

Weekly Vyne Bulletin

HEADTEACHER'S Headlines 9 September 2016

Welcome to all our new parents and a warm welcome back to everyone else after the long summer break. I am sure it has been a shock to the system but I have been very impressed by the students as they start the new academic year, immediately focussed in lessons and engaged in their learning. Welcome also to the new staff that have joined Vyners this term; they are a talented group of people that will make a significant contribution to the school over the coming years; Miss Arnold (Maths); Mrs Bennett (Science); Miss Britton (PE); Miss Hennessey (English and RE); Mrs Hibbins (HIRB); Mrs James (Sensory Team); Mr Khan (Computing); Mrs Latham (HIRB); Miss Leathers (Psychology); Mrs Lloyd (KS3 transition teacher); Mr Lonergan (Maths); Ms Lynch (Teacher of the Deaf); Miss Morley (English); Miss Parsons (Media) and Miss Tozser (Teacher of the Deaf). We are also delighted to welcome back; Mrs Brewer (Music); Mrs Chapman (PE); Mrs Evans (Learning Support); Miss Gourlay (HIRB) and Miss Kinyanjui (D&T). The new Year 7 students have settled in extremely well and are facing up to the challenge of finding their way around the school and bringing all the extra equipment they need to school every day.

The school has felt like a building site over the summer as, once again, we have spent a significant amount of time and money improving the learning environment. The major projects this summer have included; refurbishment of the science labs; new glass walling in the LRC to create a new study and research space; refurbishment of the boys' and girls' changing room toilets; new external water fountains; resurfacing of the double tennis courts; new carpets and doors for the top two floors of the school; refurbishment of the staffroom; new outdoor benching, kindly donated by the Hughes family; new internal and external displays and just about every communal area, including the Sports Hall has been repainted. I would like to pay tribute to the Premises team, led by Mr Seabridge and Miss Williams (Business Manager) for all their work in getting the school ready for the new school year. The learning environment at Vyners has been completely overhauled over the past four years and it is a wonderful place for students to feel inspired, safe and valued. I would also like to thank the Network Support team, led by Mr Fiaz, for all their work on upgrading the computer systems around the school over the summer break.

I am delighted to report that the school has once again achieved outstanding exam results this summer, including our best ever A-Level results. 58% of grades were A*-B (up from 53% in 2015) and an incredible 33% of all grades were A*-A. The majority of students are now off to university to study courses as diverse as Medicine, Pharmacy, Fine Art, Law and Philosophy. Despite the pass rate, nationally, declining significantly this year at GCSE, Vyners students continued their impressive results from 2015 with over 80% achieving an A*-C grade in both English and Maths. Congratulations to all the students for all their hard work and the support and guidance given to them by the staff and parents.

Our focus for 2016-17 is to develop a Growth Mindset amongst staff, students and parents – helping us to really understand the theory and practice behind these concepts and embedding them in the culture of the school. We have already done a lot of work on this area and many assemblies were focused around developing a Growth Mindset last year. We will once again be running workshops for parents and I would encourage you to engage with your children about the key themes so that you can embed that at home. Students are only with us for 25% of the time so it essential that if students are to become resilient, self-motivated, successful, young adults the principles of developing a Growth Mindset are supported at home. Over the coming weeks and months we will be sharing research and top tips with you but in the meantime, if you have not already had the opportunity, please can I commend the following books to you on Growth Mindset – 'Mindset' by Carol Dweck and 'Bounce' by Matthew Syed.

On Wednesday next week we have our Co-Curricular Fayre after school. This is primarily aimed at Year 7 and 8 students so that they can see the array of clubs and societies on offer at Vyners and so that they can plan their time after school. We expect that every student at Vyners engages with at least one co-curricular activity and the vast majority do two or more. On Thursday we have our annual Awards Evening and this year's guest speaker is ex-student Sue Cook, legendary radio and TV presenter as well as twice published, novelist will be reflecting on her time at Vyners and her successful career since. Sue was due to join us last year but was taken ill at the eleventh hour so we are excited to welcome her back to Vyners in 2016.



A reminder to parents that we would encourage you to follow us on Twitter @vynersschool for up-to-date information about the school and regularly check the website for news items and calendar events. I and all the staff look forward to working with you over the course of this academic year as the school continues to go from strength to strength.

James Heale
Headteacher

Important Dates for the Diary

September

Thur 15 Sept 7.30pm - Awards Evening
Fri 23 Sept 7.30pm - Friends of Vyners Quiz Night

Tues 27 Sept 6.00pm - Years 12 & 13 Parents Evening - Raising Achievement

October

Wed 5 Oct 6.00pm - Junior School Open Evening

Thur 13 Oct 6.00pm - Friends of Vyners Year 7 Cheese and Wine Evening / Parental Feedback Forum

Fri 21 Oct - Year 11 Careers Day

HALF TERM

Monday 24 - Friday 28 October 2016

Parent Portal

Over the summer the Parent Portal was upgraded to provide a new interface which is now more suitable for use on all mobile devices, as well as PCs. There are no changes to the login details, and the information displayed is the same, with the addition of medical details we hold for the students.

Any Year 7 parent who has a login for older siblings, will be able to see details for their Year 7 student too. Parents who are new to the school will receive their login details by email before the end of September.

All queries please email portal@vyners.hillingdon.sch.uk

AWARDS EVENING

Thursday 15 September 2016

If you are a parent of an Award winner and have been invited to the Awards Evening on

Thursday 15 September, can you please ensure that you have confirmed your attendance by 3.30pm on Tuesday 13 September. Please remember only TWO guests per award winner will be permitted.

YEARS 7 & 12 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Individual photos for Years 7 and 12 plus sibling photos for all year groups will be taken on Monday 26 September 2016. More details will follow.