



## Headteacher's Update

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

I always enjoy the opportunity to speak to students in Year 11 (and Year 13) at this time of year as they prepare for the run in to their trial examinations. This morning, I took the opportunity to speak to the year group about some aspects of their trial examinations and discussed some of the 'mind traps' that many students fall into as they approach the examination season. One example of this is the fixation on grade boundaries. Students often use grade boundaries from previous years as a measure of the marks that they need to achieve a specific grade. Whilst this is perfectly natural, the reality is that this can be misleading.

The reason for this is that whilst examiners go through rigorous processes to try to write exam papers of a similar standard each year, ultimately, they do not know the standard until the papers are sat by the exam cohort. Therefore, if we take a subject such as English Language, the exam board will collect approximately 80-90% of the marks awarded on papers before setting the boundary for each grade. This allows exam boards to ensure that they maintain a similar standard each year and can prevent grade inflation. This is commonly known as comparative outcomes. The key message for the students (at both GCSE and A level) is not to become fixated with historical grade boundaries and be more focused on strategies to increasingly accumulate raw marks. Grade boundaries should only be used cautiously when planning ahead for external examinations.

I am also very much looking forward to starting my 1-to-1 next step meetings with Year 11 students next week; I know that these have already begun with other senior colleagues and, whilst they do take up a considerable amount of time, these meetings are something that I really look forward to each year as we seek to support students post trial exams and help them to explore their next steps post-16 and beyond.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents and carers of students in Year 11 for the engagement in the

consultation evening yesterday. I hope that all parents found the conversations to be constructive and beneficial. I would also remind parents and carers that they can contact staff at any time of the year if they require a more in depth discussion beyond the five minutes that we are able to allocate on consultation evenings.

### Ruislip High School Ofsted Report

I would like to express my warmest congratulations to Gareth Davies, Headteacher and his staff at Ruislip High School for their incredibly successful Ofsted inspection that took place in December, which resulted in the school being redesignated as outstanding in all categories. A letter from the Chair of the Trustees, Peter Davies and CEO, Dr Lecky regarding the inspection and a link to the recently published inspection report can be found here ([click here](#)). The Outstanding judgement is testament to the excellent work of the leadership team, wider staff, governors and community at Ruislip High and is also a reflection of the excellent school improvement work that is undertaken within the Vanguard Learning Trust. We very much look forward to continuing our excellent working relationship with our friends and colleagues at RHS.

**Gary Mullings, Headteacher**

### Vyners' World Book Day Bake Off - 07.03.24

To celebrate World Book Day we are having a 'bake off' on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. We are asking students and parents/carers to show us their baking skills by baking World Book Day themed cakes! Please click [\[here\]](#) for further information.

**Ms Goode, English Department**

### Year 13 Trip to the Freud Museum

The students engaged in a talk on Sigmund Freud, a neurologist that is studied within the Psychodynamic approach in the Psychology specification. They could make links to what they learned in Year 12; the Psychosexual stages and the unconscious. This was followed by an opportunity to explore the Museum,

which was Freud's house in his last year of life. It was also his Daughter, Anna's house. They could look at the study in which Freud worked on his Psychoanalysis and talk therapy. There was even a replica couch that the students (and staff) could sit on. As shown in the images below.

Finally, the students listened to a talk on the case study of little Hans, another aspect studied within the Psychodynamic approach. This case study involves how Hans developed a phobia of horses, which Freud then interpreted as a Fear of his Father, with links to the Oedipus complex, gripping stuff!

It was an absolute pleasure taking the Year 13 Psychologists to the Freud Museum, the students represented the school fantastically, showing great manners, interest and enthusiasm when navigating the Museum. I would like to thank Mrs Lane and Mrs Harvey for accompanying myself and the students on this trip, I think we can all agree it was a brilliant experience had by all!



**Miss Charlton, Teacher of Psychology**

### St Mary's University Trip



A small group of key stage 3 students visited St Mary's University on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January to help the teacher trainees with their understanding of teaching students. The group had lessons in the humanities and represented Vyners School brilliantly.

**Ms Kendall, SENCO**

### Vanguard Learning Trust Equality Week

VLT Equality Week will take place the week beginning Monday 19th February 2024. The Vyners community will be taking part in a range of activities over the week that focus on equality and diversity. Students will engage with a number of activities in tutorials and assemblies will celebrate what makes us different. The week will be kick started with a keynote speaker Jude Guaitamacchi (LGBTQ+) and conclude with a range of activities for students to participate in.

Optional activities include:

- **Cultural food cooking workshops:** Students will be able to sign up for an after school cooking workshop to make Anzac biscuits after school on Wednesday 21st February.
- **Create Change competition:** Students are invited to take part in a creative competition 'Create Change' where they can use any form of art to promote equality and celebrate diversity and individuality. Students can submit any art form they choose, these could include photography, textiles, art, poetry and music.
- **Irish dancing workshop:** Students across all year groups are invited to participate in a one hour Irish dance workshop after school on Thursday 22nd February.

Please click [\[here\]](#) for more information on the activities taking place in all schools within the Vanguard Learning Trust

**Ms Ashe,  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**

### Free Parent Webinar

Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on **technology and focus** on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm to 7pm. Please click [\[here\]](#) to register **for free** and learn how you can turn technology from a distraction into an incentive to study. The webinar will be covering the following:

- Reducing your child's dependence on technology
- Using apps to prevent your child procrastinating
- Using technology to enhance your child's learning

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 child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

**Ms Hawes, Year 8 Leader / PE**

## Sports Update

### U13 FA Schools Cup

Well done to the U13 girls football team who competed in the U13 FA Schools Cup against Dedworth School in Windsor, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. They managed to secure a 5 - 0 win. Goals were scored by Bow Mower, Amber Woolfrey and Sophia Monks. The win pushed the girls through to round 2 against St Mary Magdalene Academy on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January in Camden. Despite having the most shots on target, Vyners did well to concede a 1-0 loss, against a team who had previously won 9-0.

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

### Borough Netball Tournament

Some of our Year 7 netballers participated in their first ever Borough Netball Tournament for Vyners this week and represented the school fantastically well. 17 girls participated across the A and B team, playing against top opposition from across the Borough. The B team demonstrated their versatility, playing a number of new positions and securing 2 wins in the group. The A team won their group and faced a tough St Helens A team in the semi final. After a narrow loss, they went on to win their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> playoff, securing a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish out of 20 teams.

Well done to all involved!

**Ms Powick and Ms Ashe, PE Department**

### London Youth Games - Trampolining

Two Vyners students represented The Hillingdon Borough for Trampolining on 28<sup>th</sup> January in the London Youth Games 2024.



Charlotte Piepenstock-Ralph (7W) and Emma Jones (10G) performed 2 strong routines each, helping Hillingdon to achieve 4<sup>th</sup> place overall out of the 23 London boroughs that entered teams. Charlotte also achieved an individual silver medal. Well done girls!

### Badminton

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January members of our KS3 and KS4 badminton club represented Vyners in the Hillingdon Borough schools badminton tournament.

I was incredibly proud of all the students who participated, many of whom had their first competitive experience.

Special mention to Lincoln So who achieved a gold medal for coming first in his competition.

**KS3:** Rohin Patel, Khizar Ahmed, Lincoln Tam, Arun Harish, Nina Giannouloupoulou, Aasiyah Sultan, Lydia Perks, Anisha Sehdev

**KS4:**



Lincoln So,  
Leon Thapa Magar,  
Aahil Chughtai,  
Andreas Kam,  
Danni Sui,  
Khadija Ahmad,  
Leena Amin  
Emily Whittaker

**Ms Ashe, PE Department**

### School Production

This year's school production, *Sister Act* will take place from Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February through to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The cast and crew have been working incredibly hard and are currently in the process of putting together the final touches of what looks like another high calibre show from the Drama and Music teams. Details of how to acquire tickets can be found in the letter linked from Mrs Moore ([click here](#)). We are very much looking forward to welcoming parents, carers and friends of the school for three nights of incredible entertainment.

### Dropping Off Forgotten Items

As the school has grown in size we have experienced a significantly greater number of parents and carers dropping off forgotten items for their children during the school day. This has included items such as PE kits, packed lunches, resources for lessons, etc. Unfortunately, this is impacting on the capacity of the office staff to undertake their required tasks. Having spoken to a number of schools in the locality, it is clear that most do not allow parents and carers to drop off items in this way due to the reasons outlined. Therefore, a decision has been taken to no longer allow parents to drop off items in this way from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024. A more detailed letter explaining this process can be found here ([click here](#)). We apologise for any inconvenience caused to families.

## GCSE Home Languages

Last year we entered students for GCSE and A level in a variety of languages. We are proud of our student language skills and results.



Our vision at Vyners is clear – we must provide an opportunity for our multilingual students who have the skills to understand and communicate in other languages to benefit from enhanced opportunities in the world of work.

If your child can understand, speak, read and write in another language, please direct them to see Mr Bendifallah as soon as possible in room 249 (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu)

### Eligibility Criteria:

Students aged 14–16 are currently attending a community school and preparing for a GCSE in any of the above languages OR students are able to fully understand, speak, read and write fluently in their community language.

**Mr Bendifallah, MFL Department**

## Safeguarding Snapshot

On 7<sup>th</sup> February we are supporting 'Safer Internet Day'. The theme for this year is 'making space for conversations about children's life online'. Please click [[here](#)] to find some tips and resources that parents and carers may find useful.

## Friends of Vyners '100 Club'

[Winners Nov & Dec 2023](#)

[FOV 100 Club Application Form](#)

## Attendance

Weekly attendance figures by year group

Week ending 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Year Group	Attendance
Year 7	93.3%
Year 8	93.5%
Year 9	92.1%
Year 10	87.2%
Year 11	91.2%
Year 12	96.1%
Year 13	91.9%

Top 3 tutorial weekly attendance

Week ending 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Tutorial	Attendance
12M	98.5%
12C	98.1%
8M	97.7%