



Headteacher's Update

23rd November 2023

This week's update is a relatively short one due to the two days of staff conference that all staff at the school are engaging in. The theme of the conference this year is **adaptive teaching** which has been described as a personalised approach to teaching that aims to meet the needs of the entire class. It is an evolution of differentiation which involves setting the same ambitious goals for all students but providing different levels of support. This should be targeted depending on the students' starting points, and if and when students are struggling.

Whilst we have confidence in the standards of teaching and learning at the school, we genuinely believe that the opportunity to engage in such professional learning has the potential to move our students to the next level, ensuring that absolutely no child is left behind in the classroom. This will not be without its challenges, particularly given the changing nature of schools and the increased complexity of needs of some students. However, this is our goal and we hope that parents and carers can appreciate the importance of days such as these in relation to the benefits that they bring to our students. I will share greater detail about the two day staff conference in my next update.

Amendment to October half term dates - academic Year 2024-25

A number of parents will already be aware that the London Borough of Hillingdon has recently pushed back the dates of October half term 2024. Our term dates at Vyners School are set well in advance, and always with reference to the dates published by the local council. As a school, we always aim to have both the dates of the current school year, and the following one, published at any one time. This enables both staff and parents to plan their holiday commitments well in advance. The dates for 2024-25 were accordingly published on our website in the summer of 2023.

The London Borough of Hillingdon has recently realised that their originally published date was out of line with neighbouring boroughs, and has therefore decided to push October half term back one week. The new dates are Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024. This amendment was communicated to all Hillingdon schools on 13th November 2023.

Many of the feeder primary schools for Vyners are local authority maintained, and have therefore been instructed to amend their term dates in line with the new guidance. Vyners School understands that parents with children in both primary and secondary schools need the dates of holidays to align. Furthermore, as one of five schools in a multi-academy trust we would always seek to ensure that a collective decision is made about term dates. We have therefore taken the decision to move October half term 2024 to align with the new local authority dates, **Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024**.

If you have already made a firm booking for October half term 2024 based on the original dates, please contact your child's year leader or our attendance officer (attendance@vynersschool.org.uk). We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this change.

National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day is an annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry. The theme this year was refuge. Students in Years 7 & 8 were invited to participate. We had many thoughtful and emotive poems demonstrating considerable effort and craftsmanship. It was a tough competition. This year's winner was Chloe Jenkins (7C) and the runner up was Eva Ali (7H).

Refuge, by Chloe Jenkins

*There was a war:
People fleeing to the shore,
Leaving the country- such a hurry,
Families fleeing in a scurry.*

*Children crying out in fear,
Hoping that the ending's near,
Never-ending gun shots through the night,
Signs that there is still a fight.*

*In the fog, not far from sight,
A fire shines very bright.
Somewhere there, there is no war.*

Mr Dennis, Teacher of English

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Our Food Preparation & Nutrition students have made an excellent start to their Non Exam Assessment in recent weeks. They have produced stunning practical work and have shown a real flair for presentation. This year's NEA brief involves planning, cooking and presenting dishes which include fresh, seasonal ingredients. The students have really applied themselves well and progress has been very pleasing!

Well done to all involved.



Waterhouse, Tim



Thomas, Hallie



Stockwell, Fearne



Ross, Edie

**Mr J Welch & Mrs R Davies,
Design and Technology Department**

UCL 2024 Summer Experiences in London

Taking place at the prestigious University College London (UCL) and offering the opportunity to visit iconic industry locations across London, InvestIN provides teenagers with the chance to experience life beyond school, as well as receive unparalleled career preparation. Our Summer Experiences run during the summer holidays and include the opportunity to:

- Work with world-class industry professionals across 15 top careers
- Participate in hands-on career simulations
- Visit exclusive professional venues
- Receive personalised industry reference letters and certificates to showcase on university and job applications

Students who may be interested in this opportunity can click [\[here\]](#) for further information. Alternatively, please speak to a member of the design and technology department.

Spring Maker Challenge Opportunity

The Makerspace Programme at Imperial College London runs a free design and making after-school programme for 14-18 year olds where they teach students to become young inventors.

Information about the Spring Maker Challenge is available in the flyer leaflet below.

SPRING MAKER CHALLENGE

13 JAN - 23 MAR
TUESDAYS OR THURSDAYS (5-8PM)
+ 4 WEEKEND DATES (10AM-4PM)

The Maker Challenge is a free design and making programme for 14-18 year olds. Over 13 weeks in our vibrant workshop, you'll learn 3D printing, laser cutting, electronics, coding, woodworking and business skills. Using advanced equipment and tools, you'll bring your invention to life and compete to win prizes.

To apply you must be aged 14-18 and live in London. You don't need any making experience and it's completely free. We're located in White City.

Get inspired to invent, create and make, and become a young inventor this spring!

APPLY BY SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

@imperialmakerspace
makerspace@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College London | Berkeley Foundation | DANGOOR REACH OUT MAKERSPACE

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

Free Parent Webinar: Helping Your Child to Build Resilience

Please see below information from Elevate Education on a free webinar for parents.

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on **Resilience** on Tuesday 28th November. Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn how you can help support your children at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school. Sign up for the session below to learn how you can help your child to recover from a knock to their confidence. Whether that's a disappointing grade, exam slip-up, or a less-than-perfect report.

[How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child](#)
Tuesday 28th November 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)
[Click here to register for free](#)

- Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night: Practical strategies to help your child manage their response to setbacks
- Building your child's resilience both in and out of school
- How 'fear of failure' can impact your child's resilience

The Elevate Team

Safeguarding Snapshot

Please click [\[here\]](#) to read this week's safeguarding snapshot with advice from NSPCC on keeping children safe in sport.

Your Life You Choose

On Wednesday 15th November we held the 'Your life, you choose' programme delivered by the Metropolitan Police, involving other agencies such as the London Ambulance service, Safer Schools Police, Youth Justice Service, Youth Engagement Team and SORTED from The London Borough of Hillingdon. It is a serious crime intervention programme, aiming to educate and build resilience in young people. It is successfully being delivered to year 7 students in secondary schools across Hillingdon, as part of their PSHE programme.

As a cohort, our Year 7's have come to us with a varied understanding of the wider world. Events like this are key to ensuring students have access to the correct information, allowing students to ask questions in a safe, controlled environment with appropriate professionals in their field.

We were very proud of our Year 7 students and their conduct. They were engaged, asked fantastic questions and the feedback from staff and students was positive.

'Thank you for the workshop today.

My son received some very valuable lessons today. As a parent I am reassured that he has been provided with the education on the dangers of drugs and keeping safe from knife crime delivered by the police service.'

Year 7 Parent

Anti Bullying Week.

Last week Vyners took part in the national [Anti-Bullying Week 2023](#), coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. The theme this year was 'Make A Noise About Bullying' and it took place from Monday 13th to Friday 17th November. Year Leaders dedicated their assemblies to raising awareness of bullying, both in and out of school, ensuring students knew where to turn to, while encouraging bystanders to 'make some noise'.

We ended the week with an Odd Socks day to visually raise awareness and celebrate our individuality.



Ms Ashe, Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Cycling to School Reminder

We have noticed that quite a few students who cycle to and from school do not have a helmet and/or lights on their bike. As a reminder, students are not allowed to bring their cycles on the school site unless it is roadworthy, they wear a cycle helmet and are able to secure their cycle in the cycle sheds with a cable and padlock or other locking device. Students should only cycle on the roads or cycle paths and ensure that they are not a nuisance to other highway users. A link to an information document regarding cycling to school can be found [\[here\]](#).

Message from Uniform 4 Kids

We are delighted to inform you of our Black Friday offer for this year for you to communicate to your parents/carers at the end of this week where possible. The offer is valid for one day only, online, and exclusively on **Friday 24th November 2023**. The 20% discount applies to all products including schoolwear, sportswear, footwear and accessories. This offer is available **online only** via www.uniform4kids.com. Discount code **BLACKFRIDAY20** must be entered at checkout. A discount cannot be added retrospectively to an order already placed. We will not be offering Click & Collect or Delivery to School during this event. Orders will be dispatched via courier and may take up to **one week** to process.

U4K
UNIFORM4KIDS.COM

BLACK FRIDAY

20% OFF EVERYTHING ONLINE ONLY
24 HOURS
Ts & Cs APPLY
24/11/2023

REMEMBER TO ADD CODE
BLACKFRIDAY20 AT CHECKOUT

A DISCOUNT CANNOT BE ADDED
RETROSPECTIVELY TO AN ORDER
ALREADY PLACED.



Ms Powick, Teacher of PE

Replacement locker keys

Can we ask all parents to make sure student lockers keys are securely affixed to a reasonably sized keyring? These keys are small, and easy to lose. We will aim to give immediate assistance to students who have lost a key and need to retrieve possessions from their locker. Replacement keys take some time to order - payment must be made via squid, then a replacement ordered from the supplier.

The easiest way to avoid inconvenience is to make sure the key is not lost. A prominent key ring really helps with that.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance with this matter.

Year 10 Borough Netball

Two Year 10 netball teams competed in the Borough Tournament last week with great success. 10B, despite competing against other school's A teams, performed well in their pool, achieving a number of wins and playing some excellent netball. 10A won their group and progressed to the semi final where they beat Northwood College in a very close game. The team then faced Bishop Ramsey in the final, a team who Year 10 have become used to facing in finals and unfortunately Bishop Ramsey ran out winners on the day. Despite this, it was a fantastic achievement for the girls to finish 2nd out of 17 teams in the Borough. Well done to all who participated.

Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group
Week ending 17th November 2023

Year Group	Attendance
Year 7	96.4%
Year 8	96.7%
Year 9	94.2%
Year 10	93.1%
Year 11	93.6%
Year 12	93.6%
Year 13	93.0%

Top 3 tutorial weekly attendance
Week ending 17th November 2023

Tutorial	Attendance
8H & 8W	98.7%
7M	98.3%
7W	98.0%

Wishing all of our families an enjoyable long weekend.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher