



Headteacher's Update

14th July 2023

The second half of the summer term is often the time when a significant amount of enrichment activities take place across a range of subjects and year groups. Whilst this is often the case in any given year, it has been fantastic to see the number of opportunities that staff at the school have been keen to provide to ensure that as many students as possible are able to engage in our learning journey post-pandemic. In this week's newsletter, several of the staff have shared their reflections on trips and visits that have taken place. These activities are in addition to the successful equality and diversity *and* Imagination fortnight's that have taken place in recent weeks. I do hope that parents and carers enjoy reading about the activities that have taken place.

On Thursday of this week, I had the pleasure of attending the Year 12 assembly to wish them the very best for their work experience week that takes place in the week ahead, as well as hand out the certificates and badges to students who won silver subject awards for the academic year. This assembly is the first of the awards assemblies that will take place over the next five school days with silver awards and Headteacher's award for the students of the year (male and female) taking place on Tuesday of next week for Years 7 and 9, and Wednesday of next week for Year 8 and 10. As a reminder, the silver awards are presented for achievements in subjects with one student receiving the award per class. These pre-empt the gold awards that will be given to prize winners in December, which recognise the overall prize winner per subject in each year group.

I would like to congratulate our newly formed Sixth Form Executive, who each received their badges during the assembly on Thursday morning. After a varied and rigorous process, the decision was taken to appoint Chloe Rooney and Himmat Jhita as Head Girl and Head Boy respectively. They will be assisted by Phoebe Crawford (Deputy Head Girl) and Timothy Luscombe (Deputy Head Boy) as well as six additional student executives, Holly Bell,

Lenai Clarke, Devina Daby, Jaspreet Minhas, Jaya Patel and Neha Rana. Congratulations to the ten students who were selected as well as all other students who were involved in this process. Whilst I know that several students were disappointed to not be selected as part of the executive, what all applicants were able to demonstrate was a clear level of ambition as well as the willingness to support the work of the school in a very public way.

Finally this week, I would like to congratulate the three students who received the Vanguard Learning Trust awards for the summer term. As a reminder, only one student receives an award in each trust school per key stage and are presented to students who have demonstrated excellence in one of the trust's three values of Aspiration, Community and Equity. The Award winners on this occasion are Catherine Gallagher for KS3, Matheus Da Silva for KS4 and Sarah Clack for KS5, each for the value, *Equity*. All three students have consistently put the needs of other students ahead of their own and worked to ensure that all students are able to feel a part of the Vyners community. Catherine has buddied with students who are new to the school and continues to support students in the year group who have struggled with certain aspects of school, whilst Matheus (not in the picture) has worked as a prefect and mentor, and has taken on a role to ensure that refugee children feel welcome and supported in the school. Sarah has been at the forefront of the student leadership group that is driving the school's equality, diversity and inclusion strategy and has helped to lead a number of whole school assemblies and activities including the recent diversity and inclusion day. Well done to all three students. They are excellent role models; the awards are well deserved.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Ypres Trip - June 2023

On 9th June myself and 8 other members of staff took 90 Year 8 students on a 1 day trip to the WW1 Battlefields around Ypres in Belgium. It was a long day meeting before 6am and getting back at 2am the following morning but it was well worth it. Students were taken on a tour of Tyne Cot which is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth soldiers on the Western Front.

We then visited the fantastic Passchendaele Memorial Museum which remembers the 3 Battles of Passchendaele in the area during WW1. We were able to walk through a trench reconstruction as well as dress up in different soldiers' uniforms while learning about the conditions soldiers had to live through.

We ended the day in Ypres where students were able to go into a chocolate shop and had some free time to explore the beautiful city centre before heading back. I would like to thank all of the members of staff who came on the trip as their help and dedication throughout the day was fantastic. We look forward to running the trip again in the Autumn Term for the current Year 7s!

Ms Soley, History Department



Year 12 Geography Cornwall Residential trip

This week ten Year 12 students attended the annual A-level Geography residential trip to Cornwall. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to work alongside Bob Digby, author of the students A-level textbook and lead Edexcel moderator. They learnt a number of new fieldwork skills all of which will aid them in their coursework preparations. We visited a number of different locations including Padstow, Newquay, Port Isaac and the Eden Project. The weather was not always on our side but the students managed to wind down each evening on the beautiful beach at Treyarnon Bay. The students were a credit to the school and should be incredibly proud of themselves.

Miss Brown, Subject Leader, Geography



Science Week

The Science Department was thrilled to run British Science Week 2023 from Monday, July 3rd to Friday July 7th, 2023 despite disruptions caused by the industrial action. Year 7 students submitted a lab report on how they grew bacteria in agar petri dishes using aseptic techniques in the lab. Students in Year 8 investigated the effects of forces on a parachute landing, and how changes in mass effect density using the sugar rainbow experiment. It was wonderful to see them participating in science experiments during lessons.

This year's Science Week competition was on the theme of Invention. This exciting event aimed to inspire students to unleash their creativity and problem-solving skills in the world of science. Whether it's a new gadget, a ground-breaking solution to a real-world problem, or a futuristic concept, we encourage students to think outside the box and push the boundaries of scientific exploration.

KS3 students had the opportunity to showcase their innovative ideas and present their inventions to a panel of judges.

The winners are:

Year 7: Tiya Vishnuram, Esha Raj, Emma McCormick, Aaron Zewdie Samuel, Jake Dupree

Year 8: Jayna Chavda, Nyla Singh, Thais Goardou-Marcelin, Erica Danescu, Kornelia Timer

I would like to thank all the participants for their engagement, dedication and hard work. The science week has offered investigation and inspiration and has been a real success.

The Year 6 Summer STEM Club

Vyners Science Department launched "The Year 6 Summer STEM club", which is led by the Year 12 scientists, for the Breakspear Primary School Year 6 students on the 22nd June 2023. This engaging and educational club aimed to inspire young learners to explore the fascinating world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Breakspear Year 6 students participated in a range of hands-on activities and experiments that ignited their curiosity and fostered a passion for STEM subjects.

Our Year 12 students, who are passionate about their respective fields, served as mentors, sharing their knowledge and expertise with the younger students. We are grateful to have such dedicated and enthusiastic leaders guiding Year 6 students on this exciting STEM journey. We would like to thank Breakspear Primary School for their amazing support throughout the program.

Mr Aziz, Science Department



Science CREST Awards

The CREST Award for our second group of students is coming to an end and they have worked incredibly hard. Students have been working on the Bronze CREST Award and this has been taking place every Monday after school. CREST is the country's largest national award scheme for project work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. Students have spent 10 hours on researching and testing the properties of composite materials with the aim of researching materials that are both lightweight and strong.

Dr Abbas & Mrs Ehsan, Science Department



Chalke Valley History Festival - June 2023

The History department took Year 12 to the Chalke Valley History Festival in June. This was an opportunity for students to work on ideas for their Non Examined Assessment as well as immersing themselves in the wider world of history.



There were talks from a range of speakers on topics ranging from "finding marginalised voices in the archives" to "Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth I: Mother and daughter who changed history."



The festival also had historical re-enactments, living history displays & live action performances for them to enjoy. It was wonderful to see the students take ownership of the experience and select their own lectures and take such diligent notes during the session. It is hard to know who enjoyed the day more, the students or the history department!



Mr Beale, Subject Leader, History

Here are some views of the day from our Year 12 students:

“Despite covering the Western Rising in the A Level syllabus, the talk enabled my knowledge to expand far beyond what was covered in class. The historian was clearly passionate about the topic and discussed his own research in an engaging way.”

Ciara Davies

“Provided a wide range of perspective on the witch trials, and explored the significance both at the time and over time. Also included the experiences of people of all situations; children, men and women, rich, poor, etc”

Phoebe Crawford

“Upon reflection, this talk (Finding Marginalised Voices in the Archive) highlighted the importance behind documenting and recording even the smallest of moments in life, no matter how unimportant it may feel. This being because you may never know how impactful these events may be on history, or what your legacy might inspire into future generations. An absolutely transformative experience!”

Jessica Castro Nunes

“The trip was a useful experience and was an entertaining way to engage in a variety of topics. The wide variety of choices meant that the talks maintained constant interest and I felt that the speakers were consistently engaging and showed infectious delight in the explanation of their topics.”

Timothy Luscombe

“Students should definitely go as it is an adventurous day learning about history. If you are a student like me who enjoys the artefacts of history and the art of history then there are many stalls of people dressed in character and story telling. There is also a range of delicious foods and you can even enjoy an ice cream or crepe while watching a talk if the weather is good!”

Neha Baral

French Opal Coast Trip

On Friday 8th July, 37 students and 4 teachers set off to France. We left school at 6am for Dover, bound across ‘La Manche’ to Calais. Our first stop on terra firma was Nausicaa Marine Centre in Boulogne where students and teachers were delighted by the marine life in Europe’s largest public aquarium. We received a warm ‘Hi-de-Hi!’ at our accommodation for the three nights - ‘Chateau d’Ebblinghem’ - and made ourselves at home playing football and exploring the grounds in the warm evening sun.

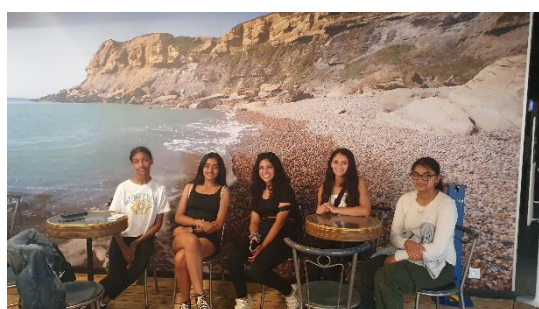
On Day 2 we awoke to our favourite pain au chocolat before departing for the Somme Bay Railway at Le Crotoy. Harry Potter would have felt at home on the wagons from the Belle-Epoque and would have appreciated the picturesque views. These were also to be had at the top of the Funicular at Le Tréport’s cliffs, where we soaked up the atmosphere.

Day 3 was the much-anticipated trip to ‘Parc Astérix’, where students and teachers tested out their levels of courage on the roller coasters. We eased our way into Day 4 with an entertaining tour of ‘Les Chocolats de Beussent’ before maxing out the shopping in Cité Europe. Students are to be commended on how they dealt with the return journey, where border delays, ferry delays and closed motorways meant a much later return to school.

While the tiredness will wear off, we anticipate that the valuable cultural experience will not and that it’s not ‘Bye-di-Bye’ to France but simply ‘Au revoir’.

Ms Kelly, Subject Leader, MFL





Sports Update

London Youth Games

Vyners students continue to have a strong presence at the London Youth Games.

At Athletics Championships in the Olympic Park, Nathan Griffiths (8F) won silver in the Javelin and Dylan Lewis (8H) won gold in the 1500m. Congratulations to both boys on their excellent achievements.

Year 7 Rounders

The Year 7s were lucky enough to enter 2 teams into the Borough Rounders Tournament. Both teams did very well. The B team won 3 matches and finished 4th.



The A team were very successful and won the Borough Tournament! Well done everyone involved!



The A team has their final for the league on Monday against Hayden. Good Luck to all involved.

Miss Hawes, PE Department

School Uniform Purchases

Beat School Uniform will again be running a 'pop up' uniform shop in school on 26 July, 18 August and 23 July. Full details are on the school website under ['Uniform'](#)

A special Facebook page also operates to enable second hand uniforms to find new homes - this can be accessed via the main school Facebook page or by clicking this link [\[here\]](#). 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'.

**Miss Williams, Business Manager and
Mrs McLaren, Family Liaison Officer (KS3)**

Increase in Canteen Prices - September 2023

It is with regret that we need to announce an increase in canteen prices for September 2023. Parents will be well aware of the general increase in food prices over the last 12 months. The school has negotiated with Cucina to avoid passing on those increases so far, however a price increase cannot be avoided in the longer term. Canteen prices are rising by an average of 10% in September. The increase will affect products differently, depending on the ingredients used to make them. Some individual prices will go up by more than 10%, others will not increase at all.

We are pleased to confirm that the price of a hot main meal will increase by just 10p to £2.50 (an increase of 4%). The meal deal price (a hot meal plus pudding or drink) remains unchanged at £2.60. This is by far the best value item for your son or daughter to purchase.

To avoid excluding our free school meal students, the FSM allowance will increase to £2.85 per day from 1 September. This will ensure they can continue to access most products in the canteen. The following eligibility checker enables you to quickly check whether you might be entitled to free school meals: [Free School Meal Eligibility Checker](#). If you are eligible please email your certificate to Mrs Tighe (ktighe@vyner.school.org.uk)

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Hillingdon Foodbank

HILLINGDON FOODBANK
**HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

VYNER'S SCHOOL FOODBANK COLLECTION

Bring donations to your tutorial during morning
registration and volunteers will take them to the Sixth
Form Study Room (109).

All donations by Thursday 20th July.



The foodbank is in particular need of the items listed above.

They also need donations of cooking oil and cleaning products.