

## Headteacher's Update

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

I think that it's fair to say that this week has been a demanding one. There have been a number of wonderful activities such as the proms, school visits and diversity day, which have provided the opportunity for staff and students to celebrate together, but amongst them was the unpleasantness of a threatening social media post.

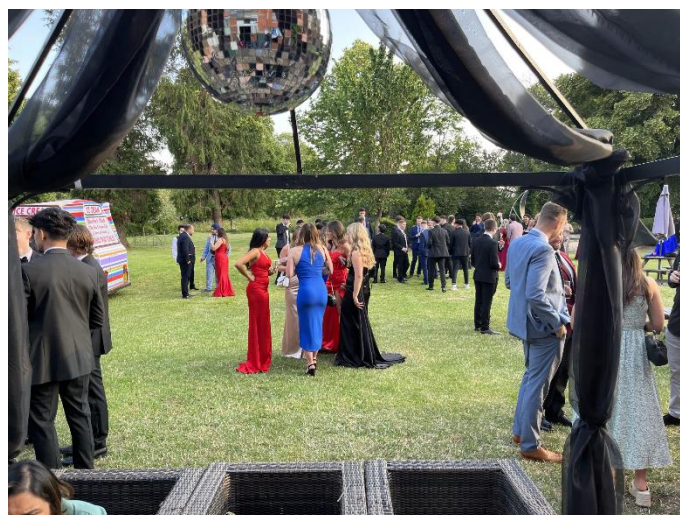
With regard to the post itself, we are continuing to work with police to ascertain the individual(s) responsible. With regard to the past two days I think that it is important to reiterate that whilst it was believed to be a hoax that we would never be complacent, hence the extra vigilance including a police presence. I should add that the school operated as normal without incident.

I think that it is also important to note that the senior leadership regularly receives training in the management of critical incidents. One element of this is the management of communication routes. If, for whatever reason, there was a critical incident at the school or within the local vicinity, we would need to utilise our resources to manage the incident, including communicating at the appropriate time, but would not have the capacity to respond to individual telephone calls or emails from parents. Parental concern is understandable in such instances; however, telephone lines would need to remain free so that the school has the resources to communicate with any emergency services, etc. if necessary. We could potentially need to communicate directly with some families in an emergency situation, but in most cases, updates would be provided by email or via the school website. We will have over 1500 children on site in September and it is simply not possible to manage the flow of emails and telephone calls in an emergency situation.

Thankfully, the end of the week has passed without incident and I would again like to thank the police and staff at the school for their support. Thank you also to parents and carers who have contacted the school to provide information about the posts themselves.

I will ensure that I provide an update to parents and carers where appropriate.

### Prom Week



## Diversity Day

We were really proud of the entire student body on Thursday as they all participated in our very first diversity day at the school, which formed part of the Equality fortnight. Students were given the opportunity to dress in clothing that represented their personality, individuality or culture and it was fantastic to see the array of different outfits, which included sports teams, guides and scouts and traditional cultural dress from numerous countries from around the world. I have to be honest and say that this was a bit of a leap of faith so it was wonderful to see just how much enjoyment the staff and students gained from the day. I would like to thank the student equality, diversity and inclusion working group for their excellent work this year, which has included the planning for the day and also to our caterers, Cucina, who prepared a range of dishes from countries from around the world for the children to experience during the break times.



## VLT Governors' Day

This week, I would also like to thank the staff, governors and students who participated in our Governors' day on Wednesday. The theme for this year was 'student voice' and the morning involved the Governors meeting with groups of students to learn about their views about the school, what things are working well and ways that we can improve. The students discussed a range of issues including personal safety and personal development and there were also presentations and discussions with the equality and diversity student group as well as the School Travel and Road Safety (STARS) working group. The Governors found the students to be thoughtful, knowledgeable and engaging and the activity allowed the Governors to gain a in -depth insight into how the students view the school.

In the afternoon, the Governors, Trustees and Headteachers convened at Brunel University for the Vanguard Learning Trust review of the year, which included feedback from the chairs of governors from each of the five schools about their morning's experience. One of the highlights of the afternoon was a presentation to Mr Brooks, Year 8 Leader, for 25 years of service at Vyners.

My warm congratulations to Mr Brooks for such a wonderful achievement and sincere apologies that I was unable to attend the event due to the situation that had developed at the school.





## Industrial Action

Please see the attached letter outlining the plans for the two days of industrial action that are scheduled to take place next week. A copy of the letter can also be found [\[here\]](#). We hope that the issues related to pay and conditions in the education sector can be resolved before the summer break and that further industrial action can be avoided in the coming academic year.

## Design & Technology trip to the Science Museum.

As a part of 'Imagination week', fifty-four of our Design & Technology students from Year 10 visited the Science Museum on a journey of appreciation and discovery. The focus of the visit was to investigate how the design and use of different products has affected the way we live, from the industrial revolution to the present day. Exciting exhibits included the Apollo 10 command module, the NeXT computer that Tim Berners-Lee wrote the code for the first web browser and website on, and an actual fragment of rock from the moon. While exploring the different galleries and exhibitions, students completed various tasks including redesigning objects, practising their skills in product analysis, fact-finding missions and quizzes to broaden their understanding of design and how it is intrinsically linked to the sciences. An enjoyable and enlightening day was had by all and as anticipated, the students were a credit to themselves and the school throughout.



Wishing all of our families and staff a peaceful weekend

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**

## Information: Design and Technology Summer Maker Challenge

**SUMMER MAKER CHALLENGE**

24 JULY - 3 AUGUST OR  
7 AUGUST - 17 AUGUST  
MON-FRI, 10AM-4PM

The Maker Challenge is a free design and making programme for 14-18 year olds. Over 9 days in our vibrant workshop, you'll learn 3D printing, laser cutting, electronics, coding, woodworking and business skills. Using advanced equipment and tools, you'll bring your invention to life and compete to win prizes.

To apply you must be aged 14-18 and live in London. You don't need any making experience and it's completely free. We're located in White City.

Get inspired to invent, create and make, and become a young inventor this summer!

APPLY BY SUNDAY 16 JULY

Imperial College London | Berkeley Foundation | DANGOOR REACH OUT MAKERSPACE

30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Industrial Action - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

I am writing regarding the proposed industrial action by members of the National Education Union (NEU), which is due to take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Parents and carers may be aware that the latest round of negotiations between the government and teaching unions has, unfortunately, not resolved the current dispute. As a result, the NEU has planned for two further strike days next week.

As I have previously shared, the dispute is not directed against the school itself, but is part of national industrial action and schools are likely to be impacted to varying degrees depending on the make-up of union membership and the number of NEU members taking action.

I am grateful that members of the NEU have informed me of their intentions, which has allowed me to plan for the two days. As Headteacher, I will always take all reasonable steps to keep the school open to as many students as possible whilst taking into consideration the need to ensure the health and safety of everyone on site. I have worked with the senior team on a risk assessment and it is clear that we will be **partially closed** for both days. However, we have planned to ensure that all students do attend school for at least one of the two days.

**Arrangements for students in Year 12**

Students in Years 12 should attend school on these days. The exact timetable will be confirmed on the morning of both days and will be communicated via the Sixth Form team. Students in Year 12 will only be required to attend school for the lessons that are scheduled. However, the Sixth Form study rooms will also be available and staffed throughout the day for those that wish to use it.

**Arrangements for students in Years 7 and 10**

Students in Years 7 and 10 should attend school on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July** and follow their normal timetables for sessions 1 to 4. The school day will end immediately after the lunch time period with students leaving the site at 2pm. This is due to the large number of lessons during that time, that would not have an allocated teacher, which we are unable to cover. Remote learning tasks will be set by non-striking teachers on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July so students should check their Google Classrooms.

**Arrangements for students in Years 8 and 9**

Students in Years 8 and 9 should attend school on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July** and follow their normal timetables for sessions 1 to 4. The school day will also end immediately after the lunch time period for the reasons outlined above, with students leaving the site at 2pm. Remote learning tasks will be set by non-striking teachers on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July so students should check their Google Classrooms.

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**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher

**Exams and assessments**

The **Year 10 Art and Modern Foreign Languages assessments** will take place as scheduled on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, so students involved in these assessments should continue to prepare as advised by their teachers.

Some Year 10 students will be required to attend school on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July to complete an **English NEA Speaking assessment** and they will be notified of this separately by the English department.

All **LAMDA exams** will happen as scheduled on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Students in Years 8 and 9 should report to the school reception 10 minutes before their exam time.

Should parents/carers have any questions about the plans for these two days of industrial action, please contact the school via [office@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:office@vynersschool.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,



**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**