



## Headteacher's Update

19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

As a school leader, it is incredibly frustrating to have to divert valuable time and resources away from a lot of the positive things that go on in a school to tackle issues such as the TikTok incident that took place this week. As expected, the week has gone by without any of the threats materialising; however, the upset caused by the TikTok posts continue to cause anger and upset.

One of the issues with TikTok compared to some of the other social media platforms is that you do not need to provide personal information to create an account. Whilst this does protect privacy to a degree, it also allows for the type of behaviour that we have witnessed this week whereby someone can engage in abusive and criminal behaviour with near impunity.

Some parents and carers may also be unaware of the differences between the workings of the TikTok algorithm compared to some other sites such as Instagram. Both of these sites are collecting our data. They know an awful lot about us, what we like and don't like and when we are online, driving, etc. Both Instagram and TikTok will push videos (reels) to us based upon the type of information that we have engaged with in the past. The main difference, at this point, is that Instagram will push videos that have been created or viewed by people that we follow, whereas TikTok will push any video that the algorithm identifies as within our interests, which could open users up to a wide variety of content, good or bad. It is an app that is widely used by school aged children who on average, access the app for two hours a day.

Whilst parents and carers may have detected my indifference for social media platforms, I am pleased to be able to report that TikTok have been very responsive to our requests to remove material this week. The nature of this platform does mean that it is very hard to track perpetrators of such outrageous behaviour. However, TikTok are providing information to the police and we are hopeful that this will support the internal investigation that we are currently engaged in with the purposes of identifying

individuals and removing this type of behaviour from the school and wider community.

Thank you to the Metropolitan Police, staff, students and parents and carers for the way that they have worked together to manage and address this issue this week.

### Consultation Evenings

Thank you to parents and carers of students in Year 7 for their participation in the parental consultation evening yesterday evening. This was the first significant opportunity for parents of students within this year group to receive feedback about their child's progress across a range of subjects since joining the school in September. As a reminder, parents in any year group can contact a class teacher about their child's progress at any time in the year if they feel that they need a more in depth discussion than the five minutes that is allocated during these evenings.

The next consultation evening is for parents and carers of students in Year 11. This takes place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, at which point all students in Year 11 would have received their trial exam results, which will be released next Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

### Year 11 Careers Week

Our annual Year 11 Careers Week has been a resounding success, with students being given a range of opportunities to support them in making informed choices in the months and years ahead. The week started with a talk by three members of Vyners staff who have had varied and interesting careers journeys and who gave a real insight into not only the variety of different options available, but how important it is to make wise choices along the way. Following this, students were given time to complete profile tests and to independently research careers using Unifrog. On Wednesday, students had a mock interview with an external professional, providing individual feedback and, where relevant, CV and application advice. This was preceded by a workshop on how to make a good first impression

and prepare for an interview. HURC also gave presentations to Year 11 students and parents about apprenticeships and T levels and how to make a good application for these courses. Thursday was Sixth Form day; with Year 13 students running an assembly and subject fayre for all year 11 students. This allowed Year 11s to have conversations with students already studying the courses they are interested in to support their decisions about next steps, whether those be at Vyners, another sixth form or college. The week was rounded off with a Law Workshop and Vyners Talk presentations to further add to students' understanding of the world of work. We would like to thank all parents, speakers and local businesses that have helped to make this week such a success. Thank you also to our careers link Governor, Alan Ginman, for his support throughout the entirety of the week.

“Careers week was very well organised and helpful and has given me resources to explore different jobs, universities and apprenticeships.”

Year 11 Student

“Overall, Careers Week helped with making an informed decision about next steps, and providing that practice for interviews for later in life.”

Year 11 Student



**Mrs Harvey, Deputy Headteacher & Mr Kohli, Head of Careers**

### Food Technology

Our GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition students continue to make excellent progress in their Non Exam Assessment (NEA). This year's NEA brief involves planning, cooking and presenting dishes which include fresh, seasonal ingredients. Students have produced restaurant quality dishes presented with elegance and flair. Soon they will complete the

final, three-hour practical which represents a significant amount of the marks awarded for the NEA task. Well done to all involved and keep up the good work.



Rainbird, Ashton



Jardella, Mollie



Clarke, Frankie



Knight, Lacie

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

#### Snow days

Whilst the weather forecast does suggest that today is the last of the sub zero days for a while, the cold snap naturally leads to discussion about the possibility of snow, which has tended to fall in February / March in recent years.

The school has well established procedures in place for communicating to staff and parents whether school is open (or closed). Parents are asked to remind themselves of the policy on 'Bad Weather Procedures' which can be found in the 'School Policies' area of the school website. A link to the policy can be found here [\[click here\]](#).

Whilst there may be rare occasions when the school needs to be closed due to bad weather, we now have very well established procedures for remote learning. Given that this is the case, parents should expect that remote work will be set for students in these circumstances. 30-50 minutes will be set for each timetabled lesson that day, and can be accessed by students via google classroom. Completion of this work will be reviewed by a student's teacher at the lesson which takes place in school. Please note that live lessons will not be delivered in these temporary circumstances.

The decision to close the school is not one taken lightly. The school weighs up both the safety of the school site and the surrounding area, as well as road conditions further afield. Parents are reminded that

many staff, especially teachers, commute from further away. The school does not expect staff to put themselves at risk of accidents on their way to work and, added to this, we always seek to ensure that the school site is safe and that there are sufficient staff on site to be able to operate safely.

### Safeguarding Snapshot

As part of our PSHE and RSE curriculum we talk about consent, boundaries and what a healthy relationship looks like. Talking to your child about consent and healthy relationships at home can help keep them safe. It is really important that you help them feel supported by listening openly and non-judgmentally. We have provided further guidance for parents / carers, please click [\[here\]](#) to read the information.

### Community News

This week I would like to congratulate Emilia Dinescu (12C) for her continued commitment and progress as part of the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club, Hillingdon, which she has been a member of since 2017. A link to the club homepage can be found here [\[click here\]](#). Emilia competes in a wide range of competitions and most notably won a gold medal at the English Open in November. It's fantastic to see a member of the Vyners community achieving incredible things outside of their school life and it is also wonderful to be able to shine a spotlight on someone who most students would know very little about.

Very well done, Emilia!

### Employment Opportunities at Vyners

We are currently recruiting for the following term time only, five days a week support positions:

- School Administrator (Reception, HR, WRL, School Office) - 8.00am - 4.15pm
- Exams Administrator - Times vary, but average of 22.5 hours per week
- Learning Support Assistant (HIRB) - 33 hours per week

For more details and an application form, please click [\[here\]](#) or email [recruitment@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@vynersschool.org.uk).

### FOV Quiz Night

The next FOV Quiz Night will be 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Please click [\[here\]](#) for further information and the booking form.


### Ealing Hockey Club Opportunity

Eastcote Hockey Club in Ruislip are looking to increase their junior section and would welcome children (and their families) from primary school age right the way through to current sixth formers. All abilities are welcome. Please email [eastcotejuniors@gmail.com](mailto:eastcotejuniors@gmail.com) for more information.





Kings College Playing Field, Ruislip, HA4 7JZ

# EASTCOTE HOCKEY CLUB



- Coaching available for girls and boys in U6s - U18s
- All Abilities Welcome
- Monthly Junior Socials



For more info please email [eastcotejuniors@gmail.com](mailto:eastcotejuniors@gmail.com)

## Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group

Week ending 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Year Group	Attendance
Year 7	94.1%
Year 8	95.0%
Year 9	91.5%
Year 10	91.0%
Year 11	92.1%
Year 12	93.9%
Year 13	91.6%

Top 3 tutorial weekly attendance

Week ending 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Tutorial	Attendance
8M	99%
7G	98.7%
7M & 7W	98%

## Headteacher Commendations

### Work Related Learning (8H)

Daniiyal Dossa	Sofia Fellows
Syan Gahu	Caelin Gibbons
Luca Goolamali	Luca Harrod
Simran Jammu	Shaun Jeeta
Alissa Kapur	Ricardo Leite
Harris Mahmood	Navraj Marok
Arvin Matharu	Alperen Mazi
Emma McCormick	Anya Patel
Kaylan Patel	Kirat Paul
Abhay Prabhakar	

### Economics

Kaayye Sikka - 10J  
Hanif Dryden - 10H  
Annamarie Baker Lopes - 10J

### Pastoral

Edward Atkinson - 7G  
Elizabeth Smith - 10W

### English

Aidan Gallagher - 12H

### Better Reading Partners

Sienna Tumwine - 7H	Ethan Liu - 7F
Lucas Lawrence - 7F	Alexander Dunsdon - 7C
Dolcie Markham - 7G	Charlie Sandilands - 7P