found [\[here\]](#). We will be providing students with a number of guidance activities including careers meetings and talks prior to the final submission deadline. However, if parents and carers do have any specific questions about post-16 education or require any further support then they should ensure that they contact a member of the Sixth Form team.

Gary Mullings, Headteacher

VLT Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 20th October, Miss Ward and Miss Shah took a group of some of the most able Year 7 mathematicians to the Vanguard Learning Trust Maths Challenge. The students in Team A were Bradley Stilwell (7G), Fraser Campbell (7F), Jegor Spak (7J) and Kara Patel (7M). The students in Team B were Emma McCormick (7H), Ibrahim Khalid (7H), Catherine Gallagher (7W) and Ajoyveer Singh (7F).



They were up against Ruislip High School, ACS International School, Field End Primary School, Ryefield Primary School and Hermitage Primary School. Each school entered two teams. There were five rounds - the 24 Game, a Maths Trail, Problem

Solving, Financial Maths and UKMT (UK Mathematics Trust). With lots of teamwork, resilience and running around during the Maths Trail, our two Vyners teams came first AND second place, making us successive reigning champions! It is also worth noting that there was only one point between the two teams

Very well done to the eight students involved and especially to the four in the winning Team A and thank you to Ruislip High School for their organisation of this trust wide activity.

**Miss Ward,
Assistant Subject Leader, Mathematics**

Art and Photography Trip to Shoreditch

On 1st November we took 19 Year 12 art and photography students to Shoreditch. The aim of the trip was to take hundreds of photos ranging from long exposure, buildings, street portrait photography and documenting street art. As usual London did not let us down, and we managed to not get completely soaked. The group's enthusiasm and behaviour was exemplary; they were all clearly inspired by the experience.

**Mrs Vine,
Subject leader, Art and photography**



National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day is an annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October. The day encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry. The theme this year was the environment and focused on a collection of poems by Robert Macfarlane called "The Lost Words".

Students in Year 7 were invited to share their thoughts, feelings and concerns about the environment through the acrostic form used by Macfarlane. We had over fifty wonderfully thoughtful and emotive poems, which the students had decorated and illustrated with considerable effort and care. It was a tough competition.

This year's winner was Aaryan Thakrah (7F) with Eliza Bhatti (7H) as runner up. Congratulations to you both. Special mention goes to Bella Coleman (7C), Ibrahim Khalid (7H), and Ahmed Mohamed (7J).

Sunflowers

*Sunflowers bright yellow and gold,
Uplifting their faces to the sun.
Needing care and appreciation to grow strong.
Fields full of tall standing people, staring
Looking out for one another.
Only the tallest flowers can see
Where the wind and rain is coming from.
Every seed will grow- into a beautiful flower,
Raising their faces to the sky,
Sunflowers, growing tall forever.*

Aaryan Thakrar (7F)

**Mr Dennis,
English Department**



UK CanSat Competition 2022-23

I am pleased to announce that a second team "Team Argo" from Vyners will represent in The European Space Agency's CanSat competition. This is an opportunity for students nationally and internationally to partake in their first-ever practical experience regarding an actual space project. The students will be responsible for all aspects of the job - from design factors to coding and even launching the mini satellite and analysing its data.



Team Argo Members

Chiddi Domike (10W) - Team Leader and Outreach
Stanley Parker (10P) - Head Physicist
Harry Francis (10W) - Software Developer
Raffael Van Duin (10W) - Technical Designer
Anmol Jhita (10H) - Structural Designer
Rudi Borely (10P) - Parachute Designer

As part of the competition, each team will be scored on how well the project was communicated to the school and the local community, taking into account any webpages, blogs, presentations, promotional materials, media coverage, etc. Our very best wishes to both teams. We look forward to seeing just how well they progress.

**Mr Peran,
Assistant Subject Leader, Science**

Sports Update

Congratulations to two of our Year 9 students, Paige Warner and Ruby Farrington, who have successfully been selected to represent the Middlesex Schools FA U14 Girls Football Squad for the upcoming season. The girls will compete in their first match vs Surrey this month. Congratulations to both students and good luck for the season!

**Ms Powick,
Deputy Subject Leader, PE**

Dates for the diary

Year 13 Parents Evening

- Thursday 10th November

FoV Quiz Night

- Friday 11th November

Vyners Staff Conference (students not in school)

- Thursday 24th & Friday 25th November

Headteacher's Commendations

English

Eesa Lateef (7C)

Eliza Bhatti (7H)

Aaryan Thakrar (7F)

Pastoral

Rawd Shnaf (13G)

Work Related Learning

Sophie Collins (8F)

Zachary Craigwell (8F)

Logan De'ath (8F)

Stefan Falconer Bailey (8F)

Samantha Dytham (8F)

Aina Umed (8F)

Neive Gill (8F)