

Headteacher's Update

8th December 2023

The Christmas season has officially started at Vyners and was marked by another excellent music concert on Tuesday evening of this week. Students performed in a range of choirs, bands and ensembles that were interleaved by sections of Mr Cullum's now infamous quiz. It was a wonderful evening for all who attended and I would again like to thank Mr Cullum, Mrs Coyle, Mr Abraham as well as their excellent team of peripatetic music teachers who have done such a wonderful job in supporting and leading the students in music at the school.



On Wednesday 13th December, Vyners will be hosting the Vanguard Learning Trust Christmas Carol Concert at The Most Sacred Heart Church in Ruislip. The carol concert is an opportunity for students within the five trust schools and one associate school (Oak Farm) to come together to celebrate Christmas together. The event will commence at 1.30pm. Parents and carers of participating children are welcome to attend. Seats in the church may be taken from 1.15pm onwards.

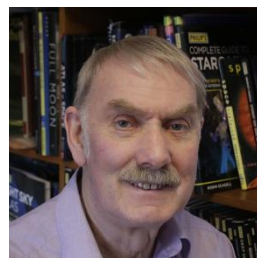
Senior Citizens Christmas Party

On Wednesday 7th December, Vyners hosted its annual Senior Citizen's Christmas Party. It was another wonderful event where we had the opportunity to invite senior members of the Hillingdon-wide community into the school. After settling down to afternoon tea, our guests were treated to an afternoon of entertainment including musical performances, a Christmas quiz, a session of bingo and a Christmas sing-a-long. This continues to be a wonderful Vyners tradition that was established many years ago but it still inspires so many of our students to engage with senior members of the community. Our staff and students were wonderful ambassadors throughout the afternoon and they have my sincere thanks for making it such a special occasion for everyone present.



Annual Awards Evening

Our Annual Awards Evening will take place on this coming Thursday 14th December starting at 6pm in the school hall. I am delighted that our guest speaker this year will be Robin Scagell. Robin is one of the first cohort of Vyners alumni who started at the school when it was first founded in 1959. Robin has enjoyed a successful career as a photographer and writer and has also been involved in the media, regularly contributing to BBC or Sky News discussions related to astronomy and space. Robin is also the Vice President of the Society for Popular Astronomy. We are absolutely delighted that Robin will be joining us in the evening and very much looking forward to celebrating the successes of our Gold award and bestowed award winners.



Robin Scagell

Christmas Lunch Arrangements - Tuesday 19th December

We are delighted to let parents and carers know that the Vyners School canteen will again be hosting a Christmas lunch in our top canteen. Tickets are priced at £2.86 - this covers the cost of a full turkey dinner (non-halal) or a hot vegetarian alternative. There will be a choice of puddings and unlimited squash for students.

Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance in order to allow the chef to cater for the right number of diners (we regularly serve over 400 students and staff). Tickets are available from the canteen tills now. Students currently in receipt of free school meals can collect a ticket for free from student services, Mrs McLaren or Mrs Tighe.

On the day students in Year 9 and above will be served during the normal lunch period. Students in Year 8 and 7 will be excused the first half of period 4. The canteens will operate as normal at first break, and at break 2 the bottom canteen will be open for grab and go purchases only.

This is a lovely event when the whole school can eat a festive meal together. Please remind your child to purchase their ticket quickly if they want to take part

VLT staff conference

On Thursday 23rd November, all staff at Vyners came together for our annual staff conference. The theme of the conference this year was *Adaptive Teaching*. The concept of adaptive teaching is primarily an approach whereby a teacher will continually assess the strengths and needs of learners within their classrooms and adapt their teaching accordingly to ensure that all learners can meet expectations. This might sound quite obvious, but it is an extension and development from the type of differentiation that many of us might have experienced whilst at school, which, for some, may lead to the lowering of expectations for some students. An interesting blog from the Education Endowment Foundation related to the shift from differentiation to adaptive teaching can be found here [\[click here\]](#).

On the morning of the 23rd November, all teaching and student facing support staff were engaged in two different two fantastic workshops. The first was led by Jane Hayward who spends some of her time at Vyners as our Educational Psychologist. Jane's session focused primarily on reading, memory, managing [cognitive load](#), and getting students ready for learning. The second session was led by Geri Pinnock who also supports the school as our Occupational Therapist. Geri's session focused on helping staff to gain a greater understanding of neurodiversity and practical strategies to help students to concentrate and focus on learning in the classroom, and in particular, for those who find this challenging. These were two fantastic sessions that set the staff up for an excellent set of afternoon workshops that focused on practical adaptive teaching strategies.



On Friday 24th November, over 400 staff from across the trust congregated at Ruislip High School for the biennial VLT Conference. The theme of the day was *Inclusion* which, for the staff at Vyners segwayed

fantastically from the work that we had undertaken on Thursday at Vyners. The main highlights of the day were the two high calibre keynote talks at the start of the day; one from Leora Cruddas, CBE who is the Chief Executive of the Confederation of School Trusts, and the second from Margaret Mulholland, who is the Inclusion Specialist at the Association for School and College Leaders (ASCL) and someone who is currently working with the trust to develop our inclusion strategy and adaptive teaching practice. Both spoke passionately about inclusion (and belonging) in schools and supporting the work that the schools within the trust are working towards.

After some light refreshments, all staff present had the opportunity to attend an inclusion related workshop that were each led by practitioners who are well renowned for their understanding of the inclusion agenda as well as having demonstrated high degrees of inclusive practice in their own areas of work. Ultimately, it was a highly successfully two days of professional learning and I would like to thank the planning team at Vyners for their commitment to professional development at the school as well as the VLT planning team for an excellent day at Ruislip High that successfully brought together staff from the six schools who are currently under the VLT umbrella.

Trial Examinations and End of Term Arrangements

To ensure that there is minimal disruption to students who will be sitting trial examinations over the next two weeks, the school will be running a 2-1-2 day from Monday 11th December through until the end of the autumn term. This means that students will have two lessons in the morning followed by a morning break; then one lesson followed by lunch and then two lessons in the afternoon. The lunch time will be between 12.20pm and 12.50pm for these two weeks. As mentioned, this is to help facilitate the examinations process and is something that we will again be doing during the summer external exam series.

I would also like to remind parents and carers that the last day of the term is Thursday 21st December and that the school day will finish at 12.15pm. The day itself will be a non-uniform day. Students will also have the opportunity to wear a Christmas jumper (if they have one) and they can also make a £1 voluntary contribution via sQuid, which we will be donating to [Save the Children](#).

Whilst it will be a half day, I would ask that all parents and carers support the school by ensuring that their child attends on that day.

Maths in Education and Industry (MEI) Programme

Congratulations Nadeem Tabche, William Goodwin, William Greeves and Shaheer Azizi, all in Year 13 for their successful completion of the MEI programme. The four students took the course last year with MEI, a Maths Educational Charity, and had to complete a final assessment in September which they all passed with very good results. William Greeves has written a paragraph (see below) about his experience on the programme. However, what William doesn't say in his paragraph is that all four students achieved the best results that we have had by any of our students since we began organising it for our sixth formers.

Mr Kelly, Maths Lead Practitioner

I recently participated in a Data Science course, run by MEI, with three other year 13 students. The course consisted of 10 online lectures taught by the data scientists: Tom Button, Ian Dickerson and Natalie Vernon, as well as a bonus lecture presented by a guest speaker from the MET office. The lectures, in addition to tasks given to us through coding notebooks, allowed us to delve deep into modern technologies such as big data analytics and artificial intelligence models used to predict future trends. The course concluded with a written exam and a practical task that involved building models to predict future hotel booking cancellations. Overall, I found the experience to be invaluable in helping me gain a better understanding of how to process large data sets as well as introducing me to new and exciting topics that I could include in my personal statement.

William Greeves (13W)

Longford Lecture

On 22nd November, a group of Vyners students represented the school at the Longford Lecture in Westminster. The Longford Trust is a charity that supports and sponsors ex-convicts as they assimilate into society. Our students were a credit to the school and were praised by Jon Snow and Peter Stanford, the director of the Trust.

Students involved:

Year 13 - Holly Bell, Sophie Wilkinson, Eleanor Urwin, Lenai Clarke, Chloe Rooney, Tabita Nazari, Ciara Davies, Lily Walsh

Year 11 - Ross Bell, Raffael Van Duin, Padraig Mueses Furlong



When the Longford Trust came to our school, we were lucky enough to hear from the scholars themselves. They talked about their experiences in the criminal justice system and how the Longford Trust allowed them to move on with their lives and give them a career path. This enlightened us on the hardships they had been through and how the support from the mentors and scholars involved in this lecture, had helped them achieve the aspirations they desired. I wanted to be involved in this opportunity as it would further my knowledge of my A level subject Politics and it gave me the opportunity to take me outside of my comfort zone and meet people who have had a real impact in this world.

We were given the opportunity to create an amazing programme for any guests attending, as well as handing these out and talking to the guests themselves. I met scholars who had spent a period of time in jail and have now gone on to complete a masters at university. This really inspired me to drive for my goals in the future. We also had the opportunity to hear from Rory Stewart and Jon Snow and their experiences with the criminal justice system. The evening was extremely enjoyable and I would definitely get involved with the Longford Lecture again.

Chloe Rooney, Year 13 Student

Helping Students with Revision

Mr Beale has created a presentation for parents to help assist Year 11 and 13 students with their revision in preparation for the trial exams. It is an approach that History and Politics students are familiar with and is based on a cycle of revision that involves auditing knowledge, checking for understanding, memorising information, organising it around the theme, applying it in some way and then starting the process over until the day of the exam.

Here is the link to the Loom presentation: The Active Revision Cycle - [Watch Video](#)

Free Parent Webinar: Helping Your Child to Alleviate Stress

Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on Stress & Wellbeing on 12th December from 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

Elevate works with students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn how you can help support your children at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

Sign up for the session below to learn some effective stress-management techniques you can use with your child straight away. [Click here to register for free](#)

Provision of halal food in the canteen

Vyners School is a multicultural community and all major religions are represented within our staff and student body.

We have been asked on a number of occasions whether it is possible to serve halal food in the school canteens. We very much wish to accommodate the preference of our muslim students and staff, but also recognise that the provision of an exclusively halal offering would cause difficulties for others.

We have therefore asked our caterers to do the following:

- To vary the menu during the week to ensure that both halal and non-halal items are served. Signage on the serving counter will clearly indicate whether the product being served is halal or non halal (see pictures below)



- Alongside the halal / non-halal offering will also be other products - beef, pork or vegetarian - offering a clear alternative to those who do not wish to purchase the halal / non halal offering that day.

The caterers have supplied to the school a copy of their halal certification documents.

We hope the measures proposed will provide an acceptable level of balance, and ensure that none of our community feel excluded. Can we advise families that, due to space restrictions in our kitchen it is not possible to enforce strict halal segregation procedures. Normal food hygiene rules will of course apply; spoons, dishes, saucepans and chopping boards will only be used for one product at a time, and will be thoroughly washed between uses. Where a product is halal, it will be exclusively so - the canteen will not offer a halal / non-halal version of the same product on the same day

Miss Williams, Business Manager

MFL Christmas Card Competition



A MIGHTY congratulations to all our MFL Christmas card competition entrants! We received over 30 amazing cards making it very hard for our Language Ambassadors to determine the winners.



1- Maryam .Z 7H



2- Amber .W 7P



3- Angie .C 7F



Friends of Vyners Christmas Raffle



FriendsOfVyners
Christmas Raffle 2023
 Draw to be held on the 21st December at Assembly

For just **£1** a ticket you could win one of these fabulous prizes

1st Xbox Series X

2nd Apple Air pod Pro's

3rd £25 voucher

4th £15 voucher

Amazon Fire Tablet
 Kindly donated by
 Alpha Screening
 Live Well

Purchase Raffle Tickets via your child's Squid account

Thank you for your continued support – helping to provide your children with items such as Art Equipment, Cameras, School Mini-buses and Chrome books (to name just a few)

Charity Number: 277209 Lotteries Licence Number: SMLS-08-018

Wrap Up London



Wrap up London is a project run by the charity, *Hands On London*. Vyners staff have collected and donated their pre-loved warm coats, which will be shared directly with frontline charities supporting people through the harshest of cold conditions this winter.

For more information about this charity visit <https://www.handsonlondon.org.uk/wrap-uplondon>.



Safeguarding Snapshot

Please click [\[here\]](#) to read this week's safeguarding snapshot regarding social media and mental health

Ms Ashe, Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group

Week ending 1st December 2023

Year Group	% Attendance
Year 7	92.9%
Year 8	94.1%
Year 9	92.9%
Year 10	93.5%
Year 11	92.7%
Year 12	93.9%
Year 13	93.1%

Top 3 tutorial weekly attendance

Week ending 1st December 2023

Tutorial	% Attendance
12H	98.0
10F	97.8
8W & 13W	97.7%

Headteacher Commendations

Work Related Learning

8F

Aaryan Thakrar

Billy Yeoman

8G

Aaron Rashid
 Amber Patel
 Antonio De Angelis
 Avneek Nandhra
 Ayrton Rai
 Bella Da Costa Lima
 Bradley Stillwell
 David Knight
 Edvardas Statkus
 Ellen Daffern
 George Merrett
 Haitao Liang
 Harry Boxall
 Harry Deanus
 Hawwa Cockar
 Hila Khelwatti

John Kelly
 Khwaish Pandya
 Leonardo Sawden
 Lexie Luckett
 Manav Sachdeva
 Munira Khan
 Naren Malda
 Natalia Christodoulou
 Nya Patel
 Riyan Patel
 Rohan Supeda
 Sam Spooner
 Sof Sadeg
 Wajih Khan
 Waleed Aldhahir

Pastoral

Lara Plesu - 10F
 Elizabeth Smith - 10W
 Matin Oghabi - 11C
 Edward Atkinson - 7G

Erudard Pistorius - 7M
 Munira Khan - 8G
 Harris Mahmood - 8H

English

Chloe Jenkins - 7C

Eva Ali - 7C