



Headteacher's Update

The events of the past two weeks in the middle east have shocked us all and it appears that we are at the beginning of yet another humanitarian disaster. On Wednesday of this week, the Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan along with the Minister for Schools, Nick Gibb finally provided schools with advice and guidance about how to address the issue of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The letter recognises the difficult position that schools are in given the fact that all school staff are provided with clear guidance from the department for education (DfE) about how to handle political situations and the importance of political impartiality when discussing sensitive political issues with students and their families. However, what is clear is that we should all be condemning acts of violence and terrorism and that we should not allow the escalating situation in the middle east to be an excuse for hateful views and behaviours within our schools and wider communities. As the letter states:

'In the past, we have seen how events in the Middle East are used as an excuse to stir up hatred against communities, including in schools and colleges. It is of the utmost importance that schools and colleges tackle this head on and ensure that where behaviour extends into antisemitism or other discriminatory bullying, it is responded to with all due seriousness'

I am pleased to be able to report that there have been few incidents of concern and where issues have arisen, we have done our best to ensure that they are tackled sensitively and in a timely manner. We will, of course, continue to monitor this situation carefully and continue to stress to all students that we are a diverse and inclusive community. If parents and carers do have any concerns about how this situation is affecting their child they should contact their child's year leader in the first instance.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

I am finally pleased to be able to inform parents and carers that we have been able to take the decision this week to fully reopen the upper floor of the main building. Movement back into these areas will take place shortly after the half term break.

During what has been a challenging period, the fabric of the school buildings has been fully inspected by an independent surveyor and, more recently, a Department for Education (DfE) appointed surveyor. These surveys

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have provided contrasting results. However, we are now in a position whereby we are fully confident that all areas that were fully inspected do not contain RAAC. There are areas (eg. the school hall roof, second floor roofs, etc.) that contain materials that have some similar characteristics to RAAC but are safe as they do not pose the risk of sudden failure which is the issue associated with RAAC.

There do remain some small areas that have not been fully inspected due to the fact that they remain inaccessible. However, the likelihood of these areas containing RAAC given the fact that it has not been found elsewhere in the school's buildings is extremely low. We will continue to work with a team of surveyors to ensure that these areas are fully inspected shortly after the half term break.

There remains a considerable amount of work to be done to get the school back to its normal functioning. We will be in contact with students and parents shortly after half term to inform them of the exact date that we will revert to the timetable that was in place at the start of the term. At that point in time, all timetables will be updated and shared via the edulink app.

I would again like to thank all parents, carers, staff and students for their patience and resilience throughout this period. Whilst it has been a testing time for all concerned, I have been delighted to see how we have all been able to pull together and support each other as a community.

Behaviour Policy Consultation

I would like to provide a gentle reminder to all parents and carers about the consultation that is currently taking place for the new behaviour policy. Click [\[here\]](#) to view the letter and draft policy sent to parents and carers on 12th October 2023. The consultation closes on Wednesday 1st November and we are looking to fully implement the final policy from the week beginning 6th November once views have been considered.

As a reminder, if parents and carers wish to comment on any of the details in the policy then please do so by email to the following address email

emailqueries@vynersschool.org.uk.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that all students are expected to attend school daily and be fully equipped for learning. The half term break provides an excellent opportunity to replenish equipment ready for the remainder of the academic year. This should also include a pencil case and it should be noted that students will be sanctioned for not having a pencil case with appropriate equipment as part of the updated school policy.

Finally this week, I would like to wish all members of the school community a peaceful and restful half term break. Despite the RAAC issue, It has been a very positive start to the academic year and, after a bit of rest and recovery, I am sure that we will continue the year in a similar manner..

Gary Mullings, Headteacher

BIEA STEM Sustainability Competition

As outlined in a previous newsletter, six of our Year 9 students - Adam Nadhmi, Alex Feneck, Otto Keyte, Dylan Lewis, Nathan Griffiths and Leo Stockwell - won the BIEA STEM Sustainability Competition for their design of a sustainable school in Brighton, UK. On Tuesday 17th October the group exhibited their award winning design at the BIEA STEM Award Winners Exhibition at the London Docklands Museum, Canary Wharf. It was a fantastic event and an opportunity for the students to connect with other like minded award winners from across the world. The other award winners, for other categories, were from all corners of the world - Japan, Croatia and Hong Kong to name but a few.

I am incredibly proud of these students. Not only did they put a huge amount of effort into their work, coming up with the concept, putting together a plan, website and creating their exhibition stand, but also won an International Competition! Well Done team 'Eco Buildings'. Link to team 'Eco Buildings' very own website: <https://eco-buildings.theprocut.co.uk/>

Miss Brown, Assistant Headteacher



MFL Movie Club

In the German movie club last Friday we finished an incredible movie called *Inkheart*.

It was an amazing movie about characters that come out of a book by a slivertongue reading. The slivertongue's child inherits the gift of bringing characters to life but evil is never far.

Eduard Pistorius - 7M



Sports Updates

Rugby

Year 7 Boys Rugby had their first ever rugby matches this Tuesday at the Grasshoppers cup. The boys played tremendously well going unbeaten and returning as champions. Well done to all the boys involved, the future is bright with these boys leading the way!



Mr Hall, Subject Leader - PE

Netball

Year 11 had their Borough Netball Tournament which was Versatility. This means they randomly pick the bib with the position they have to play. They were a fantastic team, very versatile with great shooting, topping the pool in the preliminary stages. The semi finals were the challenge where they had to play very much out of position for some and unfortunately lost this match. However Vyners secured 3rd place which is still amazing so well done to all involved! Bring on the league matches, where they can truly shine!

Ms Hawes, Teacher of PE



Football

Year 7 Boys Football: Winning 5 - 1 Vs Queens Park Community School in the 2nd round of the Middlesex Cup. Well done to all boys involved in the year fixture. Showing some fantastic football both as individuals and as a team. They have now progressed to the 3rd round of the Middlesex Cup.

Mr Cawley, Teacher of PE

Last week our U13 girls football team played in a football match against Northwood College where they managed to secure a 9 - 0 win. The first half saw goals from Bow Mower, Libby Scarisbirck, Sophia Monk and Amber Woolfrey who scored a hat trick. Within the second half goals were scored by Catherine Gallagher, Sophie Hawkins and another from Bow Mower.

Ms John, Teacher of PE

Parent Workshops - Speech and Language Therapy

We have been sent information from the Central and North West London NHS Speech and Language Therapy team regarding four workshops they are running in November for families to access for free. Please click [\[here\]](#) for more information and joining instructions.

HS2 - Harvil Road Closures

We have received information from HS2 regarding the upcoming Harvil Road full closure from 30th October to 19th November, between Certas bellmouth and the Dogs Trust for 24 hours a day for the three week period. Please click [\[here\]](#) for more information on the work that is due to be carried out and the map showing the location of the road closure and the diversion route. There is also a link to the Harvil Road closure video <https://vimeo.com/792071992/0fcff3bb0d?share=copy>.

Place of Safety Procedures

Your son or daughter may have told you that we have recently practised our 'place of safety' procedures. This is the process by which students and staff put themselves behind a locked door. We are pleased at how well most students responded to the audio message which sounds around the school to commence a 'lockdown'. The vast majority of lessons continued constructively after a brief pause to take a register.

An important part of our procedure, should we need to activate this process for real, is to communicate with you as parents. We have a pre-loaded message ready to go in this situation. To test this part of our procedure, we will be sending out a test message straight after half term. This will be sent to the primary contact for every child in the school. Please keep your eye out for this test message. If you DO NOT receive anything by the end of the first week back, please get in touch with us.

Parents are reminded that, should we need to 'lock' the school down for real, it will be vital that you do not block school phone lines, or physically come to the school. Asking us to release your child during such an event puts you, them and us at risk. We will communicate with you via text message, edulink message and via the school website. To ensure that every parent gets the same information, students will be told to turn mobile phones off.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Safeguarding Update

Please click [\[here\]](#) to view this week's safeguarding snapshot regarding information on road safety.

Headteacher Commendations

Work Related Learning

Fraser Campbell (8F) Maja Cwikla (8F)
Jake Cleverley (8F) Deven Daurka (8F)
Michele Cronin (8F) Zach Easton (8F)
Nekayva Castaneda Kwamie (8F)

Pastoral

Leonardo Colletini (7C) Emma McCormick (8H)
Rayaan Choudhry (8M) Ben l'Anson (9P)
Amber Woolfrey (7P) Otto Keyte (9J)

Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group Week ending 13th October 2023

Year Group	Weekly Attendance
Year 7	95.6%
Year 8	97.0%
Year 9	92.6%
Year 10	93.6%
Year 11	92.4%
Year 12	97.5%
Year 13	95.3%

Top 3 tutorial weekly attendance Week ending 13th October 2023

Tutorial	Weekly Attendance
8M & 10F	100%
12M	99.5%
8G	99.4%