



21st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure that you can imagine, the last weeks of the autumn term have felt incredibly busy with festive activities and I believe that both staff and students have enjoyed the different activities that have taken place in recent weeks. For me, the festive period accentuates the value of community as it is a time when people come together to celebrate and share experiences together. I would also like to congratulate students in Years 11 and 13 for successfully navigating their way through the trial exam season and thank all staff involved in the planning and delivery of this series. I am very much aware of the incredible workload that is involved in the marking of the thousands of papers in and around the Christmas period.

Thank you to all parents, carers and guests who were able to attend the annual awards evening last week. These evenings are always special events as they provide us with the opportunity to celebrate some of the major student achievements of the academic year. Unfortunately, our guest speaker, Robin Scagell was unable to attend in person as he had, in fact, tested positive for Covid. However, Robin did send a lovely message for the students and guests, which we have been able to link to this letter [[click here](#)]. It is well worth a watch, particularly if you are interested in the very early days of the school. It was also wonderful to be able to welcome the parents of Mr Cahill back to the school, along with Mr Cahill's partner and cousins back to Vyners, as we presented his award and certificates for super curricular activity for the very first time. My congratulations once again to all prize winners and their families.

I would also like to thank our chef, Allwyn and his team for a fantastic Christmas lunch on Tuesday. The team prepared 450 meals on the day, which were served to staff and students in just over an hour. As has previously been the case, there was a vibrant atmosphere in the canteen area as dozens of students sat with friends as they ate a nutritious meal together with the usual Christmas melodies playing in the background. With over 1600 staff and students on site on a daily basis the school can feel quite fast paced outside of lesson time and I think that I would like to see more opportunities for students and staff to get together in ways such as these on more occasions throughout the year.



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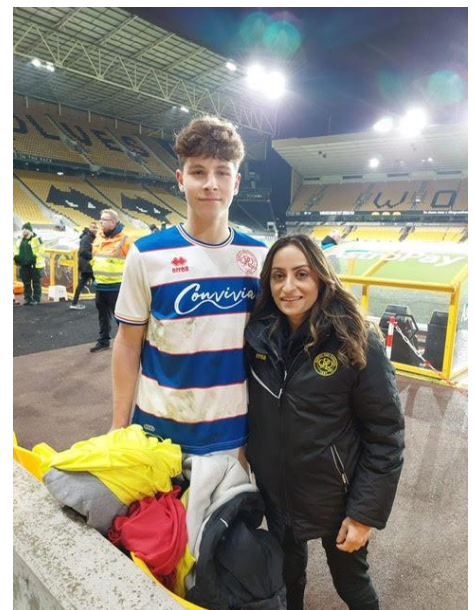
The end of the autumn term usually sees a small number of staff leave the school for one reason or another. Miss Bartlett (teaching assistant) and Mrs Mohammed (Geography) will be taking some time out for their respective maternity leave. We wish them both the very best during this time. Mr Martin will be leaving his role on the premises team after five years of service, whilst Mrs Reid will be moving on from her role in the school office. Mrs Cox has decided to leave Vyners after 6 successful years in the maths department and will be joining the maths department at Watford Boys' Grammar School and Ms Hussain in the computing department will also be leaving us after a successful period of maternity leave to take on other challenges nearer to home.

Mr Davey will be leaving Vyners this week after 15 years at the school as an Assistant Headteacher. Mr Davey has decided to retire from teaching so that he can spend more time with his family. He has been an exceptional teacher of mathematics during his time at the school, teaching our very youngest students in Year 7 right through to our most accomplished Year 13 mathematicians but he has also been instrumental in the way that the school has progressed over the past 10 years and has overseen many significant projects that have improved how the school operates. Mr Davey will be greatly missed at the school and we thank him for his enormous contribution to the many successes at the school.

I would like to thank all of our departing staff for their significant contributions to the school and wishing them every success in their future endeavours.

Amongst the many student achievements over recent weeks, I would like to congratulate Fraser Neill (11W), who had the opportunity on the evening of Wednesday 13th December to play in the FA Youth Cup for Queens Park Rangers against Wolverhampton Wanderers this week. Fraser was in the midst of his trial examinations, but he took time out of his busy schedule to travel to Wolverhampton for the fourth round fixture. This was the first time that Fraser has been selected for the under 18s, which is more impressive as he is two years younger than most of the members of the squad.

We would like to congratulate Fraser and his family on his achievement and look forward to further successes in the new year. My warmest congratulations to Fraser.



The Time Capsule

The History Department has started a magazine, which students decided should be called 'The Time Capsule'. A wide range of students from Year 7 to 13 are involved in the planning, writing and editing of the magazine and I am delighted to say that our first issue is now available. Please [click here](#) to find a wide range of articles, essays and quizzes.

Mr Beale, Subject Leader, History

Vyners KS3 ChemistTREE Competition 2023

The Vyners ChemistTREE Competition for KS3 students took place in December on the theme "Nanomaterials and Quantum Dots". The ChemistTREE competition was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about this very important topic and hopefully understand the importance of nanotechnology in everyday life. Students worked independently or as a team to build on research, communication, teamwork and organisation skills. We received over 30 amazing entries making the judging process very difficult indeed. All the participants will receive a certificate for their hard work and ingenuity in producing their entry.

The ChemistTREE Judging Team was composed of; two Year 12 Chemistry students, Ms Holt (Subject Leader, Science), Mrs Harvey (Deputy Headteacher) and Chief Judge was Mr Mullings.

The Vyners KS3 ChemistTREE Competition 2023 winner were:

First Prize:

Shayan Patel 7C

Second Prize

Zach Easton 8F
Daivya Roy 8M

Third Prize

Qasim Rajgara 7W
Aarush Vohra 7G

I would like to thank all the participants for their engagement, dedication and hard work.

Mr Peran, Assistant Subject Leader, Science

Year 11 Careers Week

Year 11 Careers Week will run between 15th and 19th January 2024. This is an opportunity for students to find out about and explore a range of options, supported by advice from a range of professionals. Please see this letter [\[click here\]](#), which will also be emailed separately to Year 11 parents to provide further details.

Mr Kohli, Head of Careers and Digital Learning

VLT Newsletter - Autumn 2023

The Vanguard Learning Trust newsletter is available to be read and enjoyed by all stakeholders. A copy of the newsletter can be found here [\[click here\]](#).

Safeguarding Snapshot

Following on from last week's snapshot please click [\[here\]](#) to read a 'Top Tips Guide' to setting up parental controls on new devices from The National College.

Community News

Harvil Road Closure – 8th to 28th January 2024

We have been advised of a planned road closure on Harvil Road, to carry out utility works and construction activities to build and finalise the connection sections for the Harvil Road realignment. To carry out the works safely, there will be a full road closure from the 8th to 28th January 2024 between Certas bellmouth and the Dogs Trust for 24 hours a day for the three week period. Click [\[here\]](#) to read the notification letter about the closure.

Friends of Vyners

100 Club

Thank you to all parents and friends of the school who continue to provide additional funds through the Friends of Vyners activities such as the 100 club and quiz nights. The 100 club winners for September and October can be found here [\[click here\]](#). Parents, carers and friends of the school can enter the 100 club at any time via the application form that is linked here [\[click here\]](#).

Christmas Raffle

1 st Prize: Xbox Series X	Julia Heuchert - 11F
2 nd Prize: Apple Air Pods	Benjamin McCormick - 10J
3 rd Prize: £25 Amazon Voucher	James Vipond-Hill – 8C
4 th Prize: £15 Amazon Voucher	Harry Boxall – 8G
5 th Prize: Amazon Fire Tablet	Thando Ndlazi – 11C

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas. I hope that all members of our community are able to spend some quality time with family and friends over the next two weeks and that 2024 is an incredibly successful year for us all.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Mullings". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely".

Gary Mullings
Headteacher