

Headteacher's Update

22nd September 2023

I would again like to thank parents and carers for their understanding and support in relation to the RAAC issue. Currently, we are awaiting a response from the DfE as to when their appointed surveyors will be able to inspect the areas that we have secured. I am also pleased to be able to report that the overwhelming majority of students have adapted well to their new arrangements. The school is now incredibly busy with just under 1500 students and 160 members of staff on site daily so the cooperation of all concerned has been very much appreciated.

Some parents may be wondering why Vyners has not appeared on the most recent list of schools with confirmed cases that was published by the DfE on Tuesday. This is due to the fact that schools on the DfE have all been inspected by the DfE and mitigations have been put in place. We are hopeful that Vyners will be inspected next week and we will have much greater clarity about a way forward.

Unfortunately, the suspected RAAC has put us in a position where we have had to cancel our annual open evening that was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 27th September and postpone the Year 7 parent information evening that was scheduled to take place yesterday. At this point, we have left all other events in the calendar and will update parents and parents as the situation progresses. On a positive note, the cancellation of the open evening does mean that we do not require the early finish on Wednesday afternoon or the late start on the Thursday morning so we will gain back most of the time that was lost on Monday of this week.

Update on Student Lockers

As a result of the identification of RAAC, the school has regretfully lost access to 128 student lockers, all situated on the second floor of the building. Students who have already been allocated one of these lockers have been given an opportunity to reclaim their possessions. Items left uncollected on Monday will be taken to Student Services. Students who have been allocated one of these lockers will automatically be issued a replacement locker elsewhere in the school, and we will be communicating the process for that next week.

Despite the fact that access to a large number of lockers has been lost, there are over 100 lockers still vacant. These will be allocated to those families who requested one via the Google Form previously circulated.

The school is conscious that many families have more than one child in school. If siblings are willing to share a locker, please email: office@vynersschool.org.uk. A one off charge of £5 will be levied to enable a second key to be cut. We are sorry that we will not be able to meet demand for student lockers this year. This is, however, due to circumstances outside the school's control

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Co-curricular Fayre

There was a hive of activity in the school hall at the end of the day on Wednesday 13th September as all students in Year 7 were joined by some members of the Year 8 cohort to participate in the co-curricular fayre. The fayre provided an opportunity for students to find out about and sign up to one or more of the many enrichment activities that are on offer at Vyners throughout the autumn term.

The students have signed up to the activities of their choosing and are now actively participating. The full timetable of activities can be found on the Parents Zone on the school website. A link to the webpage can be found [\[here\]](#).



STARS Gold Accreditation

I am delighted to be able to share with parents that our STARS School Travel Plan Accreditation has been reviewed by TFL, and we have been informed that we have received a **Gold Award** this year. This accreditation is based upon the number of activities that the school has undertaken to promote sustainable travel and improve road safety in the immediate vicinity. For the gold accreditation the school had to demonstrate that we had completed 25 different travel related activities, 15 supporting activities and 8 consultation activities, providing evidence for each activity completed. Furthermore, we were required to demonstrate a 6% shift away from car use or that at least 90% of students are travelling to and from school actively (we actually achieved a 9% shift).

This outcome has seen the TfL (Transport for London) award our school with Gold Accreditation until 2026. We will continue this scheme and teach our pupils the importance of sustainable, active and safe travel, and we request parents/carers to support us when travelling to and from school. I would like to thank Mr Heath and the STARS student leadership team for all of the work that they have undertaken to ensure that we achieved this accreditation. A link to the accreditation page TFL STARS webpage can be found [\[here\]](#).



Year 8 Trip to Rickmansworth Aquadrome

Last week, Miss Hawes and Miss MacManus took 20 students in Year 8 to the Sailing Club at Rickmansworth Aquadrome last week with a focus on team building and problem solving. They took part in Sailing (even though there wasn't much wind) and Raft Building. All students had so much fun and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Miss Hawes, Year 8 Leader



University of Cambridge Summer Outreach Programmes

The Lucy Cavendish College at Cambridge University prides itself on being not only the most diverse in terms of student demographics but also in terms of the proportion of its students which come from a background of state-funded education; the exact figure at over 90%. Although to the cynical, it may seem statistics such as these are just another way of top universities manipulating statistics to appear more attainable to state school students, the Lucy Cavendish College is genuinely heavily engaged in student outreach and making a tangible difference to the opportunities of state school pupils, with Vyners students being no exception.

I, myself, was fortunate enough to be accepted onto the college's 'Summer Outreach Programme' over the summer holidays. Holistically, the programme aims to provide year 11 students with optimal preparation and a head-start for the start of their A level studies. Furthermore the programme was conducted via zoom, meaning there were no excuses to miss any sessions- even including a holiday to Mallorca! The virtual sessions were divided into two categories; namely 'lesson readiness' and 'subject

specific' sessions. Not only did the 'lesson readiness' sessions provide me with an invaluable and otherwise unobtainable insight into what Cambridge (and other top universities) are looking for in a competitive applicant, I was able to experience a more detailed focus on subjects I was looking to take for my A levels through the 'subject specific' ones. The sessions were run mainly by the Lucy Cavendish College 'Outreach Officer', employed directly by the university in order to help make Cambridge University more accessible, meaning the information I was receiving was as accurate and informative as can be. All it really took was for a personable 'Outreach Officer' to translate university jargon into simplified English to dissolve the shroud of mystery and perceived prohibitive nature of such universities. The 'subject specific' sessions were led by expert academics, either alumni or current professors at Cambridge. These sessions were truly unmissable opportunities to really explore the subjects I wanted to study in the upcoming two years. Some of the sessions had titles such as 'Why are some countries richer than others?'; as well as history sessions on early European explorers, and a whistle-stop tour of the evolution of political thought, from Socrates through to Karl Marx. There was also no shortage of opportunity for the STEM subjects, with two sessions on each science and maths.

Overall, both the information and experiences I have gained from participating in the Lucy Cavendish Programme will be invaluable for my future application to university. It has helped me to kindle a new ambition; to reach a place I thought to be hitherto reserved for the Boris Johnsons and Charles IIIs of this world. But in all seriousness, I cannot recommend this programme enough, it is an unmissable opportunity for any highly ambitious state school pupil

Aidan Gallagher, Year 12 Student

After applying to many summer schools, I was accepted onto the She Talks STEP Summer School run by Cambridge University, during which I was exposed to a new type of maths that is very different from what's on the A-Level specification. It was more about using algebra and logic together to solve complex problems and proofs. While it was definitely challenging it was an amazing experience, and I learned so much despite it only being 3 days. We experienced a mix of learning both in groups and individually, where we could get specific explanations from experienced tutors, based on what type of questions you struggled with, meaning you improved immensely over the duration of the course. Another amazing aspect of the course is getting the opportunity to interact with other maths students, meaning you get to see how they choose to approach the question, which is often very different from your own approach. Although the course was demanding it was an amazing experience where I made great friends, and is a perfect example of why you should apply to everything.

Yolanda Ginman, Year 13 Student

Language Ambassadors

This week, 24 Year 10 languages students were selected as Languages Ambassadors. Well done to all students who applied for the role, it was extremely difficult for the MFL department to choose 8 students for each language. Congratulations to our newly appointed Languages Ambassadors:

Spanish: Aidan Clarke, Barnaby Hickey, Hana Ahmed, Keira Smith, Leena Amin, Luke Atkinson, Marli Pistorius and Ruby Farrington.

French: Avomo-Mbasogo Mba Nguema, Aadi Bhatia, Duaa Mohamed, Katie Wilson, Kaayve Sikka, Neve O'Connor, Sarina Rashid and Tehzeeb Uddin

German: Gurleen Bhinder, Khadija Ahmed, Caitlin White, Karin Greeves, Isabella Feroze, Shreya Kukadia, Lara Plesu and Daisy Everett.

Miss Vigo, Teacher of MFL

Sustainability Competition

This week, six of our Year 9 students: Adam Nadhmi, Alex Feneck, Otto Keyte, Dylan Lewis, Nathan Griffiths and Leo Stockwell, received their BIEA STEM Sustainability Competition certificates.

During our Vyners Sustainability Week, the boys entered a competition in which they had to design a sustainable school in a certain city. They chose to base their school in Brighton, researching different sustainable products and features to include in their design. Over the Summer break, I received the fantastic news that the team had won the 'Mayor and City Award' for their entry. As a result the students have been invited to exhibit their design at the London Docklands Museum in October presenting to students from around the country, the public and industry representatives. They put a huge amount of work into their design and are working hard to ensure the exhibit is just as fantastic.

Congratulations boys!

Miss Brown, Assistant Headteacher



Chromebook Scheme

With the school year now underway and the new Year 7 students settling into Vyners we have been asked by several parents for the opportunity to join the Vyners Chromebook scheme as they had missed the original deadline. The scheme is currently available for students in Years 7 to 9. An email will be sent out to parents with further details for those who wish to join the scheme.

Mr Fiaz, Network Manager

Safeguarding Snapshot

At Vyners we believe that educating young people about their mental health is important and aim to help them consider ways to continually work on maintaining good mental health. However there are times where a child may have a negative experience with their own or others mental health.

As a parent this can be daunting and some may find it difficult to talk through these issues with their children. In the links below you will find advice on how to approach these conversations and information on avenues for support. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's Form Tutor or Year Leader.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/>

Please click [\[here\]](#) to view the Safeguarding Snapshot page on the website.

Employment Opportunities at Vyners

We are currently recruiting for:

- HR Manager (3 days a week / job share)
 - Learning Support Assistants (LSA) - SEN and HIRB
- For more details and application forms please go to the Vacancies page on our website [\[click here\]](#) or email recruitment@vynersschool.org.uk

Headteacher Commendations

English

Lillie Lundy (10J)

Ashana Burey (10C)

Work Related Learning

Lara Alkhafaji (8C)

Olly Arnold (8C)

Scarlet Austin (8C)

Ekam Bangar (8C)

Saphire Belcher (8C)

Aanya Bhica (8C)

Spiro Binjaku Vasili (8C)

Freya Cartwright (8C)

Khizar Ahmed (8C)

Sehar Chora (8C)

Tom Cheesebrough (8C)