

Headteacher's Update

10th February 2023

As we come to the end of the first half of the spring term, I am delighted to be able to make parents and carers aware of the trust's very first environmental sustainability week that will take place during the week commencing 27th February. The week will involve all five schools within the Vanguard Learning Trust participating in a series of activities and events that have been planned to raise awareness of environmental sustainability issues as well as introduce students to the types of activities that we hope will, over time, significantly reduce our impact on the planet and lead to a more sustainable school and local community. Our trust CEO, Dr Lecky, has written to all families outlining the plans for the week. A link to the letter can be found [\[here\]](#). The letter contains a link to the provisional programme of activities as well as a synopsis of some of the key activities that have been planned across the schools. I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard across the schools to coordinate these activities, including Miss Brown, Subject Leader for Geography and Miss Williams, Business Manager who have coordinated activities for Vyners.

Industrial Action

Thank you once again to all parents and carers for their understanding during the industrial action that took place last Wednesday. Whilst we are very much aware of the inconvenience caused to families, those of us who remained on site were extremely impressed by the manner in which the Year 11, 12 and 13 students conducted themselves throughout the day ensuring that they worked productively throughout. Whilst it was easy to gauge the level of engagement within each session at school, it was much more challenging to plan and deliver remote learning given the fact that staff who took industrial action were not required to set any tasks for their classes. With the next planned strike date fast approaching, we would be happy to receive feedback about the online learning provision that students received in each year group. As a reminder, the next planned strike date for members of the National Education Union (NEU) is Thursday 2nd March. We will write to parents and carers in the first week after half term to inform them of our plans.

School Travel and Road Safety (STARS) Update

Thank you to Mr Heath and the STARS team for their continued work to try and improve school travel and road safety at Vyners, whilst working toward gold level accreditation. During this week, the team has been focusing on 'idling', which is when parents and carers spend time parked outside the school either waiting for or dropping off a child. The team recorded the number of cars / drivers behaving in this way over a ten minute count between 8.10am and 8.20am on Monday and Friday. These times were chosen so that the students did not miss their morning tutorial. However, we know that dropping off in the morning is at its worst closer to 8.30am just before the start of the school day. Unfortunately, the team recorded 65 cars idling on Monday near the school gates and 46 on Friday. Furthermore, they noted that this behaviour as well as the reversing into driveways and three point turns is making travel along key routes such as Warren Road and Thornhill Road particularly unsafe and frustrating for our local residents. Some of the behaviour is truly dreadful. The team are currently making plans for the active travel week that is scheduled to take place in May. However, we will also be making sure that some work is done over the coming weeks to try to address some of the ongoing travel and road safety issues that we are experiencing.

Artzone Project

A very warm thank you Ms Campofiloni and the following students for designing this beautiful bookshelf for Mr Kunig's classroom:

Veronika Voloshchuk (11F)
 Charlie Humphrey-Kew (9F)
 Olivia Canovas (10P)
 Suren Kukadia (8P)
 Amir Ewas (8W)
 Poppy Oliver (8G)



The students were inspired by William Blake's *The Ancient of Days* which depicts Urizen, a personification of reason and order, measuring out the unknown universe below. Many people have commented on the skill of the bookshelf, and it has created a new interest in the work of Blake in Mr Kunig's classroom.

Youth Parliament

A big thank you to the following student representatives who attended our Youth Parliament meeting this week.

Shaza Nusrath (10H)
Ali Mansoor (10G)
Mika Assumption (10P)
Duaa Mohamed (9G)
Kaavye Sikka (9J)
Jasleen Johal (9F)
Zaina Ehsan (7P)
Zoe Ava Clements (7H)
Simran Jammu (7H)
Eliza Bhatti (7H)
Alisha Butt (9F)
Hana Ahmed (9F)
Emma McCormick (7H)
Sarah Clack (12H)
Kacey Chapple (12C)
Jaspreet Minhas (12H)
Devina Daby (12G)
Avomo-Mbasogo Mba Nguema (9H)

These students play a significant role in providing feedback to the leadership team to drive improvements in and around the school. They should feel proud for representing the student body and championing the interests of the students.

Future plans for Youth Parliament include meeting a member of the House of Lords and delivering assemblies celebrating the work they do.

Mr Kunig, English Department

World Book Day - Year 7 and Year 8

This year, World Book Day will be celebrated at Vyners on Friday 3rd March with the theme being, 'You Are A Reader'!

World book Day will also coincide with sustainability week. Please help to promote and celebrate the day by encouraging your child to dress up by choosing a character from a book or a book series, or even their favourite author! Even a hat, scarf, prop or other accessory will do and if possible, wear something they have recycled or sourced either from a charity, borrowed, hired or made.

We would also encourage them to bring in their favourite book on the day. This can be fiction or nonfiction! The idea is really to celebrate 'good' stories! Please make a note in your diaries and many thanks for your support.

Ms Goode, Literacy Coordinator

10 Minute Book Club

Last Thursday we had our introductory 10-Minute Book Club meeting at Vyners! For those who are unsure of what the 10-Minute Book Club is, it's a programme set up by Oxford academics designed to expose students to texts (fiction and nonfiction) that they would not typically encounter within the school curriculum. Reading the whole book is not necessary; only a '10 minute' passage is required to introduce the key themes for discussion. At Vyners, the book club is open to students in Years 11-13 and members of staff.

If anyone who could not attend the first meeting is interested, our first book is 'It Can't Happen Here' by Sinclair Lewis. The novel satirically explores implications of creeping fascism and the rise of populism in 1930s America. We will be discussing it after school on Thursday 23rd February in Ms Connolly's room (112). [Here](#) is the link for the passage we will be discussing.

Holly Bell and Ciara Davies, Year 12

National Apprenticeship Week, 6-12 February

Following up from the Y11 parental session on apprenticeships and T Levels during Careers Week, Y11 students had a detailed talk about these courses from a representative from Uxbridge College on Monday. Students were then given the opportunity to visit an Apprenticeship and Careers Fair at Uxbridge College, where they took part in a range of vocational workshops and were able to ask employers and college lecturers about apprenticeships and the application process. Some fantastic images from the taster day can be found [\[here\]](#).

Years 12 and 13 also attended a talk on Thursday about apprenticeships, with a particular focus on how both their academic study, and any super curricular participation, work experience and student leadership can all support future applications for different apprenticeships. A wealth of information has been posted on student information Google Classrooms throughout this week including information on how to find apprenticeships that are currently available to apply for.

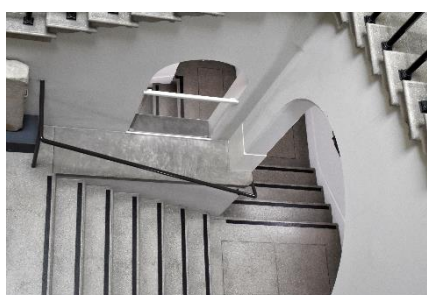
Please have a look at some [useful resources from Amazing Apprenticeships](#) for parents and guardians to help familiarise yourself with the range of apprenticeships on offer to students. Also, on the [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) website resources page, there is a student activity pack with lots of activities for young people to do to help them explore apprenticeships.

**Mrs Harvey, Deputy Headteacher;
Mrs Coyle, Associate Assistant Headteacher**

Year 12 & 13 Art and Photography Trip

Last week we had the pleasure of attending the Oxford Photography / Art trip. In this, we had the opportunity to partake in an interactive art exhibition where we were encouraged to think about our surroundings and broaden our installation ideas. As well as this, we spent time looking at historical museums, such as the Ashmolean and Pitt Rivers museum- which was very interesting and allowed us to experience different cultures and historical events as if we were really there. Overall, this trip was extremely beneficial for not only gathering photos, but engrossing us in new ideas and surroundings which will kickstart our new exam project.

Sky Harrison, Y13 Photography Student



University Courses - Year 12

It is always pleasing to see pupils take their first steps on their journey of academic excellence but when those first steps involve a rigorous application process to World renowned Universities the success is even more enjoyable. The comments below are from four of our Year 12 pupils who, amongst others, have taken their first steps of discovery on various courses at top Universities:

Leo (Maths Course, Imperial College University of London)

The course began with the 1st masterclass which was overall very informative and fun. At the beginning of the day, everyone attended the morning lecture which was mainly graph theory. The main aspect of the masterclass which made it fun was obviously the workshops, I took part in all the three workshops that took place, Coordinate Geometry, Quadratics and Kinematics. Online Mentoring sessions will begin next week and will take place every two weeks and I'm looking forward to doing them in the coming weeks.

Diana (STEM Potential Program, Imperial College University of London)

In Year 10 I got into the STEM Potential Program, and after two years, I continued into the STEM Potential Program for Year 12s. This program assists students throughout their A levels with their studies by offering tutoring sessions (taught by Imperial lecturers and students) and masterclasses, as well as going beyond the specification and giving taster sessions of a first year university style lectures. They allow you to focus on the STEM subjects of your choosing, offering lots of support as well as giving you the opportunity to do experiments you may never be able to in school. In addition, they support with University applications, interviews, specific course exams (STEP, BMAT etc) and help you explore different courses and options for your future.

Michaela (STEM SMART Program, University of Cambridge)

This course is called STEM SMART by Cambridge which stands for Subject Mastery and Attainment Raising Tuition. It is a course associated with Isaac Physics and aimed for students who are considering applying to Engineering, Physical Sciences or Biological Sciences courses at university and currently studying maths and sciences in A level. On this course, you must attend a 1 hour maths tutorial and 30 minutes of one or more of the science tutorials. From this, there is a weekly home learning task for each subject that you are taking for A levels and they are specifically designed by STEM SMART professors at Cambridge. I started

this course in January 2023 and it lasts until May 2024 and in August 2023, some selected students are given a 4 day residential stay. The course overall is very helpful as they cover topics and questions which teachers may not have time to explain in class, or it could be useful revision and reviewing time for topics which you have already gone through in class.

Devina (Medicine and Dentistry Programme, King's College University of London)

I take part in the King's College Lecture series for dentistry and medicine, where I get to meet a range of doctors who explain their journey of how they were able to do their specialities and the interesting things which fascinated and motivated them to pursue this career. So far I have been introduced to a doctor who is currently starting her dermatology course and now this week, an insightful lecture about a doctor who specialises in cardiology. I have also been introduced to a first year dentistry student at King's College who describes her experiences from the transition of sixth form to university life, the application process and some great top tips for Y12 students. These lectures have been very informative and helpful which are also making me explore different career pathways within the field of dentistry and medicine

Mr Kelly, Mathematics Lead Practitioner

Friends of Vyners - Quiz Night

Thank you to the members of FoV for the most recent Quiz night that took place on Friday 27th January. The event was well attended and raised £600 for school related activities and projects. The next quiz night will be on Friday 24th March. All parents, carers and friends of the school are welcome to attend.

Headteacher Commendations

Congratulations to all of our students who received Headteacher Commendations this week.

English

Aaron Rashid - 7G

Artzone Project

Poppy Oliver - 8G

Suren Kadadia - 8P

Amir Ewas - 8W

Charlie Humphrey-Kew - 9F

Olivia Canovas - 10P

Veronika Voloschuk - 11F

Vyners Goodreads

Ciara Davies - 12C

Holly Bell - 12F

Maths

Harry Farrell - 10G

Photography

Mika Assumption - 10P

Jonathan Pecyna - 10W

Spanish

Mollie Gregory - 10M

French

Esha Rauli - 7C

Scarlett Boucher - 7F

Zoe Clements - 7H

Caelin Gibbons - 7H

Ailis Ryan - 7M

Mac Henry - 7P

Tiya Vishuram - 7W

Amelie Wootton - 7W

Tutorial / Pastoral

Karam Brar - 10J

Luca Boucher - 10J

Habiba Khamliche - 10J

Work Related Learning

Alicja Glusinska - 8J

Ben Handley - 8J

Ameerah Ellis-Ahmed - 8J

Abdur Rahman Ibn-Ali - 8J

Bhavan Jaspal - 8J

Ria John-Thompson - 8J

William Kelf - 8J

Lily-May Kennedy - 8J

Otto Keyte - 8J

Jujhar Khurana - 8J

Amber Abouzeid - 8J

Zaynab Bint-Majed - 8J

Ian Chen - 8J

Maddie Coleman - 8J

Lara Colgan - 8J

Psychology

Andrew Niznik - 9M

Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group
Week ending 3rd February 2023

Year Group	Weekly Attendance
Year 7	95.7%
Year 8	93.2%
Year 9	92.1%
Year 10	90.9%
Year 11	91.9%
Year 12	94.6%
Year 13	92.3%

Top 3 Tutorial weekly attendance
Week ending 3rd February 2023

Tutorial	Weekly Attendance
12C	97.8%
7H, 8M, 10F	97.6%
7M	97.2%

Dates for the Diary

Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th February	Half Term
Thursday 23 rd February	Year 9 Parents Evening
Thursday 9 th March	Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 30 th March	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 31 st March	End of Spring Term
Monday 17 th April	Start of Summer Term

Wishing all of our families and staff a wonderful half term break.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher