

Headteacher's Update

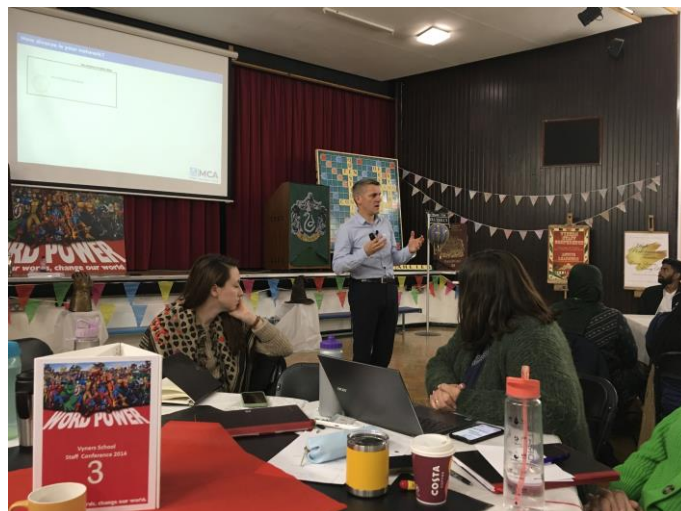
2nd December 2022

Throughout last week members of staff at Vyners were able to access some high quality development as part of the school's annual staff conference. All of our conferences have a theme and this year's conference was designed to celebrate the ten year anniversary of the two day events at Vyners. This was also the first time that all staff; teachers, teaching assistants and non-student-facing support staff attended conference together. Across the two days our staff enjoyed a number of keynote sessions, including a session that focused on the teaching of subject specific language to support reading from Chiaka Aamadi from the National Literacy Trust as well an excellent session from Martin Morgan that focused on *getting the climate and conditions right for high quality student feedback*.



On Friday morning, all staff participated in an excellent session led by consultant, [Martin Carter](#). In line with one of our key strategic priorities, Martin focused his session on issues and practical applications to address inclusivity within schools (as well as in life in general). The first half of Martin's session focused on staff gaining an understanding of the key aspects of the equality act (2010) and how it applies to our working environment and also provided a theoretical basis for why we have biases and how they can both positively and negatively affect our interactions with others. The final part of the session provided staff with some practical steps that we can all take to minimise the impact of negative biases, whilst reminding us all that it is how we put our new knowledge into action that will make the difference. My own personal reflection was that Martin's session will provide a platform for the staff at the school to work together and have more

in depth conversations about some of the equality and equity issues that exist.



In addition to the excellent keynote speakers, all staff engaged in a number of workshops that were delivered by colleagues. This process of sharing of excellent practice has underpinned the development of the quality of teaching and learning since the inception of staff conferences back in November 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our speakers for their excellent contribution to another successful staff conference and our staff for their work and engagement throughout the two days.

Prior to the conference, on Tuesday evening the three senior teams from Vyners, Ruislip High and Haydon came together for the first of a four part leadership programme, which is based on [Steve Radcliffe's leadership model](#), *future, engage, deliver*, which he outlines in his book, *Leadership Plain and Simple*. In essence, Radcliffe's message is that the concept of leadership is less complex than some would make us think and that primarily, leaders have clear goals for the future, they engage with people and build relationships and by doing so builds a team that are aligned and are then able to deliver results. Without doubt, it was wonderful to be able to have the space and time to be able to reflect on ourselves as leaders both as individuals and team members and to have the time and space to work collaboratively with other leadership teams within the locality. Thank you to our facilitators, Fiona Moore and Liz Barrett for an engaging and inspiring session.



On a totally separate note, I would like to mention what a pleasure it was to be able to hand out nearly fifty Headteacher's commendations this morning to students ranging from Year 7 through to 11. The commendations were nominated by members of staff for a range of reasons including exceptional work and assessment results in English or Maths, for exceptional performances in the House Drama competition or for different aspects of community service. My additional congratulations to all students who received awards. Meeting with the students on a Friday morning always proves to be a highlight of my week.

Vyners Goodreads

Vyners Goodreads is a podcast available on the Vyners School website [\[here\]](#). It is an opportunity for students and staff to have a conversation about their relationship with reading. It is also a space for people to expand their reading as each episode explores a particular text or story that has had a powerful impact. If any student wants to be involved in sharing book recommendations, Mr Kunig invites them to speak to him in Room 013 or email him.

Mr Kunig, Teacher of English

Free School Meal Eligibility

The school is very conscious of the difficult financial circumstances that some families may now be facing. Anyone who feels they are in difficulty are actively encouraged to check their ability for free school meals. If eligible, students will be given a meal allowance of £2.60 every school day. We can also assist with the costs of curriculum activities (trips, regions materials etc) and uniform costs. If you would like to apply for Free School Meals for your child, you can check your eligibility and apply directly via apps.lgfl.org.uk. (Please note that Vyners School is listed under Uxbridge and not Ickenham). You will receive an immediate response regarding the success of your application, and the school will be directly notified of your child's eligibility.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Cucina

There **is** such thing as a **FREE LUNCH**

Your child may be eligible for a free school meal which could save you over **£400 a year** and gain additional funding for your school. To see if you qualify, visit

www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Arts Watch

Drama

A few weeks ago we auditioned for this year's School Production, a play in the National Theatre Connections programme called Tuesday by Alison Carr. This is an entirely student run piece. Rhys Heal in Y11 is directing the play and attended a 3 day director workshop experience in half term held at the National Theatre on the Southbank. The Company will get the chance to perform this piece at The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith as part of the theatre festival. Rehearsals have started and will be held on Mondays and Fridays after school in the Drama Studio.

Music

We are about to enter the busiest time of the year for the music department with the festive spirit taking hold. Our Christmas Concert will take place on the 12th December with all our ensembles taking part.

We would also like to congratulate several of our students who have been given leading positions in the borough's music ensembles. These are:

Otto Keyte:	1st Oboe in Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra
Izzy Zuccaro;	1st Flute in Wind Band
Leila Killeen:	1st Trumpet in Wind Band
Nathan Tempest:	1st Trombone in Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra
Kate Walker:	1st Clarinet in Wind Band
Rosie Taylor:	1st Clarinet in Philharmonic Orchestra

I would also like to congratulate Nathan Tempest who was chosen to participate in the National Youth Orchestra's Inspire programme which is an extremely high honour. Well done Nathan!

Mr Cullum, Subject Leader, Music

Sports Update

On Tuesday, Vyners hosted the Year 10 Borough Netball Tournament. The Year 10A netball team finished second in their pool but still made the semi finals against a strong St Helens A team. They beat St Helens and made it to the final to play Northwood College School. This was a very tense game that ended 6-6 with a 10 minute game (5 minutes each side). Fading light and time was not on our side so we went to a next goal wins scenario. It was NWC's centre pass, giving them the advantage. After about 3 minutes extra time going back and forth, Zoe Johnstone scored the winning goal making them Borough Champions! Incredible to watch and the improvement this team has made has been superb.



We have also had a full round of netball fixtures against Swakeleys School. 8A, 9A and 10A secured wins, playing fantastic team netball and adapting to playing new positions. 7A had their toughest match so far and were unfortunate to narrowly lose, however it was great to see more students getting their opportunity to play in the team.

Ms Hawes, Ms Powick, PE Department

Rugby

Rugby has provided many great results this term and the recent weeks has led to teams returning with four trophies. The Year 8 and 9 Team were successful in winning the Trailfinders and Grasshoppers cups with Year 10 and 11 narrowly missing out. The Year 7s were also successful in winning the Grasshoppers cup.

Mr Hall, Subject Leader, PE



Online Safety

We would like to remind parents and carers that there are a number of resources available on the school's website to inform and update parents and carers about issues related to social media sites and general online safety. A link to the webpage can be found [here](#). On this occasion, we would particularly like to highlight information about [TikTok](#) from the National Online Safety organisation. It is an extremely popular site with school aged children but a number of concerns have been raised about the nature of some of the content that is inappropriate but readily available to anyone who wishes to access it. Having reviewed the resources on our webpage, if parents or carers do have any specific concerns about social media with regard to their child then please contact your child's Year Leader in the first instance.

VLT Christmas Concert

The VLT Christmas carol concert will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th December. This will be a collaboration between all five schools within the trust and will take place at St Giles' Church in Ickenham. There will be a limited number of seats available for an audience for this event. If parents wish to attend then please RSVP as outlined on the invitation below.



INVITATION

Vanguard Learning Trust is delighted to invite you to its

Christmas concert

On Tuesday 13th December 2022
2:00pm - 3:30pm

 **Venue:**
St Giles' Church
Swakeleys Road
Ickenham
UB10 8BE



Refreshments will be provided

Please RSVP by Wednesday 7th December 2022 to office@vynersschool.org.uk

Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group

Week ending 23rd November 2022 (Mon-Wed)

Year Group	Weekly Attendance
Year 7	94.35%
Year 8	92.95%
Year 9	89.85%
Year 10	93.74%
Year 11	91.62%

Top 3 Tutorial weekly attendance
Week ending 23rd November 2022 (Mon-Wed)

Tutorial	Weekly Attendance
7P, 8F, 9J	97.2%
10H, 10W	96.8%
7C	96.7%

Headteacher's Commendations

English

Aanya Bhica (7C)	Julia Heuchert (10F)
Andreas Kam (9J)	Anmol Jhita (10H)
Marli Pistorius (9J)	Jack Warne (10H)
Danni Sui (9M)	Georgiana Rohan (10J)
Blake Swinburne (9P)	Farrah Dallal (10M)
Zachary Allen (10C)	Yasmin Crawford (10M)
Fearne Stockwell (10F)	Diana Voevod (10P)
Isabelle Hartree (10F)	Jonas Petrokas (10P)

Maths

Bethany Dytham (11F)	Eryk Kodua (10J)
Grace Bunce (11F)	Riane O'Reilly (11M)
Hussain Viramgamwala (10M)	

House Drama

Hannah Steele (8W)	Mika Assumption (10P)
Jack Barrell (12H)	

PE

Melia Gaynor-Palmer (10G)	Jemima Potter (10H)
Issy Stone (10J)	Sofia Harris (10P)
Yasmin Crawford (10M)	Zoe Johnston (10M)
Connie Wilkins (10P)	Mya McKay (10P)
Valentina Cossio-Yates (10M)	

Work Related Learning

Omer Al-Adwan (8F)	Aryan Alagh (8G)
Billy Drinkwater (8G)	Charlotte Dwyer (8G)
Erica Danescu (8G)	Florence Child (8G)
Jayden El-Taki (8G)	Josie Dempsey (8G)
Katie Gardner (8G)	Logan Cannon (8G)
Nathan Douglas (8G)	Phoebe Farrell (8G)
Thomas Donnelly (8G)	Zarah Haque (8G)

Dates for the diary

Christmas Lunch (tickets to be purchased at the tills - deadline Monday 5th Dec)

- Wednesday 7th December

Year 12 Parents Evening (virtual)

- Thursday 8th December

Vyners Christmas Concert

- Monday 12th December

VL T Christmas Concert

- Tuesday 13th December

End of Term

- Friday 16th December - 12.25pm

Information Received

Have you ever thought about Fostering, but were not sure if you could do it?

Hillingdon Council's Fostering Team is looking for people who can provide different types of fostering and is encouraging local people to consider fostering or raise awareness among family and friends.

People from all backgrounds can foster, the minimum age is 25, and a spare bedroom is needed for any child fostered over the age of 2. We support and guide you in the fostering role and you receive a generous allowance, among other benefits.

Want to find out more about fostering? Attend one of our virtual events on Microsoft teams:

Tuesday 13 December 2022, 2 - 3pm

Tuesday, 10 January 2023, 2 - 3 pm

Tuesday, 14 February 2023, 2 - 3pm

Registration details: [Fostering information event \(virtual\) - Discover Hillingdon](#)

You can contact us today to discuss your circumstances, on 0800 783 1298, email fosteringrecruitment@hillingsdon.gov.uk or visit www.hillingsdon.gov.uk/fostering