



## Headteacher's Update

10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

I would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to respond to the recent behaviour policy consultation. Having read all of the comments myself, I can state that I was pleased to see the number of thoughtful and constructive responses that were made. Most of the concerns that were raised related to students who were worried or anxious about the prospect of receiving a consequence. With this in mind, I must stress that the consequences element of the policy is designed in such a way as to be preventative and stop repeated behaviours and that we are not seeking to catch students out. It should also be noted that a C1 is a gentle warning to any student that the behaviour should not be repeated and a small number of C1s across an academic year is not looked upon as a concern.

In year group assemblies this week, myself and Ms Ogunlabi talked to the students about the new policy and procedures and stressed these points. Our research suggests that schools who have emerged from the pandemic most effectively have done so with the help of tight and consistent behaviour management systems that are immediate and escalate effectively where students fail to respond. The idea that a student can miss a piece of home learning and end up in a C4 isolation because they failed to attend a previous sanction is aimed at persistent offenders who wilfully ignore school rules rather than actively following school procedures.

It is also important to add that there are some students who come to Vyners who have difficulties with self regulation. Whilst the policy does not discuss this in detail, the reality is that we work incredibly hard to support children's needs regardless of whatever they are. Furthermore, the policy does refer to the need for reasonable adjustments when it comes to some consequences in situations where we know that a child has specific needs that, at times, are difficult to meet.

The new behaviour policy will come into place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November and all staff have received training with regard to how to apply the policy in a fair

and reasonable manner. The final version of the policy can be found here [\[click here\]](#). As I mentioned to the students this week, a consistent application of this policy will ensure that all students benefit from a calm, productive and safe environment where all children and adults have the opportunity to thrive.

My final request to parents and carers is that they do not challenge C3 detentions. This is happening far too frequently and only has the effect of undermining behaviour at the school. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

### Parents Evenings

I received a constructive email from a parent this week about the structure of our parents evenings, which remain online and I thought that it was important to share some of the points of clarification with the wider parent body. Whilst I know that some parents would prefer parents evenings to be face to face, there have been lots of advantages to keeping them as an online activity. One advantage is the timings. As someone who has worked in schools for over 25 years, I can honestly say that appointments at parents' evenings in most secondary schools are 5 minutes in length. This allows for a maximum of 12 appointments in an hour and a whole class of 24-30 students within 3 hours with a short rest break. I am sure that many parents and carers with older children will remember that some parents would continue beyond the 5 minutes, which would then have an impact on other appointments. This is avoided with the current system.

Added to this is the fact that whilst it is common for teachers in core subjects to teach one class in a year group, teachers in the humanities, arts, etc. will often teach multiple classes, which will make it nigh on impossible to see all parents of the children that they teach during the evening and given that the school calendar only allows for one evening per year group in any academic year, we have had to develop a system since our expansion that allows for parents to meet with a range of staff, particularly at key stage 3, but not all staff. Ultimately, the average number of

appointments that were made for the Year 8 parents evening last night was eight, which meant that parents received about 40 minutes of feedback about their child. These evenings are designed to summarise each child's progress and if parents or carers have significant concerns about their child's progress in any given subject they should contact the member of staff in question for a more detailed discussion outside of the consultation evening process.

## Remembrance

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, we will be observing remembrance as a school community. At around 11am, all staff and students will make their way to the astro turf area to listen to Laurence Binyon's war poem, *For the Fallen*, before the playing of the last post and observing two minutes of silence. Our remembrance ceremony has always been well received by all members of the school community.

I would also like to make families aware that poppies are currently on sale for staff and students at the school.

## Annual Staff Conference

**A gentle reminder to all families that our annual two day staff conference will be taking place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November and that the school will be closed to all students on these two days.** The theme for these two days will be 'inclusive practice' which will involve all staff from all five trust schools coming together at Ruislip High School on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November for the second day of professional learning. Thank you in advance to all parents and carers for their understanding and support. I will ensure that I provide a fuller summary of the two days in a December newsletter.

## Art and Photography A Level Trip to Shoreditch, London

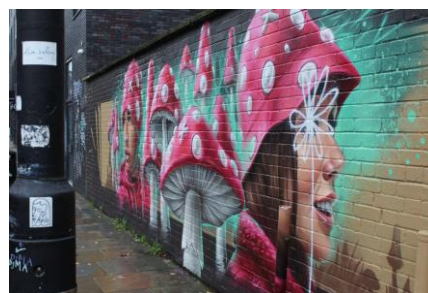
On 31<sup>st</sup> October the A Level Art and Photography students went to visit London as part of our coursework project research. This trip has really helped us to explore different ideas and take our own source photographs to help the development of our work.

We got the tube to Liverpool Street Station and just looking at the architecture of the station and surrounding area gave us the impetus to start considering good compositions and use of lighting.

The guidance from the teachers helped us look through our camera lenses with a critical eye.

Walking around the streets of Shoreditch gave us an insight into the range and styles of different types of street art. It helped us to develop new ideas that we might not have previously considered. Shoreditch market was a fascinating bustling environment where we could observe different people and objects and gave us a little respite from the downpour of rain!

A huge thank you to Mrs Vine for organising this trip.



**Jasmin Khatri (12H) and April Howard (12C)**



## MFL Trip to Germany

Leading up to the German trip, my friends and I were very excited for the five days we would spend together in Cologne. Although the first day was twelve hours of travelling across many different countries by coach and ferry, we had a great time watching German movies and playing charades. When we arrived we were tired, but couldn't wait for the next day.

On our second day, we travelled to the Phantasialand theme park. We spent the whole day on many exciting rides, although I wasn't as brave as my friends and watched many from the sidelines! Some of the highlights were Taron, one of the fastest family rollercoasters in Europe, the amazing food and a new virtual experience rollercoaster where we were all given VR headsets.

The third day was also packed with activities, which helped us learn more about German history and culture. We first went to a history museum which explored the changes in Germany at the times of the World Wars. We found this very interesting, and eye-opening to some of the tragic events many people faced. Next, we took a tour around the Bayer Leverkusen football stadium, where we got to see many VIP areas, including the dressing rooms where many famous footballers prepared before a match, and we even got access to the pitch. Then we went to the Lindt chocolate museum, where we were taken through the creation process of chocolate, tried many free samples, and bought lots of chocolate for family and friends. To finish the day, we took a walk back to the hostel along the river, where we passed a famous cathedral. Our guide Claire told us many really interesting facts about the building and its history.

On our last full day in Germany, we began by taking a guided tour around Marksburg castle in the valleys of the MittRhineland. We learnt all about customs and traditions of the time, and saw many artifacts and even some torture devices! The next event was a new experience for all of us- we got to go tobogganing! We all had fun trying to beat each others' speeds- which I definitely didn't win- but it was a really fun experience. For our last activity of the day we took a cable car across Bonn, and saw many landmarks, rivers and buildings.

To finish off the day we enjoyed a delicious traditional Wienerschnitzel in a German restaurant, which for me was definitely one of the highlights of the trip!

Our last day, despite being sad to leave, was still packed with lots of fun and laughter, and a sing-along session to a German version of Tangled! I am so thankful for this amazing experience, the fun I had with friends, and the memories created.

Thank you again to all the teachers who made this possible, and to Claire and Mark, our hilarious and kind tour guide and driver. We are all so grateful for this opportunity, and it's definitely one we won't forget.

**Caitlin White (10M)**



## History Trip to the International Slavery Museum

On Tuesday the History department and 3 other members of staff took the Year 11 cohort to Liverpool to complete workshops on the Transatlantic Slave Trade at the International Slavery Museum. Despite the long Journey the students all behaved brilliantly and got to enjoy both the museum and the Royal Albert Dock in surprisingly good weather. I would like to thank the students for being attentive and engaged during their workshops and the staff that gave up a large part of their day to help make the trip happen



**Mr Smith, Teacher of History**

## Sports Update

### Borough Cross Country

There was great success at the Borough Cross Country competition on Monday. We had three students from Vyners who secured first place. Congratulations to Dylan Lewis (Yr 8/9 Boys), Aidan Gallagher (Sixth Form) and Elsie Fitzgerald (Yr 7 Girls). Issy Stone (Yr 10/11 Girls) secured 2nd place and Jemima Potter (Yr 10/11 Girls) secured 3rd place. A special mention to Harry Burton (Yr 7 Boys) who achieved 4th place and Annamarie Baker-Lopes (Yr 10/11 Girls) and Aasiyah Sultan (Yr 7 Girls) who achieved 8th place. Ruby Farrington (Yr 10/11 Girls) also achieved 9th Place. All of these students have qualified to the County Championships for the next round. Well done everyone involved.



**Miss Hawes, Teacher of PE**

## Girls U16 FA Schools Arnold Clark Cup Round 3

On Thursday 2nd November Vyners played The Piggott School at home for Round 3 of their cup. Within the first half we were down 2-1, with an own goal being scored by Piggott. In the second half the team battled hard to finish with a 3-2 win, both goals were scored by Sofia Harris. Vyners will take on Fullbrook School at home on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November in Round four.

**Ms John, Teacher of PE / Year 7 Leader**

## Nuffield Research Placements

Nuffield and STEM Learning are offering Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) placements for year 12 (or equivalent) students this summer, 2024. The placements are engaging, real-life workplace experiences, where students are placed at the heart of a UK host organisation. They are a fantastic opportunity for students to apply skills and knowledge learned at school while providing a meaningful contribution to the work of researchers and industry professionals.

These placements are funded by the Nuffield Foundation and powered by STEM Learning. Further information related to these opportunities can be found via this informative document [\[click here\]](#) and via this flyer [\[click here\]](#). Best of luck to all applicants.

**Mr Babra, Subject Leader, Design and Technology**

## Non Uniform day – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

We will be inviting students to wear non uniform on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. This is an event run for charity, with the proceeds being split equally between Children in Need and the Vyners School Senior Citizen's party. There is a recommended donation of £2, and this may be paid by cash on the day, or via sQuid [\[click here\]](#) - please log into 'Trips and Other Offers' in order to make payment. These are both very worthy causes, please can we encourage you to make a donation if you can.

## Catering limits in the school canteen

The school imposes a limit on the amount of money each student can spend in the school canteen each day. This has been set at **£5 per student per day** and remains enough to enable students to purchase a snack at break, and something more substantial at lunchtime.



The limit has been in place since 2012 and has not yet been adjusted to take account of food inflation. We are conscious as a school of the current economic climate and that some of our families would find it difficult to afford an increase.

Should you feel that your child needs more funds, this can be increased on a child-by-child basis. Please just email me giving the name of your child, and the new amount you wish applying to their account

**Miss Williams, Business Manager**

### **Safeguarding Snapshot**

This week's safeguarding update has been brought to us via The Metropolitan Police. The legislation around Nitrous Oxide changes on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Please [click here](#) to read information about Nitrous Oxide

### **Friends of Vyners**

Congratulations to all of the prize winners from the Friends of Vyners '100 Club' draws from the months of June to August 2023 [click here](#). If you wish to participate in the '100 Club', please complete the application form [click here](#) and forward it to [100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk](mailto:100club@friendsofvyners.co.uk).

Friends of Vyners are also holding a Quiz Night on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Please [click here](#) for further details. The last Quiz Night raised £640, which is an incredible achievement and it is worth reminding parents and carers that the proceeds help the school to fund activities and resources for the school that would normally be beyond our budgetary limits. The Friends of Vyners also continue to support events in school (a great example being the recent Year 7 cheese and wine evening) and we continue to be grateful for all of the work that they do in support of the school community. For information, further Quiz Nights will also be held on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

### **Employment Opportunities at Vyners**

We are currently recruiting for an Administrator - Rewards and Consequences (R and C). For more details and an application form, please go to the Vacancies page on our website [click here](#) or email [recruitment@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@vynersschool.org.uk)

### **Attendance**

Weekly attendance figures by year group  
Week ending 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

| <b>Year Group</b> | <b>Attendance</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Year 7            | 94.3%             |
| Year 8            | 96.3%             |
| Year 9            | 94.5%             |
| Year 10           | 93.1%             |
| Year 11           | 93.2%             |
| Year 12           | 97.1%             |
| Year 13           | 89.1%             |

Top 3 tutorial weekly attendance  
Week ending 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

| <b>Tutorial</b> | <b>Attendance</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 8H              | 100%              |
| 12H             | 99.5%             |
| 12W             | 99.1%             |

### **Headteacher Commendations**

#### **English**

Aaron Rashid (8G)                      Mohamed Mohamed (8P)  
Ahmed Mohamed (8J)                Samuel Ciftci (9P)  
Ryan Hoxha (8M)                    Lily Walsh (13F)  
Saachee Bindra (8M)

#### **Pastoral**

Zoheib Aadan (9F)

#### **Work Related Learning – 8F**

Georgina Francis                    Aidan Jones  
Daniel Gavin                         Millie Lamerton  
Shawn Gera                         Neev Maisuria  
Archie Greenan                    Eli O'Rourke  
Ellie Hall                             Veer Shivnani  
Layla Hook                         Ajoveer Singh

**Wishing all of our families a wonderful weekend!**