

Headteacher's Update

12th May 2023

Hopefully, by now, parents and carers have had the opportunity to read the letter [\[here\]](#) from Dr Lecky that was shared last Friday that outlined the details related to the associate membership of the Vanguard Learning Trust for Oak Farm Primary School. We are delighted to be working with the school over the coming months and I was particularly pleased yesterday morning, to have the opportunity to meet with the school's headteacher, Mrs Veale and take her on a guided tour of the school site here at Vyners. We very much welcome the students, staff and families at Oak Farm to the trust and look forward to what we hope is a successful partnership.

As is usually the case at this time of the year, I had the pleasure of leading the final assembly for our Year 11 cohort yesterday morning, prior to the start of their written examinations next week. There were a number of key messages that I attempted to reinforce during the 15 minutes, including the need for persistence and resilience during this period as well as ensuring that they are kind to themselves throughout the process, focusing on what they do achieve through the revision period rather than what they might not cover in a given session. Another important message is the management of stress and the understanding that all great performances are achieved under an optimal amount of stress (known as eustress) but that effective preparation is required to ensure that they are in that zone. We all have great belief in this cohort, as we do in the Year 13 cohort who have their traditional fancy dress day on Monday as they count down to their study leave. We have also informed students that, as from Monday, we will be reverting to a 2-1-2 pattern of the school day to facilitate afternoon examinations throughout this important period of the year. I know that all the staff at the school would like to wish all of our students in years 11 and 13 the very best of fortune over the coming weeks. Students and parents should feel free to contact any member of staff for support throughout this time.

Vyners Festival of Sound

On the evening of Wednesday 3rd May, I had the absolute pleasure of attending the Vyners Festival of Sound (formerly known as the spring concert). In short, it was a quite wonderful evening that saw performances from a range of bands, ensembles and orchestras covering a range of genres including rock, classical and modern. Having attended numerous concerts at the school over the past ten years, and will happily share that for me, this was one of the most impressive performances that I have

witnessed. The standard of music at Vyners has always been incredibly high but what stood out on this occasion was not only the standards, but also the number of performers and the fact that all year groups were represented during the evening. I would again like to thank the students for their dedication and commitment to their music and also to Mr Cullum, Mrs Coyle, Ms Cannas and the team peripatetic staff in the department who, under Mr Cullum's leadership, have been able to get the music provision beyond pre-pandemic standards in such a short space of time.



Attendance

I would like to thank the Vyners and Ruislip High School Governors who attended the joint Education and Standards Committee meeting yesterday evening. One of the areas that the schools were challenged on was the continued (national) issue related to school attendance. I think that it is fair to say that both schools are working extremely hard on this issue and that the strategies that are being employed are having a positive impact, particularly with some individuals and groups of students. Whilst there have been many positives (last week was close to pre-pandemic standards in years 7-10), there are still many challenges. The two areas that I would like parents and carers to consider is revision and early holidays. With regard to revision for terminal exams I would stress that students should not be supported by parents to stay at home to study for exams outside of agreed study period times. This is in line with Government guidance, whereby early study leave can only be granted in exceptional circumstances. We are again experiencing too many requests for absence to take early holidays in July. Whilst I fully understand the cost implications (as I have to deal with this myself) it is not a reasonable excuse for missing valuable learning time. I understand that the industrial action has complicated this issue but this should not be used as an excuse. Thank you to all parents and carers in advance for their support.

Sustainable Travel and Road Safety (STARS)

On Thursday 11th May at Break 1, the STARS student team (Sustainable Travel and Road Safety) ran a Phone Awareness Obstacle Course. The premise of the course is to make pupils realise of how hard it is to focus on a phone while doing another activity, with the aim cut down the number of pupils using their phones while crossing the road.'



On Tuesday 9th May the whole of Year 7 took part in a safety workshop run by our STARS Travel Team in association with the Met Police and Metroline. The event involved pupils speaking to the Police Officers about the safety aspects of the Oyster Cards ([free and discounted travel](#)) alongside wider safety messages such as what to do if they are on the bus and feel unsafe. The Police

Officers also gave some helpful reminders to students about safety using the footways, especially near busy transport routes, and how to stay vigilant when travelling and avoid looking at mobile phones. Metroline kindly provided us a bus to demonstrate to pupils how to 'tap on' using their Oyster Cards, learn some basic bus etiquette, as well as point out CCTV, bus blind spots, ramp access and many more features of public transport to support our pupils in becoming independent and sustainable travellers. We hope to see as many students as possible feeling confident enough to use public transport to travel to and from school in the future.



Second Hand School Uniform

A number of outgoing Year 11 parents are always kind enough each year to donate their child's uniform to school, so that we might pass it on to other students. It is also very much a theme in school at the moment to improve our environmental credentials. We have therefore been inspired to set up our own 'Vinted' Facebook page specifically for uniform items that can be passed on.

The page can be accessed [here](#). This page is intended purely as a way of connecting the owners of unwanted uniforms with new students. Other comments or questions about the school should be directed to us via the usual routes and not posted here. Please note that the group is moderated by school and that any inappropriate or simply irrelevant content will be removed.

Like any other facebook marketplace group, items should be offered up by parents directly, for either a charge, or 'free to collect'. The school has a small stock of uniforms which it will itself add to the site shortly. We may also take items from the site to supplement our own small stock of items held in school. I hope parents will find this site useful.

Sports News

One of the highlights of this week was the senior Hillingdon schools athletics championship that took place at the Hillingdon Athletics Stadium in Uxbridge on Wednesday. There were numerous outstanding performances from Vyners students throughout the day, which culminated in Vyners teams successfully winning three of the four categories. Our Year 9 boys squad won their event, as did the Year 10 boys and Year 10 girls. In addition, the Year 9 girls team were placed third overall, which made it a very dominant display by Vyners athletes overall. It goes without saying that with such a fantastic set of team performances, that there were numerous medallists in the individual events. Medal winners are listed below:

1st place:

Issy Stone - 10 girls 1500m & triple jump
Melia Gaynor-Palmer - 10 girls shot putt
Annika Nordin - 10 girls long jump
Chiddi Domike - 10 boys 200m
Sudeys Sharif - 10 boys 1500m
Anna-Marie Baker Lopes - 9 girls 200m
Alfie Clarke - 9 boys triple jump)
Kena Domike - 9 boys shot putt
Taylor Kerswill - 9 boys javelin

2nd place:

Yasmin Crawford - 10 girls 800m and 10 boys discus
Connie Wilkins - 10 girls hurdles
Year 10 girls relay
Luca Parascandalo - 10 boys 100m
Henry Atkinson - 10 boys 800m
Anna- Marie Baker Lopes - 9 girls javelin
Year 9 Girls Relay
Rueben Nornoo - 9 boys 100m
William Gibson - 9 boys 400m
Alfie Clarke - 9 boys 800m
Ronnie Hinchcliffe - 9 boys high jump

3rd place:

Hallie Thomas - 10 girls 200m
Jemima Potter - 10 girls javelin
Sudeys Sharif - 10 boys triple Jump
Morgan Goode - 10 boys discus
Chloe Sims - 9 girls 400m
Sophie Eves - 9 girls Shot
William Gibson - 9 boys high jump
Year 9 Boys Relay



Congratulations to all of the students, medalists or otherwise, for what is an outstanding success. Thank you also to the PE department for their excellent work in forging such remarkable teams. Students who placed first or second will now be invited to represent Hillingdon at the Middlesex Championships that will take place on Saturday 10th June.

Friends of Vyners

Friends of Vyners are also holding a Quiz Night on Friday 23rd June 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](#)].

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. Congratulations to all of the recent prize winners from the Friends of Vyners '100 Club' draws.

Please click [[here](#)] to see the February to April 2023 winners.

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.

Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group
Week ending 5th May 2023

Year Group	Attendance
Year 7	95.3%
Year 8	94.5%
Year 9	94.5%
Year 10	93.8%
Year 11	88.5%
Year 12	94.5%
Year 13	87.6%

Top 3 Tutorial weekly attendance
Week ending 5th May 2023

Tutorial	Attendance
9J	100%
7H, 8W, 9F	98.9%
12W	98.6%

Headteacher Commendations

English

Otto Keyte (8J)

Media Studies

Shania Belcher (9G)

Sustainability

Veer Jhita (7M)

Tania Kanagarajah (8C)

Nathan Griffiths (8F)

Mahde Isse (8F)

Nyla Singh (8F)

Adam Nadhmi (8H)

Dylan Lewis (8H)

Leo Stockwell (8H)

Otto Keyte (8J)

Alexander Fenneck (8J)

Bhavan Jaspal (8J)

Work Related Learning

Emilija Asakaviciute (8W)

Tumi Adebajo (8W)

Manya Bajaj (8W)

Tia Bajalyte (8W)

Sienna Barton (8W)

Jayden Clarke (8W)



FriendsOfVyners

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

Friday 23rd June 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

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

Fish & Chips & Quiz ticket @ £14.00: Number required: _____

Chicken & Chips & Quiz ticket @ £13.00: 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: _____