



Headteacher's Update

3rd May 2024

The first week of May has always signalled the start of the exams season for students sitting externally assessed examinations in years 11 and 13. The season usually starts with the completion of non-examined assessments (NEA) or coursework as it was once known. NEA remains in a number of subjects at both GCSE and A level and can mean completion of an ongoing process or work that is required to be completed in a very specific timeframe. Subjects such as PE, drama and performing arts and modern foreign languages have all be completing NEA over the past week and I know that there is a sense of relief when this element of courses is completed so that students can fully focus on their written exams and staff can assess the work ahead of submissions to the exam board or visits by externally appointed moderators.

It has been great to see so many students engaging in the variety of coursework activities recently but, as a Headteacher, I do always take the opportunity to visit Year 11 students towards the end of their ten hour GCSE art exam. Without trying to overly influence the moderator, I have to say that the standard of work is exceptional this year; I would thoroughly recommend that parents and friends of the school visit the art and photography exhibition when it takes place later in the summer term.

Next week is the final teaching week for our current Year 13 cohort before they go onto their study leave. I had the pleasure of meeting with the Head Boy, Chloe and Head Boy, Himmat, as well as the other members of the Sixth Form Executive Committee to get some feedback about their year and find out about the activities that they have engaged in within the school community recently. It was fantastic to sit and talk over tea, cakes and doughnuts. Quite naturally, there was a sense of nervousness about their impending examinations, but I hope that my reminder to focus on the process rather than the outcome might have helped each of them to lessen their nerves even if only by a small margin.

By the time that the next newsletter is published, our students will be underway with their written papers. I wish them all the very best of luck and hope that they all receive the rewards that their efforts deserve.

2-1-2 Pattern of the Day

As part of the preparation for the external examinations, the pattern of the lessons in the school day will change from 2-2-1 to 2-1-2. This will be with immediate effect on Tuesday 7th May. This will mean that students will have two lessons in the morning followed by a morning break and then one lesson followed by the afternoon break / lunch. The afternoon session will consist of two, one hour lessons. The change in the pattern of the day allows us to run afternoon examinations without the disruption of students being near the exam venues during the lunch hour, which means that the students in the exams can enjoy a quiet environment. The adjustments also allows for students who are sitting afternoon exams to eat their lunch prior to sitting their papers. Parents should note that whilst there is an adjustment to the pattern of the day during the exam period, the start time and end times remain the same.

We wish all of our families a long and restful bank holiday weekend!

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Spring concert

On the evening of Thursday 2nd May, we had the absolute pleasure of hosting 'Vyners at the Movies'. It was a wonderful evening that saw performances from a range of bands, ensembles and orchestras covering a range of genres of film music from Titanic to Top Gun. Having hosted numerous concerts at the school over the past nine years, I can happily share that for me, this was one of the most magnificent performances we have put on.

The standard of music at Vyners has always been incredibly high and this was no different, with virtuosic playing displayed throughout the night.

I would again like to thank the students for their dedication and commitment to their music and also to Mrs Coyle, Mr Abraham, Mrs Slade, Mrs Moore, Mrs Cumming and Mr Miles who continue to work wonders with our students.

Finally, the Music Department would like to highlight our Year 13 leavers who we all agree have been incredible assets to the department and are fantastic role models to our younger students. They are William Goodwin (13M), Phoebe Gardner (13W), Phoebe Gardner (13G), Katerina Paige (13F), Keela Elliott (RHS), Rachael Hunter (13W) and Phoebe Crawford (13F) (pictured below).



Mr Cullum, Subject Leader, Music

Design and Technology: Food Competition

The Design and Technology department are delighted to announce a second-place finish in a national food product development competition. Having meticulously developed their original pesto recipe, our Year 7 and 8 representatives pitched their product to the ingredients development team at The Belazu Headquarters in Greenford. Competing against eight other schools, the team planned, prepared and pitched a highly professional and equally charming presentation to the judges. The standard of entries was exceptionally high and the judges were extremely impressed with our product; a sun-dried tomato based pesto with added health benefits such as B vitamins and nutritional yeast.

Thank you to Sienna, Arianna, George and Rana for their enthusiasm and excellence throughout. We are very proud of how beautifully you represented Vyners. Thank you also to the 21 Year 7 and 8 students who contributed so wonderfully throughout the development of our delicious 'Besto Pesto'.

Mr Welch, Assistant Subject Leader DT



Year 12 Careers Experience Day at Salesforce Inc

Last Friday 5 of our Year 12 Vyners students had the opportunity to visit the Salesforce Tower for a Careers Experience Day. Salesforce is a Global Technology Company with over 79,000 staff worldwide and buildings all around the world. Only 5 students could be chosen in the whole of Year 12 who would benefit from this Careers Day. Students were able to meet people working in different fields of Salesforce, listened to talks about the culture of Salesforce and had a tour of the second tallest building in London. The students really enjoyed the careers experience day and majority of them secured work experience placements and also apprenticeship programmes for the summer. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to meet people within the IT industry and get to know contacts they wouldn't ordinarily come across.

Thank you for a wonderful day out Year 12!



Mrs Desouza, Year 12 Leader

Year 12 Trip to Oxford University

Our trip to Oxford was the perfect opportunity for us to explore what university life would be like as we toured 2 beautiful colleges, St Anne's College and St John's College, and got to speak to Oxford students from various backgrounds. We also got involved in debates which helped us to develop our public speaking and critical thinking skills as well as an invigorating lecture on neuroscience which has inspired me to explore this field further to improve my understanding of different neurological conditions, something I will come across often as a future doctor. Overall, it was an amazing trip and has made me even more motivated to apply to Oxford this October!

I thoroughly enjoyed the STEM lecture about neuroscience as this field of research is captivating and it was a great opportunity to delve in the intricacies of Parkinson's disease. Exploring such a complex neurological condition gave me a valuable insight into how it occurs and how it affects people's everyday lives which has inspired me to explore this field further to improve my understanding of different neurological conditions, something I will come across often as a future doctor.

Elda Kaceli, Year 12 Student

The taster tutorial for the humanities subjects was focussed upon history, and in particular upon what history truly is; seeking to re-evaluate the way in which we view both the actual past and our views of the past, which, as the tutorial proposed, are two very different things. The session was led by a student studying for her Master's degree, so it provided an opportunity to discuss the subject with someone adept and masterful in their field of knowledge, and this in turn facilitated fascinating discussions between ourselves. The controversy surrounding the toppling of the Edward Colston statue in 2020 was the issue on which the session hinged, and the larger underlying issues to which this event pertains; who do we venerate and why? Can the context of the time in which someone lives absolve them of their moral transgressions? Do the benevolent actions of someone cancel out their wrongs? Is there even a place in society for statues and other similar objects which seek to glorify historical figures? A veritable banquet for thought, and a wonderful opportunity to experience an academic discussion at one of the best educational institutions on the globe.

Aidan Gallagher, Year 12 Student



Vyners House Day 2024

On Thursday 28th March, we held our first House Day to celebrate the Vyners House system and to encourage a feeling of belonging amongst students and their Houses. We had a fantastic day and it was great to see so many students and staff members wearing their House colours, taking part in the bake sales and 'guess the sweets in the jar' competitions, as well as the wonderful performances in House Music.

Thank you so much to everyone who took part!

We raised an amazing total of £1,097.81. Well done to everyone, and especially to John Miles, who raised the most!

Here are the totals raised by each House, along with the charities that students have chosen to donate to:

John Miles	£200.21 (Dogs Trust)
Windsor:	£178.95 (Great Ormond Street)
Gell:	£175.70 (WaterAid)
Fry:	£146.00 (Centrepont)
Cheshire:	£123.20 (Save the Children)
Huxley:	£108.00 (Meningitis Research Foundation)
Jaggar:	£85.25 (NSPCC)
Parks:	£80.50 (Race Equality Foundation)

We hope you enjoyed the day, and that you will take part again next year!

Mrs Gardner, Student Leadership Coordinator

Friends of Vyners

Easyfundraising

The next time that you shop online please don't forget that the Friends of Vyners are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help our school for FREE.

Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely **FREE!**

These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at [Friends Of Vyners School - Uxbridge Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#)

Quiz Night

Please click [\[here\]](#) for information on the next Quiz Night on Friday 10th May.

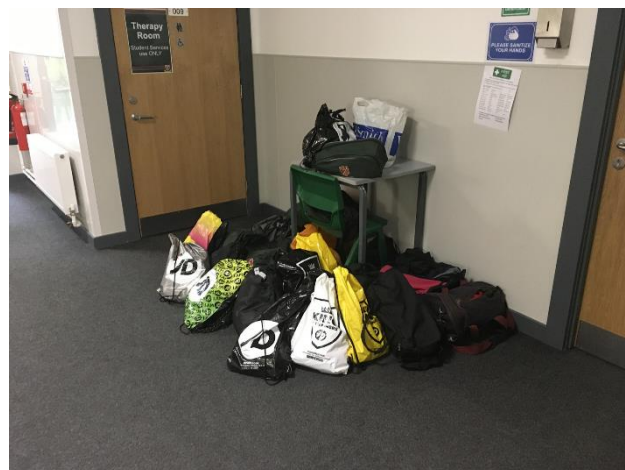
Miss Brown, Assistant Headteacher

Measles update

The number of measles cases in England has increased significantly since October 2023. With exams starting shortly, we have been asked to remind parents to protect themselves, and students, by ensuring they have had 2 doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. It's never too late to catch up. If you are unsure of your vaccination status, please check your Red Book or speak to your GP. Vaccination is the best way to ensure measles does not prevent students from completing their exams.

Ms Williams, School Business Manager

Lost Property



There has been a significant amount of PE kit left in the changing rooms over the past few months including all aspects of Vyners kit and some rather expensive trainers. Any student that has lost any items recently should check at student services at lunchtime or after school. We would be delighted to reunite all items with their owners in the week ahead.

PE department / Student Services Team

Safeguarding Snapshot

This week's safeguarding snapshot is a useful guide from the NSPCC that may help parents to decide when their child is old enough to remain at home or go out alone. Click [\[here\]](#) for the safeguarding snapshot update and resources.