

## Headteacher's Update

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

I would like to start this week's update by wishing all of our families a very happy new year. I hope that the Christmas holiday was a very peaceful and restful one for all and that all families are now able to return to their normal activities in good health. Unfortunately, it does seem that there has been a fair amount of flu, Covid and strep A within the community. Given that this is the case, we have drafted a letter to all families that provides some information and reminders about how to manage these illnesses as well as advice and guidance from the UK Chief Medical Officer about when and when not to send children into school if they are experiencing various levels of illness. The letter is available via the school website. A link can be found [\[here\]](#).

On the penultimate day of the autumn term we were delighted to be able to welcome Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE to the school as our guest speaker for our annual awards evening ceremonies. Olivia is the CEO of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, which is an organisation that works to ensure that we continue to learn from the horrors of the Nazi holocaust and other genocides that have taken place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Earlier on the very same day that Olivia visited us at Vyners, she had also attended the Houses of Parliament and joined the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Leader of the Opposition Sir Keir Starmer for the commemorations of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first public announcement by the British Government within the House of the Nazis' attempt to murder Europe's Jewish population. Both Mr Sunak and Sir Keir were in the chamber for a moment of silence led by Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons.



This year, we took the decision to keep the two separate sessions for lower school and upper school award ceremonies, which is something that we had implemented in response to the pandemic. It is always a delight to welcome students onto the stage to receive their awards, which are recognition for the excellence and commitment to the school's values that they have exhibited throughout the academic year. I would also like to commend our Head Boy, Oliver Edwards and Head Girl, Wemi Adebajo for their excellent speeches as well as Mrs Bashford-Hynes and her team behind the scenes for planning and coordinating all of our awards and prize giving events.

### Christmas Concerts

Whilst Christmas probably feels like a distant memory, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff, students and parents who participated in the two Christmas concerts that took place during the final week of term. The Vyners Christmas concert was an absolute joy and a showcase of the hard work and incredible musical talent that is clearly evident at Vyners.



The VLT Christmas Carol Concert took place at St Giles' Church in Ickenham and saw the five trust schools come together for a mixture of seasonal readings, carols and performances. It was a lovely event that was enjoyed by all and I would again like to thank Mr Cullum for leading this activity and the Reverend Felicity Davies for hosting us throughout the afternoon.



## Year 7 Parents Evening

As a reminder, the booking system for the Year 7 parents evening opens today. The staff at the school are very much looking forward to meeting with parents and carers from this cohort on this coming Thursday. The spring term is always a busy one for consultation evenings as it is the time of the academic year when students have been able to demonstrate sufficient progress but is also a point when staff and parents can intervene as necessary. Letters will be shared in the weeks ahead to inform parents about the arrangements for the different consultation evenings. However, we would ask parents and carers to make an early note of the following dates:

Year 7 Parents evening	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 11 Parents evening	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Year 9 Parents evening	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
Year 8 Parents evening	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 10 Parents evening	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March

All events will take place online and will be between 4.30pm and 7.00pm. Please contact your child's Year Leader if you have any questions about these events.

## Bad Weather Procedures

At this time of year, it's not unusual to experience challenging weather conditions which may or may not impact upon the school's ability to be fully functional. We would like to make parents aware of our bad weather procedures which have been recently updated and can be found via this [link](#).

**Gary Mullings**  
Headteacher

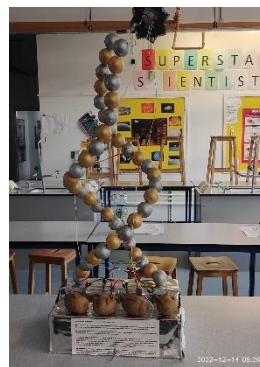
## KS3 ChemistTREE Competition 2022

The Vyners ChemistTREE Competition was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to apply "Biological and Organic Chemistry" knowledge to design their Christmas tree in 3D or 2D. Students worked independently or in a team to build on their research, communication, teamwork and organisation skills. We received many amazing entries which made the judging process very difficult. All the participants will receive a certificate for their hard work and ingenuity in producing their entry. The ChemistTREE Judging team was Ms Holt (Subject Leader, Science), Mrs Harvey (Deputy Headteacher) and Chief Judge was Mr Mullings.

The Vyners KS3 ChemistTREE Competition 2022 winners were:

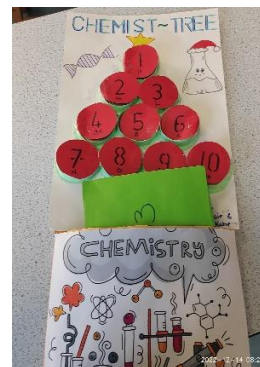
## First Prize:

Benji Hampshire 8W



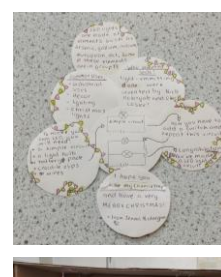
## Runner Up:

Katie Gardner 8G  
Jessie Dempsey 8J



The winners' ChemistTREE has been submitted to the Royal Society of Chemistry as part of a larger national competition. I would like to thank all the participants for their engagement, dedication and hard work.

**Mr Peran**  
Assistant Subject Leader, Science



## Friends of Vyners

Congratulations to all of the prize winners from the Friends of Vyners '100 Club' draws from the months of June to November 2022 ([click here](#)). The FoV '100 Club' has been an incredibly successful fundraising tool for our parents' organisation and has helped to provide our students with a wide range of facilities and resources that are often difficult to acquire from within our main school budget.

If you wish to participate in the '100 Club' then please complete the application form ([click here](#)) and forward it to [100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk](mailto:100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk).

Friends of Vyners are also holding a Quiz Night on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Please see the attachment for further details. Additional information and a link to the Friends of Vyners website can be found on the school website ([click here](#)).



**FriendsOfVyners**

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

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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

Open to anyone including students in years 9 & 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](mailto: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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_