

# VYNER'S; FROM THEN TO NOW

## Tim Dineen takes a brief look back at the history of Vyners School

Vyners School first opened as a grammar school on 12 January 1960. It was named after Sir Robert Vyner, baronet of Swakeleys, and Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Charles II.

Delays in the original building work meant that the first pupils were taught at St Mary's Grammar School in Northwood Hills from 9 September 1959.

The project received help from John Miles (the headmaster of Abbotsfield School at the time) and, to thank him, one of the houses was named after him.

The other houses were: Fry, Huxley and Windsor. The four houses were named after people or families that were symbols of excellence. Fry was named after Elizabeth Fry, a prison reformer (whose face is on the current £5 note).

Windsor was named after Queen Elizabeth II (who had not been Queen for long) and the House of Windsor. The Huxley family had provided notable authors and scientists such as Elspeth and Thomas.

The first headmaster was Mr Trevor Jagger, although he was briefly succeeded by Mr. R.B. Fox as temporary Head in 1967. Mr D.C. Best was later appointed as a permanent head teacher.

In 1977 Vyners became a comprehensive school and expanded to five forms of entry. As a result, a new house was created: Cheshire.

It was named after group captain G L Cheshire, a highly decorated British RAF pilot during the Second World War.

When Vyners expanded once again in 1996 to six forms of entry, a sixth house was created: Gell. This house was named after Charlotte Gell, a local Ickenhams philanthropist of the nineteenth century.

The school's motto is 'Abide in me' which is taken from the Gospel of John Ch.13, Verse 7. In 2013 Mr Heale became Vyner's latest head teacher and introduced some key values for the school. They are: Community, Aspiration, Respect and Endeavour.



Open Day, probably around 1960. The building is complete, though for the first few terms many of the classrooms were still being finished.



Headmaster Trevor Jagger with local MP Charles Curran, in the white suit, during the Open Day.



Open Day, which was opened by TV personality Judith Chalmers in the rather fetching apricot hat.

# It's Vyners, Jim, but not as you know it...

Tim Dineen explains to Jim Fox what Vyners is like now compared to when Jim was a pupil at the school back in 1958.

Vyners has gone through a lot of changes since you were here. One of the biggest changes was probably when it became a comprehensive school in 1977. Another change was when the school spent £600,000 to refurbish the science block in 1992.

Recently, we got new bike sheds and new desks and chairs. Instead of blackboards, we use white boards which are white versions of blackboards. There are also interactive whiteboards which the teachers write on, but they don't use chalk like your teachers did; they use a special pen or even their fingers as the board responds to touch and connects to a computer. We use a wide range of technology

throughout all subjects, not just science e.g. computers in I.T (information technology) or calculators in maths instead of slide rules. We even create pictures on computers in art!

We pay for our school lunches with our thumbs (we use a device that recognises our fingerprint and takes money out of our account). The lunches are different too; instead of a basic menu, we have things like sandwiches, fish and chips, pasta and many more different choices.

Over the summer break, there will be some more changes to Vyners such as new lockers (the old ones were so old that they looked like they were from 1958!!), some big changes to the



Then



Now

playground and probably some more decoration on the inside and the outside. Even if you just look at a photo of the school in 1958 and a photo of the school now, you can see some major differences such as the music rooms or the D&T classrooms aren't where they are now, or some of the football pitches are where the staff car park is.

Another change is the size of the tarmac area out the front of the school. One of the most visible changes is the size of the school itself, the building has been extended many times over the years and also the number of children who go to Vyners. There are also two new houses since you were at Vyners; my house, Cheshire, and Gell.