

Vyners School
Striving for Excellence

Sixth Form

Community | Aspiration | Respect | Endeavour



‘Throughout my time at Vyners I received great support from my teachers. Applying real world situations to education is something embraced by the school.’

Josh Valman, CEO of RPD International

Welcome to Vyners Sixth Form

A warm welcome to Vyners Sixth Form. We believe that you should have the best possible start to your future and we work very hard to make this happen. Our Sixth Form is the stepping stone to your future, where hard work and extensive opportunities for enrichment are integral parts of our offer. Students who leave our Sixth Form are confident, independent and responsible young people who are excellently equipped to take their place in, and contribute to, society.

In the Sixth Form we offer you the opportunity to engage in your studies as well as helping you to develop the skills you will need to be successful in your future career. Fulfilling your potential through excellent qualifications is fundamental to Vyners, though this is balanced with the aim of developing more personal qualities through involvement in a range of enrichment activities and work experience.



This experience takes place in a competitive yet supportive environment where we develop your ability to help yourself. You are encouraged to be intellectually curious, to read widely around your subjects and to challenge theory. These study skills, alongside time management and organisation, are the qualities that are essential for success and which students in the Sixth Form enjoy.

There is an extensive range of subjects available which will allow you to pursue your passions and can facilitate entry to leading universities and apprenticeship programmes. Extra courses such as the Extended Project Qualification, stretch and challenge you and further support your preparation for university study or vocational training.

Students in our Sixth Form have fun, work hard and make lifelong friendships. They are an integral part of this great school, where there is a shared desire to succeed and to contribute to the school community. We are constantly striving for excellence, to be the very best at what we do. We invite you to join us on our journey and to become a part of the Vyners community.

Mrs N Harvey
Deputy Headteacher
Curriculum and KS5

Mr G Mullings
Headteacher

Why continue your education at Vyners School?

We have a proven track record of high attainment and successful applications to leading universities

There are various reasons why you might decide to choose Vyners Sixth Form:

- You enjoy studying and would like to pursue your favourite subjects in more depth or begin a new course of study
- You have, as yet, no definite career plans but you would like to continue your education in an outstanding school
- You want to be part of a successful Sixth Form that achieves excellent A* & A grades at A level.
- You have a particular career in mind and you need to progress to higher education or you want vocational experience and further qualifications to support your entry into that field
- We offer a range of academic subjects which are sought after by top universities.



In a competitive employment market, and in an educational climate where increasing numbers of students remain in education until the age of 18, the opportunity of continuing your education in the Sixth Form in order to gain A-Level and Level 3 qualifications is clearly attractive. There are a number of obvious advantages in choosing this route:

- There are smaller teaching groups than you have been used to which leads to increased opportunity for individual attention and active participation in learning.
- There are significant opportunities to broaden your horizons beyond the classroom by taking part in the many trips and visits offered by the school to its Sixth Formers both nationally and internationally.
- There are many opportunities to develop leadership skills, employability skills and to build a profile that will enable you to secure a place at a top university or on an apprenticeship scheme.
- We have a comprehensive enrichment curriculum that aims to provide every student with opportunities outside of their chosen academic areas to develop and grow as young adults ready for the world of work.
- Our students achieve outstanding results which enable them to progress to the best universities and apprenticeships.



‘The skills I gained at school have prepared me for the many roles I have taken on at university as part of my law degree, including working as a diversity mentor, a blogger on a law careers website and organising charity events.’

Masha Rankin, Law graduate and Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice



‘The school provides high-quality information, advice and guidance to students. There is a strong track record of students going on to further education and employment.’

Ofsted

Life in the Sixth Form

Enrichment and co-curricular enrichment is a key part of students' learning and personal development. We host a vast range of opportunities for students to engage further with their academic learning and develop their personal qualities through a range of events, visits and extra-curricular activities. New members are always welcome to the activities on offer at Vyners School, including:



- Music Ensembles and Concerts
- Sustainability Group
- Sports Trips and Tours
- Geography Field Trips
- University Visits and Induction Days
- Charity Tasks
- Drama groups and the school production

Duke of Edinburgh Award

All Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award with some progressing to the Gold Award. Recognising your hard work outside of school, the award includes four sections:

- **Volunteering:** service to the community, a non-profit club or charity.
- **Physical:** develop your skills in a particular type of sport
- **Skills:** develop your skills in a non-physical activity such as a language, a musical instrument, cooking, photography, etc.

- **Expedition:** take part in a series of overnight expeditions to develop your teamwork, hiking, navigation and camp-craft skills.

At Vyners, we currently offer three different types of the Silver Award:

- Silver 1** (for holders of the Bronze Award);
- Silver 2** (for direct entrants, without Bronze)
- Silver 3** (D of E Leadership).

We encourage students to undertake enrichment activities to broaden their experience at Vyners and to gain an edge for both university and employment applications.

Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a qualification that is recognised by universities and gains UCAS points. It develops essential academic skills for further study and the world of work and is increasingly favoured as an additional qualification by top universities. The EPQ allows students the opportunity to research and write academically about an area of study they are particularly interested in and encourages curiosity and creativity. This qualification relies mainly on self-motivated and self-disciplined study, but each student receives a mentor who advises and guides them through the course.

Super Curricular activities, online courses (MOOCs) and virtual work experience opportunities are shared regularly with students in order to broaden their experience and add to their personal profile

Responsibilities and Leadership

At Vyners we are conscious of the importance of students needing to stand out in an increasingly competitive world. As part of our community service expectations we create many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Students in Year 13 are encouraged to apply for the student Leadership Team via a rigorous 'Apprentice' style selection process, designed to showcase and develop their cognitive and practical skills.

Students form their own leadership team, in which they take on various roles from mentoring, peer to peer support, buddying, planning for and delivering assemblies and break and lunch duties. These students are also representatives on the student voice panel. These roles enable students to showcase their potential as leaders, and many make the natural transition to the leadership positions available to them as Year 13 students.



Students in Year 12 also apply to be House Captains in each of our six Houses. Some of the duties for House Captains include being responsible for devising scripts or compositions and leading and rehearsing younger students for the House Competitions in Drama and Music each year.

Our Sixth Form students are innovative and forward thinking, all of which is evident in the initiatives that they take part in throughout the year. From running discussion and debate clubs, to setting up their own lunchtime clubs to discuss medicine and science based research in support of their university applications. Students also spend much of their free time supporting students either on a one to one basis in a specific subject, or supporting a classroom teacher within their lesson. We also encourage our students in the research and delivery of assemblies to other students within the school.

Pastoral Support

Each student is a member of a tutor group. We also have two pastoral mentors who, along with tutors, will be the first point of contact should you need help or guidance.

Our tutorial system has an emphasis on supporting you as a person, through our tutorial sessions and assemblies, each with a focus on mental health, study skills, current affairs and your progression after Sixth Form, whether that be further education, an apprenticeship or straight into the workplace.

We run a broad careers programme at KS5 which includes a wide range of speakers from a breadth of different occupations - many of whom are alumni. These contacts offer support with interviews and mentoring as well as giving workshops on resilience and how to apply for university or for an apprenticeship.



Students receive specialist support in applying to university, including Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities. Students have access to careers and UCAS support via the tutor and Sixth Form teams and relevant information regarding making an excellent application is updated regularly. We want our students to aspire to be the best they possibly can, and at Vyners we believe the sky is their limit!

Sixth Form Dress Code

We have a formal dress code in Vyners Sixth Form and expect all students to adhere to the smart dress code.

- A suit jacket must be worn when walking around the school, as well as for assemblies and other formal occasions.
- Students should wear a suit or jacket and trousers or skirt, a shirt and tie or blouse / plain top. Skirts should be of a sensible length. If a jumper is worn then it should be a V neck, and should fit under a jacket.
- An official Vyners practical uniform can be worn for relevant subjects - your subject teachers will determine which days you can wear this. This comprises a Vyners hoodie, plain black tracksuit bottoms and plain black trainers.
- A lanyard must be visible at all times when moving around the school.
- Outdoor coats should be plain with no designs or logos and must be removed in the school building.
- No hoodies, sweatshirts, jeans or trainers are permitted.

Life after A Levels

Early Entry Applications: Oxbridge/ Veterinary/ Dentistry/ Medicine Programme

Students who wish to pursue a career in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, as well as applications to Oxford, Cambridge and other high performing universities are given additional guidance and support through a bespoke program of activities and support sessions to fulfill the requirements necessary for early entry applications.

Coaching sessions are delivered by subject specialists to enable students to prepare through opportunities such as wider reading, courses at linked institutions and interview preparation.

The majority of students leaving us after completing A Level courses in recent years, took up places at university including the following Sunday Times Top 20 universities: Bath, Bristol, Durham, Kings, Leeds, Loughborough, LSE, Southampton, Surrey and Sussex.

An increasing number of students have been successful in securing apprenticeships in leading companies such as Rolls-Royce, Google, Cisco, BBC and British Gas.

Making the right choices

We are very aware that it is very important that students make the right choices post Year 13.

In Year 12, in order to help with your decision, we use Unifrog as an integral support mechanism to ensure all of our students are well prepared for post-18 progression. Unifrog is unique as it brings into one place every university course, apprenticeship, and college course in the UK and many worldwide, as well as other opportunities, such as School Leaver Programmes, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and every college at Oxford and Cambridge.

Our students use Unifrog to search for and then shortlist their chosen courses for university. They then select their 'safe', 'solid' and 'aspirational' choices for courses. The Sixth Form team encourage students to use this programme to make informed choices about which university open days to attend.

We use Unifrog as an essential tool for students to make university applications or applications for apprenticeships, jobs and college courses. The platform makes it easy for students to record their strengths and write their CVs and Personal Statements. Teachers can give their students feedback and write references directly onto the site in collaboration with colleagues. The user-friendly system for university application mirrors the structure of the UCAS process so that students are extremely well prepared for the final application made through UCAS.

The success of Unifrog has now meant that students in Year 11 have actively used the programme whilst making their A Level choices and in order to be fully informed about the potential courses or placements on offer to them with different combinations of A Level or BTEC qualifications.

Choosing your subjects

All students are expected to study 3 subjects. Students are free to choose from a range of A level or equivalent courses. In addition to this, students will be encouraged to further enhance their study by choosing to do an EPQ or encouraged to complete Core Mathematics to complement their chosen A Levels.

Here are some important points to bear in mind when deciding which subjects to study:

- Passion for your subject is essential. You will need to be actively engaged in the subject to maintain the motivation to achieve the best possible grades.
- For new subject areas, not taught at GCSE level, make sure you talk to members of staff with responsibility for the subject so you know what will be required of you.
- Talking to current Sixth Form students is a way to learn from their experiences.
- Future plans are important. If you have a particular course or career in mind, you should carefully research that subject.
- Consider the subject entry requirements for university.
- Speak to members of staff at school, and in particular the Sixth Form team who will be able to advise you.

Past students ...



Dylan Houston 2012- 2019

"The leadership skills and confidence I gained during my seven years at Vyners have shaped my life in every way imaginable, allowing me to achieve things that would otherwise be beyond reach.

Vyners always encouraged me to broaden my horizons by exploring my subjects beyond what the curriculum required. It was because of this encouragement, that I was able to work with both Apple and Adobe, before even completing my A Levels. In my penultimate year, I was awarded a scholarship by Apple, allowing me to visit their annual conference in California, giving me real world insights into my subjects. Later that year, I was selected to present some of my work at a technology summit held by Apple in Berlin. It was thanks to the immense support that I received from everyone at Vyners that I had the confidence to apply for and pursue these incredible opportunities.

The guidance and support I received when selecting universities allowed me to apply to some of the best in the country. I am currently at the University of St Andrews, studying for a BSc in Computer Science and Physics. Studying a joint degree, a decision that stemmed from my A Level choices, has caused me to develop an interest in quantum computing, the ever-growing research field that I intend to eventually be a part of.

When I look back on my time at Vyners, I don't think of the school that I went to, I think of a community that I am proud to still be a part of. The people I met, the skills I gained, and the fond memories made will stay with me for the rest of my life."



Laura White 2014 - 2020

"When you walk through the doors of Vyners, you become part of a community, a family and a legacy. It is a school which is supportive, yet encourages you to take on new challenges.

The school has enabled me to achieve academic success, but also instilled a great sense of confidence and taught me a lot about leadership. Often I've progressed from being a participant to a leader. For example, I took part in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Schools Programme: across three years I performed with a group of other Vyners students in the streets of Uxbridge, at the Andrew Lloyd Webber Theatre in Chiswick and eventually alongside RSC actors in Stratford-Upon-Avon in a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The following year, I became an RSC ambassador: I wrote, directed and produced a street performance of *The Tempest*. This gave me the confidence to attend an English Literature summer school at the University of Oxford. The summer school clarified for me that English was the subject I wanted to study at University and I'm hoping to read English in September at Durham University.

My seven years at Vyners have been characterised by excellent education, but have also involved opportunities beyond anything I ever thought possible and forming friendships that will last a lifetime. Even having left Vyners, it remains a place which feels like home."



Jasleen Chaggar 2010-2017

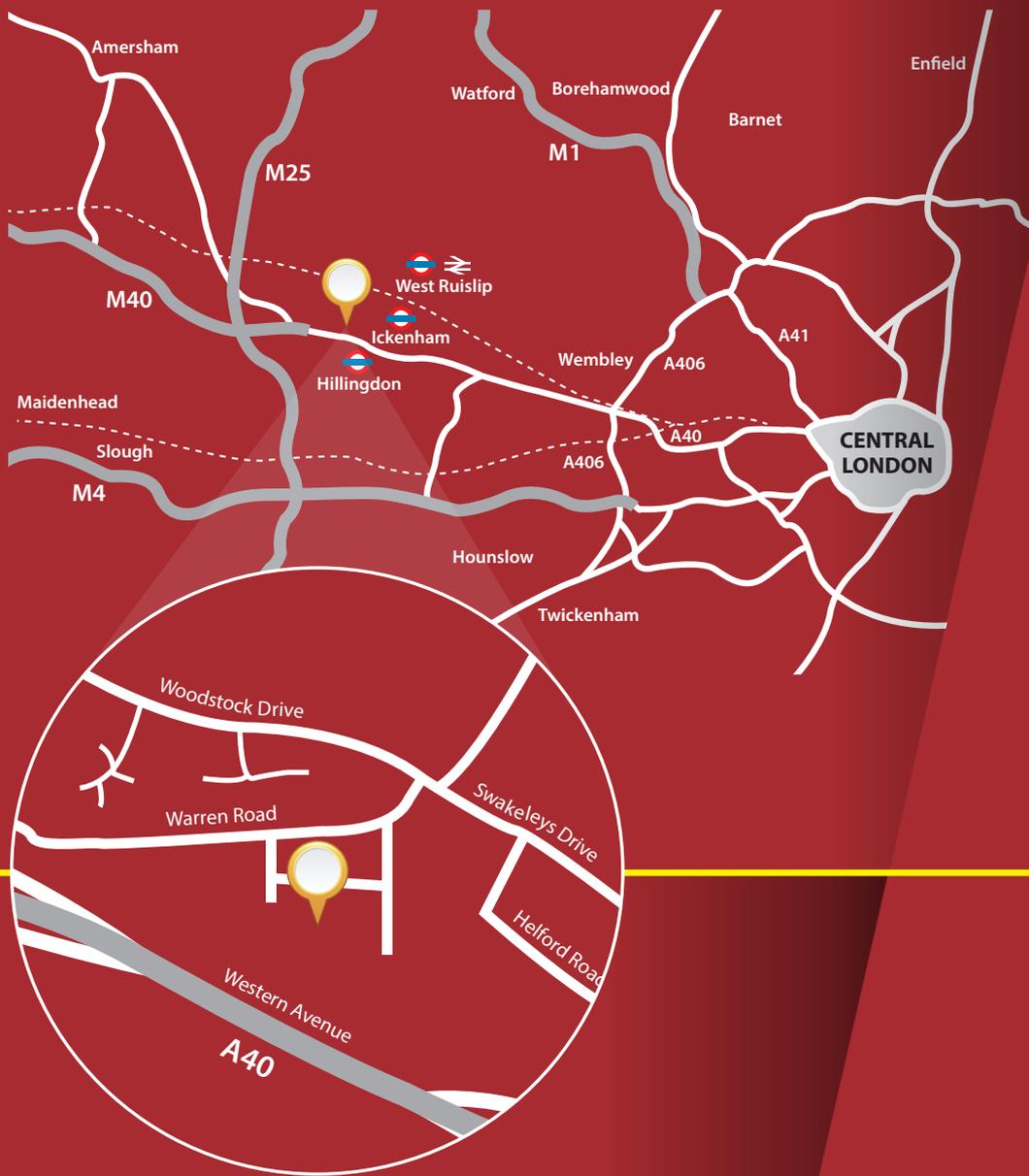
"Like any institution, students get as much from Vyners as they put in. The difference however lies in the real sense of community that can be felt at the school.

During my time at Vyners, it was this sense of community that encouraged me and many other students to contribute to the life of the school. With so many students feeling similarly and actively participating in extra curricular and school events, Vyners is built around a warm environment which celebrates the value of community and service. In my time there, I found that students shape Vyners as much as it shapes us.

Vyners gave me the confidence to consider options outside of the UK for university. I currently study at Columbia University in New York. This year I have been able to take advantage of the American 'liberal arts' system, exploring classes from literature to economics and physics to philosophy. I have also been able to get involved with extracurricular activities such as Afro-cuban dance and a policy think tank, as well as hearing the Presidents of Colombia and Ghana speak on campus and visiting Washington DC to meet with Senators. Through Columbia, I have also had the opportunity to spend the summer in Peru interning at a NGO.

Without the leadership and service opportunities at Vyners, as well as the strong support of my teachers, I never would have even been able to consider the American route, which is typically reserved for the most privileged of private school students.

Vyners has given me a set of skills, values and friendships to take with me long after I hung up my bottle green blazer."



Vyners School is situated in the popular village of Ickenham, near Uxbridge in Middlesex.

Just a short distance from Central London, there are excellent transport links by road, rail and the London underground.

The nearest mainline railway station is West Ruislip, with underground stations at Ickenham and Hillingdon on the Metropolitan Line and Picadilly Line within walking distance of the school.



Vyners School

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Vanguard Learning Trust

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