



Headteacher's Update

5th July 2024

This morning we have all woken to the news that we have a new Prime Minister and a Labour government. Whatever our individual political persuasions, it is always a historic moment when the public decides to shift from one political party to another to lead the country. I was recently reminded at a Headteacher's conference that education is a deeply political aspect of society, particularly with regards to the curriculum and how it is delivered and funded, so it will be interesting to see what emerges on the agenda for schools in this next parliament, particularly for those that are publicly funded.

On such occasions, it is important that we use the opportunity to provide our students with the opportunity to engage in learning about the democratic process so I was delighted to see each and every child file into the school gymnasium to vote in the mock election at various points throughout the day yesterday. Thank you to Mr Beale, Subject Leader for History and Politics, for so expertly creating a realistic experience for the students. He has written an extensive piece about the mock election as part of this update and has included what can only be described as interesting results.

Continuing with the theme of democracy, parents and carers would have received a letter this week outlining the process for the parent governor election that is currently taking place. A copy of the letter can be found here ([click here](#)). Parents and carers would have also received an email from Choice Voting on Wednesday with a link to the voting software. I would encourage all parents and carers to engage and vote as part of this process. Our Governors, as volunteers, continue to provide excellent support and challenge to the school and we would appreciate that the outcome of the election is based on an as representative sample as possible.

Another area that we are looking to develop within the school is the use of parent focus groups to provide feedback for new developments and initiatives. In September, we will be launching a new

trust wide Home School Communication policy and we are now at the stage where we would like the input of parents / carers to refine the detail within it. If as a parent or carer you would like to be part of this focus group then please contact the school via the email address office@vynersschool.org.uk. Once names have been collated, Mr Newbey will contact interested parents to arrange a meeting.

Moving politics aside, it was wonderful this week to be able to welcome our new Year 7 cohort to the school on Tuesday for the borough wide induction day as well as meet with the parents and carers of this cohort during the evening. The most positive element of the induction days is where Year 6 students start to see themselves as part of the Vyners community and the worry and nervousness starts to dissipate and their confidence starts to increase at the thought of joining their new school. It was a very productive day.

Huge thanks go to the new cohort of prefects who supported the whole day, from touring the school with students, welcoming them in the morning, chatting to students at break time and lunch time, to hosting a book sale for students and parents. They really helped all of our soon-to-be Year 7 students feel very welcome: Danni Sui, Julie Tadmori, Emma Jones, Henna Dildar, Emily To, Caitlin White, Megan Bristow, Sadie Dempsey, Andrew Niznik, Serena Riyait, Gurleen Bhinder, Emily Anderson, Paulina Kurczewska, Amy Fairbank, Aadi Bhatia, Sean Coxwell, Chloe Sims, Khadija Ahmed, Luke Atkinson, Leena Amin.

At the other end of the spectrum, it was equally wonderful to welcome our new Year 12 cohort back into the school on day one of the Sixth Form induction that took place on Thursday. I hope that both our new Year 7 and 12 cohorts are able to enjoy a long and restful summer so that they are ready to hit the ground running when they start the next stage of their learning journeys when they return in September.



Field End Junior School's Ofsted Inspection

Please click [here](#) to read a letter regarding Field End Junior School's Ofsted inspection.

Finally, this week, I would like to congratulate the six students who will make up our student executive body for the next academic year. Zia Khan (12M) and Ella Brown (12C) will be our Head students for 2024-25, whilst Ved Sakaria (12W), Alisha Mohammed (12H), Alice Day (12C) and Robyn Kell (12W) will work alongside them as deputies. My warmest congratulations to the team and my thanks and appreciation to all students who put themselves forward for this process. It is an absolute privilege to work with such wonderful young people.

Gary Mullings, Headteacher

Vyners Staff Charity Event

Today the Vyners School Staff dressed up in fancy dress to raise money for **Cancer Research UK**. Their aim is built around 4 objectives – to discover, detect, prevent, and treat – so that progress in understanding the fundamental biology of cancer leads to new prevention measures, tests and treatments. We have been raising money as a staffing body, donating in our staff room, but we are now reaching out to the rest of our school community.

If you would be willing to donate to this fantastic charity who do so much work to support the research into cancer please log into your sQuid account and **donate £2**. The sQuid offer is named **'5th July 24 Charity Day for £2.00 donation (voluntary) towards Cancer Research UK'**. We are a cashless school and so we would appreciate any voluntary donations to be made via the Squid platform.

The deadline for any donations is Friday 12th July. All donations will be greatly appreciated.



Miss Brown, Assistant Headteacher

Mock General Election

The School held its own mock General Election on Thursday 4th July to coincide with the real General Election.

Year 12 Government & Politics students recorded presentations for the 5 main parties that would be contesting the seats in the local area: Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green Party and Reform UK. These videos were fantastic and demonstrated the hard work that the students have put in this year to follow the platform of the various parties. These videos were then shown to students in tutor time as a virtual hustings, so they could make an informed decision on the 4th July.

The school was split into 39 constituencies; one for every tutor group and one for staff. This allowed us to recreate our system of elections in which each constituencies operate on a first past the post system, with the most votes winning each seat. The party that won the most seats would therefore be the 'winner' and form a government.

On election day the school gym was transformed into a polling station, complete with black and white with arrows for extra authenticity.

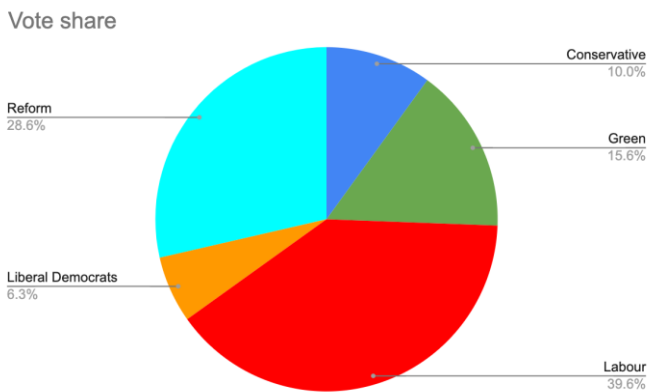


Students were sent down by year group throughout the day to vote via a google form. There were lots of conversations in the corridors; students discussing which party they felt best represented their views. The polls closed at 1:25 pm and the Government & Politics team got to work crunching the numbers.

Spoilt Ballots:

It became clear during the election process that some students decided to vote more than once. There were several safeguards in place during the monitoring of the vote and tracking of voting put in place to guard against it. The politics team looked at patterns of votes cast during the process and were able to filter these out of the overall result.

This overall result would have given Labour a majority of 22 who would form the government. Reform would become the official opposition with 14 seats. The Conservatives would have 2 and Greens have 1. Here is the overall vote share:



Mr Beale, Subject Leader History and Politics

Sports Update

Middlesex Athletics

On Monday 24th June, Hillingdon Borough competed in the Middlesex athletics meet at Stone X stadium. Vyners had 7 students represent Hillingdon in the event:

Fleur Wright - Yr 8 Girl Hurdles
Amelia Harrison - Yr 8 Girl 300m
Celina Bandera - Yr 8 Girl Javelin
Leo Da Costa - Yr 8 Boy 1500m
Rayaan Choudhry Yr8 Boy Hurdles
Elsie Fitzgerald Yr 7 G 1500m
Anastasia M - Yr 7 G Shot Putt.



All put in fantastic performances but a notable mention to Elsie, Anastasia and Celina who all finished 1st in their respective events as middlesex champions.

Sports Day

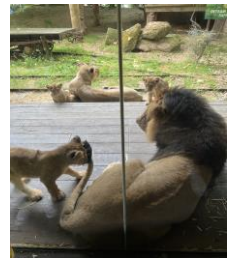
Last week was our annual Sports Days. It was two days which really showcased what a wonderful community we do have at Vyners. All students showed great support for each other throughout the day competing for points towards the house cup.

A notable mention to this years record breakers; Elsie F (Year 7 1500m), Anastasia M (Year 7 Shot Put), Dylan Lewis (Year 9 1500m), Nathan G (Year 9 Javelin), Dolly P (Year 9 High Jump), Anna Marie (Year 10 300m) and Kena D (Year 10 Shot Put).

Mr Hall, Subject Leader, PE

Year 10 GCSE Psychology London Zoo Trip

The Year 10 GCSE Psychology cohort attended London Zoo on Wednesday 3rd July. The students have been studying animal communication and its function within the topic Language, Thought and Communication. The students were looking for signs of animals communicating territory, food, survival and reproduction. They also learned new things about animal communication. Such as; frogs using light and spider monkeys using urine to communicate! It was a fantastic day! Students behaved immaculately, myself, Mr Neville, Mr Flynn and Miss Brown were pleased with the way the students represented Vyners School. Some highlights of the day for students were; the gorillas playing, the baby lions and the otters!



Miss Charlton, Teacher of Psychology

Visitor from Oxford University

As part of their transition into the Sixth form, pupils had the opportunity to listen to a speaker from Oxford University. The speaker, George Hobart, gave an enthusiastic group a talk on making a competitive application to a top University.

He also gave the group the chance to take part in a debate on the topic of should the age of voting be reduced. This gave pupils the opportunity to learn the importance of listening carefully to what they were being told so they can understand what is being said but also so that they could respond in a meaningful way. The debates covered lowering the voting age to 16 and the idea that MPs should be paid to take on the role.



This was the third day that George has taken the time to talk to pupils at Vyners this year on a variety of topics. He will be going off to do further studies himself next year so we would like to thank him for all his time and wish him well for his future.

Mr Kelly, Mathematics Lead Practitioner

Safeguarding Snapshot

In this week's snapshot, we are sharing tips to help parents promote physical wellbeing. Please click [\[here\]](#) for more information.

Eat out for less this summer.

With the summer holidays almost here and money feeling tighter than ever thanks to the cost of living crisis, the Stronger Families team in Hillingdon have created a handy guide to places that let kids eat for free or just £1 over the summer school holidays, making eating out as a family easier and more affordable. Please click [\[here\]](#) for more information.

Vyners Cultural and Diversity Day

Last summer Vyners celebrated its first ever Cultural and Diversity day event, where all members of the school community were invited to attend school dressed in attire that best represents them. It is a day that gives everybody the opportunity to express themselves in every way that they identify to enforce and celebrate that everybody at Vyners is accepted, respected and acknowledged.

This year's celebration will be held on Thursday 18th July 2024.

Students can attend school wearing something that reflects their individuality (i.e. sports team, musical band, heritage, religion, identification). They should ensure that everything they wear and any changes they make are easily redactable for school the next day (i.e. use of press on nails, spray on hair dye, temporary modifications like magnetic piercings and easily washable paint).

All outfits worn to school should be appropriate and conform to the boundaries of Vyners non-uniform standards (i.e. no crop tops, no short skirts or hot pants, no skin fades).

Recruitments Opportunities

Vyners School is currently looking to recruit a Design and Technology (D&T) Technician to start in September 2024. For more information and application form please click [\[here\]](#).

Super-Curricular - My French Work Experience by Henry Cino 10J

What is Super-Curricular?

According to Oxford University.

Super-curricular activities are those that take the subjects you study further, beyond that which your teacher has taught you or what you've done for homework.

Today, I will talk about the journey I experienced over the half term and how learning French in school benefitted me and enhanced my experience while I was there.

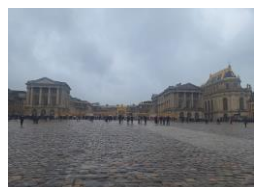
Firstly, I went to Marseille in the South of France. Honestly, it was not as much to see than I thought, however it was a very nice place. I went as it was on the coast, I went to the docks which were full of very expensive yachts. I also went to Notre Dame which was the highlight of Marseille and one of the main reasons I came here. The view was amazing as you could not only see the entire city from there, but you could even see the horizon. Here, French in school benefitted me as we did get lost around here so I asked for directions and also, when ordering food at restaurants which was made very easy due the MFL's excellent teaching.



The next day, I went to Cannes also in the south. It was a very nice place, however there weren't any significant landmarks like in Marseille, however it was a very nice place with a few buildings. On the same day, I also went to Nice which was about a 20 minute train ride. Nice was fantastic. The views were beautiful, the history was amazing and it was a place with a lot of landmarks. Again, thanks to learning French, it helped me navigate through with ease. I also went to Lyon and Paris however it was raining in Paris so there wasn't much to do and Lyon was nice in the places I went

On the final day, I went to Versailles which was the best bit of my journey as I went to the Palace of Versailles where the treaty was signed over a century ago. It was a beautiful building with loads of amazing architecture and artwork on the ceiling. There were so many rooms and I got to see the history of kings and queens in France as well as historical French wars and generals like Napoleon.

That was my journey but this journey was only made easy due to French classes in school. It is important to take a second language as it is significant and very beneficial in the future. This is why I took French as one of my GCSEs. This holiday was made very smooth and easy because of this which made it a fun experience for me and my family who were with me. My advice is to take advantage of this opportunity to take a language and learn it as it will help in one way or another.



Friends of Vyners '100 Club'


 FriendsOfVyners

100 CLUB

For just £12 a year you could be in with a chance to win one of our fabulous 100 Club prize draws:

12 monthly prizes of £25
4 quarterly prizes of £50
1 Annual prize of £100

Complete the registration form via the QR code and one of the team will get back to you



100 Club rules can be found on the Friends of Vyners page on the Vyners website

FOV '100 Club' membership supports the school by raising additional funds. These contribute towards the running costs of the school minibuses, as well as purchasing Chrome Books, soft seating for LRC and Reading Zone, display units for Science, new ovens for Food Technology, a 3-D printer for DT and much more...

LATEST WINNERS

April 2024 £25 - Melinda Holden (32)

May 2024 £25 - Rochelle Yeoman (16)