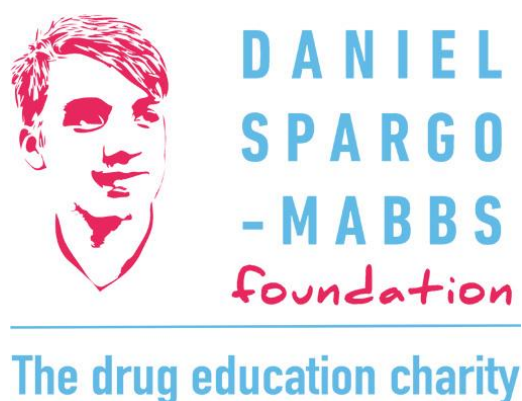


## Headteacher's Update

We were absolutely delighted this week to welcome the [Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation](#) to the school along with Daniel's mother, Fiona. The Foundation was in school to perform a theatre production, *I love you Mum, I promise I won't die*, to students in year 10. The production focuses on raising awareness of issues related to drugs and is followed by a 30 minute workshop that is delivered by the cast.



To mark the tenth anniversary of the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation, a drug education forum has been established to increase the understanding of the effects and risks of drugs and alcohol. It was for this reason that we had the privilege of welcoming Mrs Spargo-Mabbs to the school alongside a production team from the BBC London News. I hope that parents and carers were able to see the item on the news programme on Tuesday evening, which I thought showcased the school and the foundation particularly well. Parents may also be interested in Mrs Spargo-Mabbs' TED talk that outlines why drugs education is vital ([click here](#)).



**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

Thank you to Ms Ashe, Deputy Safeguarding Lead, for leading on this activity and congratulations to the Year 10 cohort for the levels of maturity and engagement that they displayed throughout what was a very thought provoking production.

## Mr Cahill's Memorial

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, the school held a memorial service for Mr Neill Cahill, on the anniversary of his passing. Twenty five members of Mr Cahill's family attended, including his parents, Barbara and Vincent and his partner Pedro. The service was also attended by groups of students in Years 9-11 and Sixth Formers, who Mr Cahill had taught or worked with as an Assistant Headteacher. Following the service, there was an unveiling of the sign for the newly named 'Neill Cahill Learning Resource Centre' and an opportunity for staff to pay their respects to the family. The Neill Cahill Award for Supercurricular Achievement, and Daffodil Garden & bench will also pay respect to his memory.



## DfE Mobile Phone Guidance

Eagle eyed parents and carers may have been aware this week that the Department for Education (DfE) published guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. The guidance document can be found here ([click here](#)). Whilst some have questioned just how necessary this guidance is given the range of issues that need to be addressed in the education system, the document has given clarity about the government's expectations with regard to the use of mobile phones during the school day.

What is clear is that this guidance is driven by research. For example, last year, a Unesco report ([click here](#)), highlighted that mobile phone use in schools can be a distraction to learning and increased risks to children's privacy and well-being. We know that lots of children spend a disproportionate amount of time on electronic devices outside of the school day and we believe that their time in school should be used learning social skills that are derived from interacting with peers face-to-face.

Parents and carers will see that the DfE guidance provides four options for managing mobile phone use in schools (page 7). At Vyners, our approach is very much aligned with the ***never used, see or heard*** principle that recognises that many families like their child to have a device with them for their journey to and from school but that the school does not allow for devices to be used during the school day. We anticipate that we will continue with a similar approach whereby mobile phones should be turned off during the school day and that sanctions are applied for students who choose to ignore these instructions.

I do anticipate that there will be some minor changes to our behaviour policies and practices in the future so that we fully meet the DfE criteria.

In the meantime, we would greatly appreciate the support of parents and carers with this issue and would particularly ask that parents refrain from attempting to contact their child on their mobile devices for any reason during the school day.

## School Production - Sister Act

I would like to wish the very best of luck to all students and staff who are involved in the production of **Sister Act**, which will be performed in the main hall from Wednesday through to Friday of next week. We are very much looking forward to the performances and also, to welcoming parents, carers and friends of Vyners to the school including children from local primary schools.

Thank you to Mrs Moore, Mr Cullum and their teams for their hard work and dedication to the arts.

**Gary Mullings, Headteacher**

## English Department News

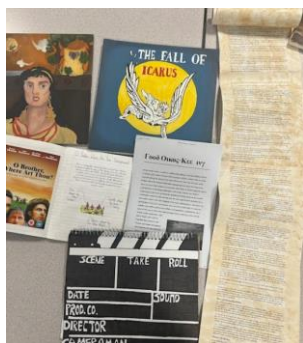
### KS3 and KS4 English Enrichment Projects

Years 8 and 10 are working hard on their Enrichment Projects this term; an element of the English Super Curriculum that encourages all pupils to undertake a creative task that is linked to the term's topic of study. Whilst Year 8 have been exploring their interpretations of the genre of Tragedy, Year 10 have been reflecting upon their understanding of Dystopian Fiction. Incredible efforts have been made by our students to create a range of final products, such as speeches delivered to their classmates and illustrations to accompany a novel (as seen in a student's engagement with *The Hunger Games* below). We commend all of our students for their fantastic participation and support of each other's work and look forward to seeing what Years 7 and 9 create in the Summer Term.



## KS5 English Enrichment Projects

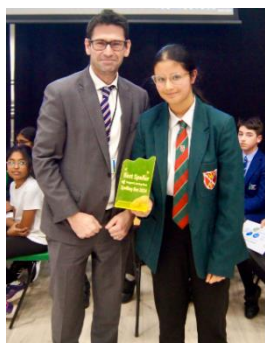
At A Level, English enrichment projects encourage students to enjoy ambitious and influential texts and genres beyond what is on the exam syllabus. English Literature is all about exploring the human condition. The classical literature of ancient Rome and Greece certainly provided fruitful inspiration for our Year 12 students to discover more about common experiences and the way we've made sense of the world around us. Some of the ideas students opted to explore included 'the hero's journey' in the Odyssey; how the story of Medea can still help us gain insight into the complexities of gender politics; and a guide to love, curated through the unique voice of the Greek philosopher Apollodorus. The students' effort and expertise is to be truly commended. We are looking forward to seeing what they come up with for their current enrichment project: the Nineteenth-Century Novel.



## Spelling Bee Competition

Ten of our year 7 students attended the Vanguard Trust's 'Spelling Bee' competition. A warm thank you to the following students who supported team Vyners:

Eduard Pistorious (7M), Rahul Patel (7M,) Japji Gill (7M), Zahra Mamujee (7C), Finley Meeuws (7P), Orlaith O'Donoghue (7W) Macey McDonnall (7P) Haya Abu Irshaid (7W) Yelena Vukotic (7J) Dev Nair (7W) who participated in the event.



A special mention to Japji Gill who came first in taking the crown of Trust Best Speller! A tremendous effort - well done!

(Japji Gill with Mr Davies, Headteacher Ruislip High School)

**Ms Hussain, English Department**

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

Approximately 120 students in years 9 and 10 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge (UKMT) on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. In all, 55 students earned either Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates. The UKMT invites about 8000 students across England and Wales to take part in the next round of the competition.

Six Vyners students have qualified for the next round. They are, Kavvye Sikka (10), Anton Rogatin (10), Ben McCormick (10), Nathan Douglas (9), Dylan Lewis (9) and Lincoln Tam (9).

Congratulations to all students who participated and good luck to the six students who have progressed to the next stage of this fantastic competition.

**Ms Malegaonkar, Maths Department**

## World Book Day - 7th March 2024

Do you have any books for teenage readers cluttering up your house? Would you like them to give reading pleasure to another child? Our 'Bookswap bookcase' in our lower canteen currently has space for donations. Any student may take a book from this bookcase, for free. It is theirs to keep - or to drop back and swap for another. It would be great to see this facility full for World Book Day in March.

If you are able to donate items, please drop them at school reception. Thank you.

**Miss Williams, Business Manager**

## Year 12 Food Practical

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, our Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition students completed the practical element of their Year 12 non exam assessment. The challenge was to complete three courses in three hours, demonstrating a range of complex preparation, cooking and presentation skills. This year, the students had to plan their dishes with the nutritional needs of children in mind. Using their own meticulous planning, attention to detail and organisation skills, all were able to produce a fantastic array of culinary delights. Students completed highly complex tasks such as making pasta and puff pastry from scratch. The results were extremely impressive! Congratulations to all involved.





## Equality Week

This week, the Vyners community celebrated the fundamental principle of equality. The Vanguard Learning Trust Equality Week serves as a reminder of the progress we've made and the work still ahead to ensure that every individual is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. It's a time to amplify diverse voices and commit ourselves to building a more inclusive society.

In the spirit of unity, Vyners hosting a variety of events, from cooking workshops highlighting cuisines from around the world to its vibrant Irish dancing workshop and Year 7 language event. These activities not only showcase the richness of our cultural tapestry but also provide opportunities for people of all backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and forge meaningful connections.

As part of our commitment to fostering understanding and acceptance, we are thrilled to welcome LGBTQI+ rights advocate and keynote speaker, Jude Guaitamacchi. Jude's courageous journey and unwavering dedication to promoting equality inspire us all. Their powerful message resonates deeply with our mission of inclusivity, reminding us that every individual deserves to live authentically and without fear of discrimination.



## Cultural Cooking Workshop

As part of the Trust equality and diversity week, students were invited to attend a cultural cooking workshop on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the food department. On arrival, participants were provided with the ingredients and instructions to make a dish from another culture. These included Anzac biscuits, Caribbean patties, vegetable samosas and various other culinary delights. Thank you to all who took part.



**Mr Welch, DT and Food Department**

## Design and Technology

### Careers Focus: DK-CM & StudioFolk Architects

The Design and Technology Department led an all-day architectural model making workshop for GCSE and A-Level Design & Technology students at Vyners School on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. The focus of the day was on how and why Architects use models in professional practice, and the practical skill of crafting them with precision and accuracy. The building we chose to model was Mies Van der Rohe's Farnsworth House, in Illinois, USA, built in 1950-51. The student took on the challenge and created some beautiful and highly detailed models, demonstrating their ability to interpret how real world objects can be represented effectively at scale.

Thank you all for a great day!

*Edward, StudioFolk Architects & Ameeka, DK-CM*





## Sister Act News

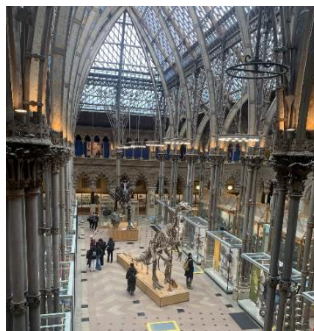
Below is a rehearsal shot of our 'Sitzprobe' - where the band and the actors get together for the first time and sing through the entire show!

We are excited to get the sound, lighting and video equipment installed on Friday, ready for our Saturday and Sunday rehearsals. We look forward to performing in assemblies on Monday - Thursday and to our audiences on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7.30pm. Availability is more limited on Friday but we still have tickets left on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

We love to invite you, your families, friends and neighbours to watch over 100 Vyners Students work together as a brilliant Company on Sister Act!

## Art Department News

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February, the art and photography year 13 students went to Oxford to get inspired for their exam theme. We visited the Ashmolean museum and Gallery, the Pitt Rivers museum and the Natural history museum as well as taking many photos around Oxford. It was a great reminder how easy and close Oxford is and just how much wonderfully enriching art and culture there is on our doorstep. Good luck to all the year 11 and 13 who have started this year's exam theme.



## Mrs Moore, Subject Leader, Drama and Performing Arts

## Music News

Hannah Steele in Year 9 sang at St George's Chapel in Windsor on Saturday with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and conducted by the world famous composer John Rutter as part of his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. Congratulations Hannah for being selected to be part of such an amazing event.

## Mr Cullum, Subject Leader, Music

## Mrs Vine, Subject Leader Art and Photography

## Student Leadership

Thank you and well done to all students (over 100 of you!) who applied to become Form Representatives and members of the Vyners Student Council. It was a very difficult choice - congratulations to all those who have been selected. The Student Council members met for the first time just before half term, and will now be meeting regularly to discuss ideas to improve the school. If any students have feedback on any areas of school life, please speak to your Form Rep, who will share it with their year group's Student Council members.

The Form Reps for 2023-24 are as follows (students in bold are also on the Student Council):

Cheshire: Zahrah Mamujee (Y7), Eesa Lateef (Y8), Ambar Dhaliwal (Y10)

Fry: Sereene Bhandal (Y7), Zach Easton (Y8), Genna Bains (Y9), Jasleen Johal (Y10), Khushal Pankhania (Y11)

Gell: Amrita Bansal (Y7), **Munira Khan (Y8)**, Ashmeet Viridi (Y10), **Christopher Luscombe (Y11)**

Huxley: **Adam Khan (Y7)**, Anya Patel (Y8), Dylan Lewis (Y9), Leena Amin (Y10), Franklin Rowlands (Y11)

Jaggar: Yelena Vukotic (Y7), Ahmed Mohamed (Y8), Lexie Lewis-Zannini (Y9), Gurneet Narang (Y10)

John Miles: Anaya Tamber (Y7), Daivya Roy (Y8), **Andrew Niznik (Y10)**, Rachel West (Y11)

Parks: Yaphet Said (Y7), Lara Mansour (Y8), Olivia Greenlees (Y10), Nikhil Gera (Y11)

Windsor: Qasim Rajgara (Y7), Catherine Gallagher (Y8), **Sienna Barton (Y9)**, Elizabeth Smith (Y10), Yara Imad (Y11)

**Mrs Gardner, Student Leadership Coordinator**

## Sports Update

### Middlesex Cross Country

Four students represented Hillingdon in the Middlesex Cross Country Competition on Tuesday 6th February. This was a windy course with lots of hills at Harrow School and the students did very well.

Elsie Fitzgerald finished 1<sup>st</sup> for the Year 7 Girls and it was a pleasure to see her run so well. There is no progression for Year 7s but watch out for Elsie next year!



Dylan came 5<sup>th</sup> out of everyone in Middlesex for Year 8/9 boys and has automatically qualified for Nationals in Pontefract.

We wish Dylan the best of luck for nationals!

**Miss Hawes, PE Department**

### Ski Trip 2024

Over the half term Vyners students in Years 11-13 went on the annual ski trip to Alpendorf, Austria. The students had a fantastic week with 5 full days skiing and evening activities. The group represented the school in the best way possible and were a joy to teach according to the instructors. We had a mixed group from beginners to expert skiers with all students managing to competently ski across multiple mountain ranges by Wednesday, a fantastic achievement.

I would like to thank the teachers who gave up their half term to assist me on the trip; Miss Hawes, Miss Brown, Miss Hockley, Miss John and Mr Sankey. Onwards with the planning of the Ski Trip 2025 where details will come out to parents after the Easter break.



**Mr Hall, Subject Leader, PE**



## Safeguarding Snapshot

### Supporting children with self-regulation

The ability to manage our feelings, thoughts and behaviours in effective ways, known as self-regulation, is gained gradually through childhood and into adolescence.

It's acknowledged as a pivotal element in young people's development but can prove trickier for some children to master than others.



Please click [\[here\]](#) to find expert suggestions on ways of supporting children as they build their ability to self-regulate

### FOV Quiz Night

The last FOV Quiz Night raised £855 which is an incredible achievement and it is worth reminding parents and carers that the proceeds help the school to fund activities and resources for the school that would normally be beyond our budgetary limits. The Friends of Vyners also continue to support events in school and we are grateful for all of the work that they do in support of the school community.


The next Quiz Night is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

## Information Received



### Parent Carer Support

Raising children doesn't come with a handbook, and sometimes knowing who to reach out to for support or advice is tricky. Brilliant Parents and the Stronger Families Key Working team are offering a friendly and informal drop-in for parents/carers of 0-18 year olds and 0-25 year olds for those with SEND.



We'll be there for a chat, to share advice, support and a range of information in relation to parenting, and mental and emotional wellbeing for all the family.

2024	Harefield Children's Centre High Street, Harefield UB9 6BT	Uxbridge Family Hub Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW	Hayes Family Hub College Way, Hayes UB3 3BB
	Wednesdays 1-3pm	Fridays 5-7pm	Fridays 10am - 12pm
March	6th	8th	15th
April	3rd	12th	19th
May	1st	10th	17th
June	5th	14th	21st
July	3rd	12th	19th
August	7th	16th	23rd
September	4th	13th	20th

For more information contact Sarah on:  
07495 024 449 or  
[sarah.rust@brilliantparents.org](mailto:sarah.rust@brilliantparents.org)

Our goal is to empower parents to feel safe, strong and healthy, whilst building resilience and confidence in your parenting decisions, with the support of a community network.