

# Sixth Form Bulletin

## 13th September 2024

**Contact us:**

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**GET READY TO:**

LEARN **see** DO  
read **EXPLORE**  
question **GROW**  
laugh **SMILE**  
IMPROVE **SHARE**  
try write **CONNECT**  
imagine **DO YOUR VERY BEST**

## GENERAL NOTICES

Welcome to our first Sixth Form bulletin of the academic year. As with any start of year, we wish to share with you a number of key messages and policies which ensure the smooth running of our large and vibrant Sixth Form. We are so happy to see students settled and motivated, working efficiently and making the most of their study periods here at school.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Desouza, having only left for maternity leave on Friday, welcomed a beautiful baby girl on Sunday evening. All are doing very well and we wish Mrs Desouza all the very best for her maternity leave.

If you feel that your child has not settled at the beginning of this academic year, and are worried about their well being, then please do not hesitate to contact us using the email addresses above. We are here to support all students in whatever way we can, to ensure that their Sixth Form journey is a successful and happy one.

There is a lot of information to get through this week, so please do read carefully.

### Whole School Photo - Wednesday 18th September.

Weather permitting, we will be attempting to capture a whole school photo next week. Many of you will be aware that this is an important Vyners tradition - every photo taken since the school opened in 1959 can be found next to the school reception.

The photo will be taken during lessons 1 and 2, and the normal timetable will be suspended at that time. It is important that students arrive at school on time. All sixth form students **must** be in business attire.

All parents will be given an opportunity to buy a copy of the photograph once taken - please keep your eye on this bulletin in a few weeks !

### Punctuality

We have started with a number of students who are either turning up late to school or to timetabled lessons. Students who are late to school (before 8:50) or lessons will be given an S1 sanction and will be required to sit a same day 25 minute detention at the end of their last lesson of the day. Students that arrive after the end of tutorial (8:50), will be issued with a CSS. An accumulation of 3 S1's over a fortnightly period will result in the student having to sit a one hour CSS (Compulsory Study Period) after school. Both parents and students will be notified of this via email.

### **Uniform**

Please read this reminder of our uniform expectations for sixth form students. We have high expectations of our students and will be completing rigorous uniform checks at the beginning of the new term. Any student not complying with the uniform expectations will be asked to either change into something more appropriate (from a range of black skirts and smart shirts/ blazers) that we will be keeping in the Sixth Form office from September or they will be sent home to change. We expect that students are dressed for a **formal** office/ work environment. If there are any queries/issues with the purchase of uniform, please contact your child's Year Leader.

- A suit jacket/ blazer must be worn when walking around the school, as well as for assemblies and other formal occasions.
- Students should wear a suit or jacket and trousers or skirt, a shirt and tie or blouse / plain top.
- Skirts should be of a **sensible length**.
- If a jumper is worn then it should be a V neck, and should fit under a jacket.
- An official Vyners practical uniform can be worn for relevant subjects. This comprises a Vyners branded hoodie or plain black sweatshirt, plain black tracksuit bottoms and plain black trainers. **This is only to be worn on the days students have been informed they are having practical lessons.**
- A lanyard must be visible at all times when moving around the school.
- Outdoor coats should be plain with no designs or logos and must be removed in the school building.
- No hoodies, sweatshirts, jeans or trainers are permitted unless wearing a practical uniform.

### **Leaving school for appointments**

Students are not permitted to leave the school premises before break 1 without a permission slip from Miss Alonso/ Mrs Lopes. Students leaving school who will be returning the same day must also have a permission slip.

### **Lanyards**

All sixth form students have a lanyard which they must wear at all times when they are on the school site. This is a safeguarding protocol. The first time a student forgets their lanyard they will be given a temporary lanyard. If they forget a second time, they will be sanctioned and if appropriate, sent home to get it. If a student loses their lanyard they must buy a replacement on Squid for £3.

### **EduLink**

A reminder that you can access student timetables and other information via EduLink, our parent portal area. Please check that we hold up to date contact information for you. Parents can check and update their own details using EduLink but they shouldn't add any other contacts into their account. Parents can get separate EduLink accounts so must only update details in their own accounts.

Parents/ carers new to Vyners should have received an email from EduLink letting them know how to set up an account. All Sixth form students can access their EduLink account with their normal school login information. Any queries, please contact the school office.

### **Study Periods and Period 10 lessons**

Compulsory Study periods will be available on student timetables from next week, which are available to view on EduLink. Students are required to treat these as a normal timetabled lesson and a register

will be taken in the study room. All students are expected to remain in school until the end of period 2 when they may sign out in the study room if they have no lessons (including study periods) for the rest of the day. They are of course welcome to stay and use the quiet study facilities until 16:00 if they wish.

We appreciate that some students are keen to request additional home study, but evidence has shown that enabling students to manage their own time in a supportive environment enables them to settle into Sixth Form more effectively. It helps students to develop good peer support, aid well-being and independent learning strategies, which in turn has a positive impact on their attainment. We are grateful for your support on this matter to ensure that all Sixth Form students maintain high levels of attendance.

### **Printing**

Sixth Formers receive a £2 credit per half term (200 B&W or 33 colour). Mono costs 3p per page and colour 8p. Colour is only available in the LRC. Parents can top up printing credits using sQuid.

### **Chromebooks**

There are 70 chrome books for sixth form use that can be signed out and back in for the morning or afternoon sessions for students to use in free periods in other rooms.

### **WiFi**

Students will be given instructions to be able to connect their own device to the Sixth Form WiFi over the next week.

### **Canteens/ sQuid cashless accounts**

Sixth form students can use both canteen spaces to purchase food and drink during the day in free lessons and as a collaborative study space. Students may either use a debit card to purchase food and drink or the fingerprint system to link to the cashless catering sQuid account. No cash is accepted. Any student without a sQuid account should get a letter from the study room with instructions as to how to create an account.

### **RSE program**

We have a dedicated session once a week in tutorial time where tutors deliver sessions to engage students in reflecting upon different aspects of their health and well being. This term we will be looking at Physical, Mental and Social Health with topics covered such as Emotional Well-being, Mindfulness and healthy eating. We will also use this to signpost local and NHS approved online services that young adults can access if they feel that they need further support in any of these areas. As ever, if you feel that your child needs any additional support, whether with their studies and progress or well-being, please do get in touch.

### **Dropping off student belongings at school**

Can we remind all parents that we are no longer able to accept belongings during the day that students have forgotten to bring with them to school. We are now a school community of over 1500 students. If even 5% of students forget something, that is over 70 PE kits, packed lunches etc that need to be taken to students during the day.

Reception staff will only accept emergency items, such as prescription glasses and essential medication.

Please ensure that your son / daughter comes to school with everything they need for the day.

<p><b>VYNERS SIXTH FORM KEY DATES:</b> Please use this <a href="#">link</a> to see key dates for this year. <b>TERM DATES:</b> Please use this <a href="#">link</a> to see the school term dates.</p>
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## YEAR 12 NOTICES

### **First Assembly**

In our first welcome assembly we were delighted to congratulate students on their GCSE results. Our first day was packed with celebrating their achievements and setting goals in order to thrive and start life in our fantastic Sixth Form.

### **PHSE/ Careers**

We now have a dedicated one hour slot of the timetable for year 12 every Monday week A Period 5. We will be using this time for either whole year group sessions or more bespoke careers talks to suit the audience. For some of the sessions attendance will be compulsory and a register will be taken. Failure to attend the compulsory sessions will result in the student completing a Compulsory Study Session (CSS). We are really excited about these sessions, and hope they facilitate students in supporting their next steps.

On **Monday the 16th September**, all Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology students are to attend a mandatory session during period 5 with Mr Kelly. Psychology students may also attend, but this is optional.

A register will be taken and a consequence issued for any students not attending. All other Year 12 Students can leave after period 4 or stay in school to study.

On **Thursday 18th September, Period 1** we are delighted that the SAME (Safety Awareness Motoring Education) Academy are coming into school to deliver a **safe drive workshop** in the Main Hall. This is a compulsory session for all Year 12 students and registers will be taken.

### **Student Leadership**

Next week, students will be shown a number of leadership/community champion roles that they can participate in at Vyners School. These roles are an opportunity to instil effective leadership skills that serve as the foundation of shaping individuals in order to motivate and achieve goals. Every student must choose at least ONE of the roles. A google form has been sent to their school email, which needs to be completed by **Friday 20th September 2024 by 15:00**.

Students will then be contacted by the member of staff running the activity to let them know further details and start times. We will be speaking to any student who has not selected a role yet to remind them of the benefits of volunteering and developing other skills that future employers look for alongside academic studies.

### **Year 12 Parent Information Evening 2024**

We would like to welcome you to the parent information evening in the Main Hall on **Wednesday 2nd October at 18:00 - 19:00** to outline the year ahead. Please complete the google form attached [here](#) to register your attendance. You will have an opportunity to ask any questions in advance via the google form or at the end of the presentation, but please do contact us by telephone or email if you need to speak to any of the team before then.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening - Tuesday 22nd October**

All year 12 students are required to be present from **17:00 - 19:00** to help out with the Sixth Form Open Evening, and to help welcome any Year 11 student wishing to apply to Vyners Sixth Form.

### **Year 12 and Year 13 Early Entry/Oxbridge**

Please continue to check the Google classrooms for opportunities that will be coming up in the near future for different universities including Oxbridge. The Lucy Cavendish College opportunity is the first opportunity for pupils who are potential Oxbridge or competitive University candidates for this Year but further opportunities will arise for other colleges and Universities. If there is a particular area that you are interested in then please see Mr. Kelly who will be arranging the talks and other opportunities.

### **The Lucy Cavendish College Academic Attainment Programme from students in Year 12**

Click [here](#) for information regarding this programme.

## **YEAR 13 NOTICES**

### **Welcome to year 13**

A huge thank you to Mrs DeSouza for all her hard work settling this cohort into the Sixth Form during Year 12 and we wish her well as she starts her own journey of parenthood.

### **PHSE/ Careers**

We now have a dedicated one hour slot of the timetable for year 13 every Monday week A. We will be using this time for either whole year group sessions or more bespoke careers talks to suit the audience. On **Monday 16th September, Period 1** we are delighted that the SAME (Safety Awareness Motoring Education) Academy are coming to deliver a **safe drive workshop** in the Main Hall. This is a compulsory session for all Year 13 students and registers will be taken.

There will also be a talk on admissions tests and the preparation for them during the PHSE lesson on Monday period 1 in room 006. Pupils need to be in the room by 8:45. If you are taking an Oxford based test or are taking a test for a subject that offers, such as Law, but isn't a test run by Oxford University it would be useful to attend the session. Further information about Oxford based tests and other tests for courses not specific to Oxford have been previously shared on the Competitive Universities and Oxbridge Google Classrooms.

### **Junior School Open evening 16.30 - 19.30**

We are looking for around 60 year 13 students, in addition to the Student Executive Team to volunteer to be tour guides and some car parking guides for this event. It would be great to see year 13 students willing to give their time to showcase their knowledge of the school and their presence to support the many younger students who will also be guiding. We have sent out a google form for students to reply if they are willing to help for all or part of the evening and would be grateful for replies by Monday, so we have an idea of numbers.

### **Work Experience/ courses**

It is helpful for students to have logged their work experience details and any Moocs, webinars or other courses completed in the relevant section on Unifrog (interactions/ skills/ experiences) so that any references being written can take this extra level of experience or study into account. Students will have a dedicated tutorial time on Tuesday morning to complete this activity and also a work experience feedback form.

### **Personal Statements**

All students should have a draft of their personal statement (47 lines or 4,000 characters) on Unifrog by the end of September, ready for tutors to look at to be used for a university application, apprenticeship or to create a letter of application for a job. This is their chance to sell themselves and say why they would be great on a course, in an apprenticeship or a job, and what evidence they can provide to support this, so it is worth starting early, to help make their application stand out.

### **UCAS References**

Tutors will start writing references linked to each students' Unifrog profile, looking at shortlisted courses, courses attended and work experience details recorded in their skills, or interaction profile area. It is a much more streamlined and effective process for the tutors to collate the best reference, when students already have a draft of their personal statement on Unifrog, so can we urge you to ask your child to show you a copy, just to see where they are at. Over 10 re-drafts are not unusual and different people reading them can be very helpful. It can also be a great opportunity to share the journey of your child's achievements and successes, and celebrate all their skills and attributes with them, in addition to their compulsory studies, even if what you discuss doesn't make the final draft!

### **UCAS Predicted grades**

Predicted grades will be finalised by subject teachers, following any in-class assessments taking place in September, and will be emailed to students at the start of October. Early entry students will receive theirs earlier, as their applications need to be submitted by **October 15th 2024**.

### **Year 13 Parent information evening 2024 - Thursday 10th October (Virtual)**

Since many of you came to the UCAS parent information evening in July, we will instead be holding a virtual event with the information for this year ahead. You will then have the opportunity to contact us and get a call back if you have any queries. Of course, do not wait until this occasion if you have any questions, as we are happy to call you, to help answer any queries at any time.