



Headteacher's Update

8th March 2024

I think that everyone who attended performances of this year's school production, *Sister Act*, would agree that it was a wonderfully uplifting show and one of the very best that we have seen on the stage at Vyners. It was a quite brilliant week with evening performances as well as matinee performances for pupils from local primary schools. The acting, singing and dance routines were immaculate and were supported by a wonderful orchestra made up of current and past Vyners students as well as professional musicians, all under the leadership of Director of Music, Mr Cullum.

The week of performances was the culmination of six months of hard work with at least two rehearsals every week since September. The success of this production was due to a highly collaborative effort between staff and students at the school, but I would particularly like to mention Mrs Moore, Subject Leader for Drama, who produced and directed the production and also undertook all the choreography. This was quite some achievement and it reflects Mrs Moore dedication and commitment to the school community as well as her affinity with the performance arts.



Reflecting on a Theatrical Journey: "Sister Act" at Vyners

As the curtains close on my final production at Vyners, "Sister Act" leaves me with a collection of laughter, good times, and challenges. Transitioning from the role of Wilbur Turnblad in "Hairspray" to Eddie Souther in "Sister Act" marked a significant shift for me, pushing the boundaries of my comfort zone from purely acting to a more diverse singing role. The journey began in September 2023, with auditions that stirred a mix of scepticism and curiosity within me. Balancing my first year of A-levels with rehearsals seemed unnerving, yet the temptation to get involved with another Vyners production proved irresistible. The decision to join was transformative, as rehearsals commenced in October, enveloping me in an atmosphere of dedication and passion.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Moore, who took on the overwhelming task of staging and directing with minimal assistance (as Ms Pope was on maternity leave), the production blossomed. Her unwavering support and coaching were instrumental throughout our preparation. Despite the smooth progression, the technical weekend in late February tested our resolve. The struggle to complete the first act on Saturday the 24th February was palpable, but our collective determination saw us through, ensuring the show's quality. Show week was a crescendo of confidence, culminating in performances that resonated with the audience and left us with a sense of accomplishment. Special thanks to the tech crew (led by Nyla Singh), cast (our fabulous lead being Mya Cumberbatch), band (directed by Mr Cullum), and stage managers (Ms Pope, Mr Heath and on Thursday night Ms Evans & Ms Soley), whose contributions were crucial.

In retrospect, "Sister Act" was an unforgettable experience, and I wish I could relive it all again. My gratitude extends to all, especially Mrs. Moore and Nyla Singh (fellow Year 10 student of Vyners), whose leadership and management were beyond their years. This production was an orchestration of talent and dedication, and for that, I will always be proud and thankful!

Zia Khan, Year 12 Student

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all parents and carers who participated in the Year 9 parent consultation evening on Thursday. I hope that the evening was insightful and helped families to support their children with regard to any final options decisions.

The Year 12 parents' evening takes place next Thursday 14th March and an email has been sent to parents and carers regarding the arrangements. We recognise that some staff and families will be observing Ramadan during this time and that fasting will come to an end each day shortly after 6pm at which time, prayers and meals take place. Given that this is the case, some staff will start appointments at 4pm and finish earlier than the published finish time of 7pm. We thank parents and carers for their understanding on this matter. Progress checks were handed out to students in tutorial today.

Oxford and Cambridge University Talks

I would like to thank Mr Kelly for arranging a series of talks for students in years 9 to 12 from Oxford and Cambridge Universities. On Thursday of this week, a large number of students attended different sessions led by a speaker from St Anne's College, Oxford which was designed to inform students about academic study at a leading university and give the students an insight into what it is like to study at prestigious institutions such as Oxford or Cambridge. This was a fantastic opportunity for all students involved. We hope that it has helped them to think about their next steps and their potential post-18 options.

Year 12 Psychology

Year 12 have been studying the topic 'Research Methods'. This involves how Psychological experiments are conducted. Towards the end of last term, the students used their knowledge to create and conduct their own research to then present their findings to the class. The students had to state the aims of their study and include; hypothesis, methods, materials used, instructions, what type of experiment they will use, how they will collect their participants and collect results to analyse. The ideas that the students came up with were fantastic and it was great to see the students present these with confidence! Please click [\[here\]](#) to view examples of the student's work.

Miss Charlton, Psychology Teacher

Year 12 Economics

On Friday 23rd February period 4 & 5 the Year 12 economics classes along with those who wanted to join had the opportunity to participate in a talk about finance and becoming an actuary from Dr Dolby who has a very

impressive career working in high up positions at Aviva, Generali, Cambridge University where he worked with Stephen Hawking. He enlightened us about his journey to becoming headhunted by Generali and being flown out from London every week and being able to ask whatever salary he wanted due to his well known Mathematical ability and having lots of experience. He inspired us students when explaining how he managed to earn £2billion for his company in the space of 2 days. He advised us students who wanted to go into the world of finance on ways to stand out to employers and helped us to understand how AI will change the finance sector but also which professions will have good job security and not be replaced by AI. We were very grateful for Dr Dolby for taking time out of his day and to Mr Kelly who asked him to come in and talk to those aspiring to go into finance.



Ved Sakaria, Year 12 Student

Brentford Football Club

On Thursday the 21st February the HIRB participated in a leadership workshop run by Ben Lampert, Disability Sports Coordinator for Brentford FC Community sports Trust. Ben, amongst other achievements, won Gold with Team GB, Deaf Football at the Melbourne Deaflympics 2005. Ben also brought along his colleague, Deaf football coach Frederick and their interpreter Samuel.

Having these amazing Deaf Role Models visit the HIRB gave the students the opportunity to ask them questions about their jobs, how they became coaches and what qualifications they needed. The students took part in an AQA youth leadership training programme, starting off the morning with a fast-paced game using British Sign Language, where each person was given a sign name and had to remember theirs and everyone else's in the room.

Throughout the morning the HIRB students participated in a number of activities including thinking about the qualities of a leader, examining their own skills and qualities, the importance of being part of a team and identifying issues when planning an activity for other young people. This workshop will lead to the students achieving an AQA qualification.



Ms Burwood, Teacher of the Deaf

World Book Day

As part of Vyners' World Book Day celebrations this year, various activities took place to motivate and engage students in the joy of reading. A visit from the children's author Caroline Lawrence inspired students to showcase their creative flair with creating characters and some writing stories of their own! From creative costumes to a Scavenger Hunt and a 'Bake Off' competition, students were involved in a host of exciting events.

There will be more details to follow in the next edition of the newsletter.



Ms Goode, Assistant Lead English

Food Tech Masterclass

On Wednesday 28th February, twenty-four of our students participated in a Fresh Enterprise 'School Food Matters' cooking masterclass in the food department. Working with representatives from *Belazu*-providers of chef-grade ingredients, students were able to sample their existing products with consideration of the flavour combinations, cultural influences, texture and aesthetics. They were then provided with a wide array of ingredients to blend and combine to create their own, original product. A process of experimentation, testing and refining their ideas followed. The session concluded with the different groups presenting their products and sampling each other's creations, before a winning product was selected. Congratulations to the winning group of Anjali Pankhania, Maddie Marshall

and Jessica Handley, who now move on to the next round of this national competition and have the chance of their product being rolled out to supermarkets up and down the country! The experience provided a valuable insight into the world of product development and working in a test kitchen. It also provided the opportunity to try different ingredients and flavours from around the world. All participants will attend a marketing workshop in the near future to broaden their understanding of how marketing and advertising can be used to promote products and increase sales.

Thank you to all who participated for your engagement and enthusiasm.



Mr Welch, Design & Technology Department

Safeguarding Snapshot - Bullying

Bullying is a type of child-on-child abuse defined as the **repetitive, intentional harming** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power; this can include emotional, physical, racial, sexual, verbal (direct or indirect) and cyber-bullying. Bullying can be verbal or physical, by person or by electronic, online or written means.

Please click [here](#) to read this week's safeguarding snapshot.