

Headteacher's Update

6th October 2023

As many parents and carers will be aware, for a number of years, October has been designated as Black History Month (BHM). I am pleased that students and staff at the school have always sought to engage in BHM and have used it as an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our school as well as the wider community. The specific theme for this year is 'saluting our sisters', which is a recognition of the significant contribution that women from ethnically diverse backgrounds have made to our communities.

Our lead historian, Mr Beale launched BHM with a series of excellent whole school assemblies this week, whilst Assistant Headteacher, Ms Ogunlabi has put together a range of resources for different subject areas so that they can explore these themes through the curriculum. On Tuesday 10th October, all students in Years 7 and 8 will be participating in the [Great Big Live Assembly](#) for BHM, which is an annual interactive streamed event for schools. We are very much looking forward to being part of an event that received such positive feedback from the 600 or so schools that participated last year.

Early next week, I will be writing to all parents and carers as part of the consultation process for the new behaviour policy. The new policy takes a different format than previous versions. The main difference is that the policy will be made up of two parts. Part A is a trust wide policy that will apply to all schools within the Vanguard Learning Trust. It is made up of statutory guidance and procedures and is designed to underpin the local arrangements that are made within each school. The local arrangements can be found in part B of the policy and it will be this part of the policy that I will be asking parents to respond to. This is obviously a very important school wide policy so a wide range of views will be important. We will be looking to implement the final version of the behaviour policy immediately after half term.

Alongside the newsletter, today I will be sharing a letter that provides an update about the suspected RAAC at the school. A link to the letter can be found [\[here\]](#). Related to this matter, I am pleased to be able

to confirm that the parents' information evenings for Year 10 on Wednesday 11th October, and Year 11 on Thursday 12th October will take place as planned. I would ask parents and carers of students in Years 10 and 11 to check the arrangements outlined in the emails that have been sent home this week. Both year groups are at a critical stage in their education so we would appreciate representation from all families at these events.

Gary Mullings, Headteacher

European Day of Languages - Bake Off

To celebrate European Day of Languages on Tuesday 26th September 2023, the MFL department held a key stage 3 bake off competition on Wednesday of this week. The cakes were judged by our newly appointed Year 10 Language Ambassadors at the end of the school day. Ambassadors voted on the appearance and taste of the cakes and found it extremely difficult to come to a decision. We had some amazing entries again this year and we would like to congratulate the following students:

First place:

Amrita Bansal 7G



Second place:

Ashley Sham 7F



Third place: **Eduard Pistorius 7M**



Pictures of all entries can be found on this link [\[here\]](#).

Thank you to all families who supported this event. Your support is very much appreciated.

Miss Vigo, Assistant Subject Leader, MFL

History Trip to Ypres

On 22nd September 2023, the History Department, supported by several other members of staff, took 70 Year 8 students to the WW1 Battlefields around Ypres in Belgium. It was a long day starting very early at 3am and returning the next day at 1:30am but throughout the day students were a credit to the school.

Students visited 4 different cemeteries of soldiers who fought on both sides during WW1 from multiple countries including Britain, Canada, India, Germany and France. The trip was greatly enhanced by the two battlefield guides who made the different sights come alive. Students visited the grave of Nellie Spindler, one of the few women buried in the cemeteries, who was killed by shrapnel and brought to Lijssenthoek for burial.

There were two moments that stood out for me personally. Firstly at the end of visiting Tyne Cot Cemetery (the largest commonwealth cemetery with the graves of almost 12,000 soldiers) one of the guides instructed us all to close our eyes and place a hand on the name of one of the soldiers on the memorial who did not have a grave. We then all had a moment of silence to remember that person and reflect on what we had learnt. It was an incredibly touching moment and all of the students approached it with the highest respect.

Secondly, after students had the opportunity to explore the beautiful city centre of Ypres, two students alongside Mrs Foster took part in the Menin Gate Ceremony. This happens every day in Ypres to remember those who have died in war. All students contributed to the inscription on our wreath by suggesting a word that summed up what they had learnt during the day. Teachers then put the most common words together to create our inscription which you can read below.

I want to say a huge thank you to both students and staff. It was an absolutely brilliant day and the History Department looks forward to running the trip again next year with the current Year 7s.

Ms Soley, Teacher of History



Sports Update

FA Schools U16 Girls Arnold Clarke Cup

On Monday 2nd October we hosted round 2 of the FA Schools U16 Girls Arnold Clark Cup against Ashlyns School. Despite periods of extreme downpour, our students kept their spirits high in what was a very tough encounter.

We entered half time 1-0 up after some great passing, a cross into the edge of the box from Ruby Farrington and an excellent strike from Emily Snowden. As the game progressed, our captain Hallie Thomas attempted a shot from distance which bounced off the crossbar. Half way through the second half a corner led to Paige Warner hitting the back of the net from the edge of the penalty box. The girls then worked extremely hard to keep Ashlyns from scoring as they dominated within our half for 25 minutes until they finally scored.

A massive well done to every member of the team who played their part. Round 3 here we come!"



Miss John, Teacher of PE

Year 8 Boys Football vs UHS:

Vyners win 3-2

Year 8 students have kicked off their season with a second win, this time in the Hillingdon Borough League. In a competitive game against Uxbridge High saw Vyners play some excellent football and secure a winning goal with 10 minutes to play. Well done to all involved.

Year 11 Boys Football vs Oakwood:

Vyners Win 6-1

In their first game of the season, the year 11 boys continued their winning ways securing a convincing victory against local opposition in the Hillingdon Borough League. Vyners were 3-0 up in the first half going on to score another 3 in the second half with 5 different goal scorers. Well done to all involved.

Mr Cawley, Teacher of PE

Cross Country

I took 12 Year 7/8 Students to the English Schools Cross Country Cup Competition at Harrow School. Everyone ran very well but a particular mention to Elsie Fitzgerald in Year 7 who came 9th and Leo Da Costa Monterio in Year 8 who came 11th.

Well Done All!



Miss Hawes, Teacher of PE

Cambridge University Summer Residential

Trinity College Cambridge biological science summer residential was a 4-day trip at the college where you were able to have the experience of a university student studying at Cambridge's Natural Sciences course both within and outside of academia. There were four main lectures to attend, Biochemistry, Plant Biology, Evolutionary Biology/Zoology and Neurobiology, each including a practical task after the lecture. Afterwards, we had the chance to experience small group supervision to discuss or ask questions about the lecture with an expert in that particular subject. My personal favourite lecture was the Evolutionary Biology and Zoology lecture where we were challenged with questions that went beyond the A level syllabus and learnt about the proximate and ultimate causation to answer questions in the form of "Why does X cause Y?" However my favourite practical was Biochemistry. One of the most interesting evening activities was the science puzzle themed escape room at Homerton college which were common questions which we would be asked in interviews. I also had an unforgettable opportunity to meet fantastic people who loved the same subjects as I do and to have the feeling of being a part of an extraordinary community and having the chance to complete practicals and evening events with them. Overall, this experience has taught me so much about life as a university student and was truly unforgettable.

STEM SMART is a course that I have been participating in throughout the whole of year 12 where we were challenged with questions for all my subjects each week in order to improve my A level results. The students who had participated the most in webinars and questions during the courses were selected to attend a 4 day summer residential at different colleges. I was assigned to stay at St Catherine's college where I was able to meet with different people who also wanted to study STEM subjects in further education such as Engineering or Medicine, not necessarily Natural Sciences or Biology, unlike the Trinity residential. The groups at each college had around 15-20 students but all the groups would meet together in the Cavendish laboratory to have a session, similar to what we have in our weekly questions and webinars but instead, it took place in a lecture hall with over 200 students. We were also shown a live example of how an interview would be conducted which was very helpful.

Within both residentials that I participated in during the summer, I have learnt how amazing it feels to be a part of a community who have similar interests with you and how university is a brilliant place to be able to reach your full potential. Having the chance to personally experience this first hand and quite far from home was absolutely spectacular and I would hope to have a chance in attending a university where I would be able to experience this once again.

Michaela Wong, Year 13 Student

Safeguarding Snapshot - 'Among Us'

This week's safeguarding snapshot is a guide to Among Us; its uses and some real life risks for parents and carers to be aware of.

Among Us is a social deception game which can be downloaded for free on Android and iOS, or to purchase for use on a PC. It can be played with a group of between 4 and 10 players either online by joining a game with strangers, or players can host or join games with friends. Though Among Us is presented in a (mainly) sanitised visual style, any children's game which essentially foregrounds the concepts of deceit, betrayal and killing is always likely to cause some concerns. See below for more information. Please click [\[here\]](#) to view the Safeguarding Snapshot page on the school website

Is your child ready for school?

Can we ask that parents check school bags to ensure that their child has everything they need for the school day? We are now a school community of 1500 students. Even if only 1 in 10 students forgets something, that is **150** phones / PE kits / packed lunches / art folders etc being dropped at school reception every day. Reuniting these items with students is preventing school staff helping you and your children in other ways.

As they go through the school, students should be taking increasing responsibility for organising themselves, and what they need for the day. This is an important life skill for when they join the world of work. Please can we ask parents to support the development of their child in this respect.

Student locker keys are small, and easily lost. The school strongly recommends that they are added to a catering lanyard or any other large key ring. Lost keys are chargeable at the rate of £5 each. School

staff will respond to requests to retrieve belongings from lockers as soon as possible. We are unable to prioritise the issue of a replacement key however. Please ask your child to take care of their key if they have a locker.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Support Staff Vacancies at Vyners

We are currently recruiting for an Exams Administrator (initial fixed term contract to July 2024). For more details and application form please go to the Vacancies page on our website [\[click here\]](#) or email recruitment@vynersschool.org.uk

Headteacher Commendations

Maths

Harley Spiers (7W) Courtney New (11F)
Jennifer Habipi (11H) Aiyanna Insley (11P)

Work Relating Learning

Parth Joshi (8C) Sebastian Mogilko (8C)
Daniel Korinek (8C) Fariya Mohamud (8C)
Eesa Latif (8C) Aleena Patel (8C)
Harry Lynch (8C) Esha Rauli (8C)

Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group
Week ending 29th September 2023

Year Group	Weekly Attendance
Year 7	97.1%
Year 8	96.3%
Year 9	94.0%
Year 10	92.1%
Year 11	92.9%
Year 12	96.9%
Year 13	92.8%

Top 3 tutorial weekly attendance
Week ending 29th September 2023

Tutorial	Weekly Attendance
9M	100%
7M & 7W	99.3%
12W	99.1%

