

Headteacher's Update

9th December 2022

The run-in to the Christmas holiday is well and truly underway with the first of our seasonal events taking place during the week. On Wednesday, a large proportion of the school community sat down to a high quality, traditional Christmas lunch in the main canteen. Later that afternoon, we were again delighted to welcome dozens of senior citizens from across Hillingdon, to our senior citizens Christmas party. It was wonderful to be able to re-establish this as a Christmas event for the first time since the pandemic. It was clear that a good time was experienced by all. I would particularly like to thank Ms Derby, Mrs Bashford-Hynes and Mrs Kendall for their organisational efforts, which makes this such a special occasion.



We are also very much looking forward to hosting two Christmas carol concerts next week. On Monday, the Vyners Christmas concert will take place in the school hall. Tickets are no longer available for this event as it is sold out. On Tuesday, we will be hosting the VLT Christmas concert at St Giles' Church, which will involve readings and musical performances from all five schools in the multi academy trust. Thank you to Mr Cullum and the music department for their hard work and dedication that has made these two events possible.

Whilst not associated directly with Christmas, it was a pleasure to attend the Jack Petchey Speak Out Hillingdon Regional finals on Tuesday evening, which was hosted by the school. It was a lovely evening in the presence of the Mayor of Hillingdon and it was fantastic to see Khaled Chouman and Ali Mansour deliver their speeches with great humour and precision; last year's regional champion, Reem Choudry, perform the master of ceremonies role with such confidence; and Farah Dallal

providing the musical entertainment with an excellent rendition of a Mariah Carey Christmas classic. As is always the case, there were a large number of people who made this event possible but I would like to particularly like to thank Miss Duran in the English department for coordinating the Vyners workshops, as well as helping to manage and coordinate the regional finals event.

I would like to remind all parents and carers that we will have a shortened school day on Friday 16th December, which is the final day of the autumn term. The school day will end at **12.15pm** and will reopen on Wednesday 4th January with all students expected to be on site by 8.25am.

I would also like to make parents and carers aware that we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Maksymowych in the modern foreign languages department at the end of next week after twenty years of committed service at Vyners. Mrs Maksymowych was due to retire in July but stayed with us in the autumn term to give us the best possible opportunity to ensure that we could cover all lessons with high quality teaching. Miss Pape, Assistant Headteacher will be taking over the teaching groups from Mrs Maksymowych in January after a period of maternity leave. Our very best wishes and sincere thanks for twenty wonderful years.

We hope that all families are able to stay safe, warm and well throughout the Christmas holiday period and enjoy a very merry Christmas with loved ones.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 16th December

On Friday 16th December, students will be able to wear a Christmas jumper to school to support the charity Save the Children. Please note that this will not be a non-uniform day. Instead, students (and staff) can pay a voluntary contribution of £1 to wear a jumper instead of their school blazer. In the current context, we are not encouraging students to purchase a jumper solely for this event. They may, however, make a contribution without necessarily wearing a Christmas jumper if they choose to do so.



Trip to Waterstones

Recent studies suggest that having access to books is one of the most important factors showing young people read at all. Last Monday, 5th December, a group of 25 Year 7 students were selected to journey into London on an adventure to find a book for themselves.

Starting off from Hillingdon station, students alighted at Green Park, from where they made their way to the Waterstones flagship store - a bookshop four stories high with a huge range of choice. Students loved engaging with the interactive activities there (The Snowman, Trunchbull's Office) as well as taking well over an hour browsing the store to find the right book for themselves. In the process fierce debate could ensue, painstaking decisions were made, and new friendships were formed.

After the bookstore, the students ate lunch in Green Park where they were accosted by some hungry pigeons. After a stroll by Buckingham Palace, and a quick demonstration of the King's Guards riding past, it was time to come home. In all, it was a productive day of adventure and the students behaved wonderfully.

Mr Kunig Reading Champion and Teacher of English



Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

On Tuesday 6th December we had the honour of hosting the Jack Pecthey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final. Fifteen schools from across Hillingdon, including Vyners, took part as we welcomed teachers, families, and members of the Speaker's Trust to our school hall for the speaking competition. Our special guest for the event was the Worshipful, the Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Becky Haggar Kaiktis.

A Regional Final is an opportunity for everyone in the community and from across the borough to come together to celebrate and build a platform for young voices to share their uplifting speeches. After a warm welcome to visitors from Mr Mullings, the event ran smoothly thanks to Reem Choudhry (11W), the 2021 Regional Final Winner, who did a fantastic job as the official event MC. Farah Dallal (10M) was the star entertainment with an impressive rendition of Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas' during the interval. A special mention must also go to the amazing Year 10 and Year 12 volunteers who helped to set up and welcome visitors to our school.

The Year 10 finalists, including our very own Ali Mansoor (10G) and Khaled Chouman (10C), were asked to perform a 3 minute original speech to a panel of judges from the Speaker's Trust, and each speech was delivered with a confidence, maturity, and an enthusiasm that impressed everyone in attendance. It was great to hear about a vast range of topics from students of many different backgrounds.

They were all strong performances, and after a gruelling deliberation, we were thrilled to see the Mayor present Khaled with 3rd place overall! The finalist from Douay Martyrs was chosen to proceed to the Semi Finals. A heartfelt congratulations to all participants for a commendable effort, and thank you to everyone who supported our finalists and the event.

Miss Duran Teacher of English



MFL Christmas Card Competition

A mighty congratulations to all our MFL Christmas card competition entrants! We received over 30 amazing cards making it very hard for our Language Ambassadors to determine the winners.

Mr Bendifallah
Teacher of MFL



Vegan Cooking Demonstration

On Monday 5th December the Food Technology department welcomed Lynne Snowdon from Animal Aid to educate one of our Year 10 classes on the benefits of a meat free diet. Lynne helped to develop awareness of alternative proteins and also discussed issues such as animal welfare, sustainability and the environmental consequences of meat consumption. The students also enjoyed a cooking demonstration in which a delicious vegan chill was made for all to try. We had several requests for the recipe by the end of the session. Thanks to Lynne and the Year 10 students for making it such an enjoyable experience.

Parent Governor Vacancy

In the spring term we will be inviting nominations from parents who are keen to make a positive contribution to our school by becoming a parent governor on our local governing body. The VLT Senior Clerk, Maria Faley will be writing to all parents and carers in January with full details about this vital role, the process for nominating yourself or another parent and who you can contact to find out more information.

London Borough of Hillingdon - Advice and Support

Winter Support for Families

The London Borough of Hillingdon has produced a Winter Wellness Directory which will support families during the winter period. The directory includes information on:

- Government Scheme
- Council Help
- Debt and budgeting advice
- Household bills and appliances
- Self-care and Mental Health support
- Local support groups
- Local food banks

The directory is extensive and cannot be linked directly to this newsletter. To access the webpage that contains the directory click [here](#). A list of Community Warm Welcome Centres in the borough is attached to this update.

Scarlet Fever Advice and Guidance

The London Borough of Hillingdon has produced urgent advice and guidance about Group A streptococcus (known as strep A) and scarlet fever. A link to a letter can be found [here](#).

Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group
Week ending 2nd December

Year Group	Weekly Attendance
Year 7	92.2%
Year 8	90.6%
Year 9	92.0%
Year 10	90.9%
Year 11	94.3%

Top 3 Tutorial weekly attendance
Week ending 2nd December

Tutorial	Weekly Attendance
7P	96.7%
8C, 11W	96.5%
7C, 10C, 11C	95.7%

Headteacher's Commendations

Better Reading Partners

Ella Ferri - 12C
Jev Whicker - 12C
Naomi Honda-Athenor - 12C
Neha Baral - 12C
Jessica Rusu - 12F
Lily Walsh - 12F
Olivia Doherty - 12F
Ayaan Warsame - 12G
Amar Bawa - 12H
Neha Rana - 12H
Sarah Clack - 12H
Simran Malhotra - 12H
Hirva Patel - 12M
Zaid Hussain - 12M
Sienna Patel - 12W
Shadurja Sivaprakash - 12W

Community

Yash Bhundia - 12M

English

Georgina Frances - 7F
Haitao Liang - 7G
Lillie Lundie - 9J

Equine

Kian Bohmer Nawrozzade - 9C

Jack Petchey Challenge

Khaled Chouman - 10C
Ali Mansoor - 10G
Reem Choudhry – 11W

PE

Sophia Korohoda - 8G

Work Related Learning

Arun Harish - 8G
Hamza Jamaledin - 8G
Sophia Korohoda - 8G
Renee Liu - 8G
Leon Luong - 8G
Mohammad Musa - 8G
Tegan Newman-Jannaway - 8G
Izzy Ntusi - 8G

Dates for the Diary

End of Term

- Friday 16th December - 12.15pm

Start of Spring Term

- Wednesday 4th January 2023

Locations of Community Warm Welcome Centres

Libraries:	Church Centres:
<p>Botwell Green Library Charville Library Eastcote Library Harefield Library Harlington Library Hayes End Library Ickenham Library Manor Farm Library Northwood Hills Library Northwood Library Oak Farm Library Ruislip Manor Library South Ruislip Library Uxbridge Library West Drayton Library Yeading Library Yiewsley Library</p>	<p>St Margaret's Church, Uxbridge Monday – 10 – 12pm. Drop in Wednesday – 10 – 11.30am. Praymates for young parents & toddlers Friday. Foodbank & drop in. 11am – 1pm Location: Windsor Street, Uxbridge Contact: secretary@uxbridgeparish.org. Tel: 01895 258766</p> <p>Hillingdon Park Baptist Church Monday to Friday. 12pm. Lunch. £5 for 2 courses and free drink Location: 25 Hercies Rd, Uxbridge UB10 9L Contact: office@hillypark.org.uk. Tel. 01895 814424</p> <p>Christ Church Monday 10 – 2pm Drop in Tuesday & Thursday. Café – 10 – 2pm for affordable refreshments. Location: Redford Way, Uxbridge UB8 1SZ Contact: publicity@christchurchuxbridge.org.uk. Tel. 01895 258956</p> <p>Waterloo Road Church Monday. 10 – 11.30am Toddler Group Wednesday (Monthly – First Wednesday) 10 -11.00am. Drop in for refreshments Saturday (Monthly – first Saturday) 9.30am – 11.30am. Refreshments Location: Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge UB8 2QX Contact: contactus@waterlooroadchurch.org.uk. Tel. 01895 257663</p> <p>Salvation Army Wednesday & Thursday. 10am – 3pm. Drop in with refreshments. Location: 16b Cowley Road Rd, Uxbridge UB8 2LT Contact: uxbridge@salvationarmy.org.uk. Tel. 01895 234088 Also seeking donations of warm coats and jumpers for winter</p>