

## Parent Bulletin

20th December 2024

This year's Awards Evening was one of the most memorable ever primarily due the wonderful address that was made by our guest speaker, Luke Stockwell. As mentioned in the previous update, Luke is a Vyners alumni and was Head Boy at the school before studying a History degree at university and a masters in broadcast journalism. Luke is now a production manager for the TNT sports channel and spends most of his time travelling around the UK and Europe managing the production of sports events such as international rugby and champions league football. Luke will also be working on the Tyson Fury versus Oleksandr Usyk fight in Saudi Arabia this weekend.

Luke's story and message for the students and their parents was a relatively simple one. It was about how he always sought to take on opportunities whenever they arose, both at Vyners and beyond. I was interested to learn that he wrote to a sports broadcaster when he was 14 years of age and asked him for advice about getting into sports broadcasting. The advice that he was given was to *'never miss an opportunity when it is presented to you'*. Another fantastic insight that Luke shared on the evening was the fact that when he first gained a role at TNT (then BT Sports) he spent the first six months making teas and coffees as a runner. He noted that working his way from the bottom in this way was incredibly important in that it allowed him to get to know everyone and provided the opportunity for those established in the field to know who he was and a lot about his character.

It was a tremendously inspiring ten minutes and we are grateful to Luke for giving up his time for the staff and students at Vyners. I must also mention that it was delightful to see so many of our previous Year 13 cohort in attendance to collect their Gold Awards and Academic Achievement Awards and it was particularly pleasing to learn how they have progressed in their first terms at university, apprenticeships or in the world of work. Congratulations once again to all of our prize winners and their families and thank you to Ms Ogunlabi, Assistant Headteacher and her team for organising such an enjoyable evening.



Mr Mullings with Mrs Clarke (Chair of Governors) and Luke Stockwell



Previous Year 13 cohort

This year's VLT carol concert was the biggest and best yet with every seat taken at St Lawrence's Church in Eastcote and standing room only towards the rear. It was an incredibly uplifting occasion for all who attended with a mixture of Christmas carols enthusiastically sung by each of the four primary school's choirs, a wonderful solo rendition of *'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas'* from Ruislip High School and a stirring performance of *The Ukrainian Bell Carol* by the Vyners School chamber ensemble. The performances were interspersed with a series of readings by students from each of the schools alongside some traditional Christmas hymns sung by the entire congregation. There were so many magical moments during the hour-long concert, but a special mention should probably go to the Ryefield Primary School choir who not only performed *Love Shone Down* incredibly well but were also able to do so with the addition of British sign language. A really heartwarming event for all. Thank you to Mr Cullum, Director of Music at Vyners school, for his leadership of this event.

Vyners Christmas Concert took place on Monday 16th December to a large audience of family, friends and supporters. The range and quality of music was impressive and it was, as usual, an extremely enjoyable event. Students from years 7 through to 13 took part, with appearances by teachers and ex students along the way. A really festive and celebratory event which sums up the positive spirit of Vyners. The table quiz and competition to build a gingerbread village was entertaining for all the family and it was clear that we have some very talented (and competitive) parents and carers!

Thank you to all of our performers and supporters and most importantly to Mr Cullum, Mrs Coyle, Mr Abrahams and Mrs Slade for putting on such a brilliant performance which really saw Christmas begin with a bang!



## Christmas Lunch

With the expansion of the school, this year's Christmas lunch was the biggest ever and involved our catering team serving up a traditional festive meal to over 450 students and over 100 staff in just under an hour and a half. This is one of the occasions throughout the year that we have as a community to sit together and enjoy a meal in a more formal way; we look to have a sit down themed meal at least once a half term as a community event.



## Vanguard Learning Trust Student and Staff Awards

We were delighted to present the VLT students awards to three very worthy winners for the autumn term during this week. As a reminder, these awards are limited to one student per key stage per term and highlight excellence in line with one of the trust's values; aspiration, community and equity. The value for this term is aspiration and three winners have all shown dedication to their academic studies, working consistently well and achieving high standards in all of their subjects, as well as being amongst the first to support their peers when help is needed in the classroom. Congratulations to Sam Farrington (KS3), Leah Coulby (KS4), and Chloe Tutin (KS5) as the recipients of the awards for this term.



Sam Farrington (KS3)



Leah Coulby (KS4)



Chloe Tutin (KS5)

Each school within the trust has also been asked to nominate members of staff for termly VLT staff awards for the very first time. These are primarily members of staff who display ongoing commitment to the students, staff and families at the school and regularly go over and above what would normally be expected of a colleague in their position. The Vyners winners for this term are Ms Kendall as our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and Mr O'Connor as our deputy designated safeguarding lead (DDSL). Congratulations to both members of staff as well as the other colleagues who were nominated on this occasion.



Mr O'Connor, DDSL



Ms Kendall, SENCO

Finally, I would like to wish all of our staff, children, families and friends of the school a safe, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas holiday and look forward to a successful 2025.

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**

## **Behaviour Policy Update**

The Governing Body have approved some minor amendments to the part B of the school's behaviour policy that will come into force at the start of the spring term in January. The full policy can be found here [[click here](#)]. The main changes are related to C3 detentions and Headteacher's detentions, which will return to 1 hour and 2 hours respectively. There will also be a slight change to lesson removals. These will now only be referred to as lesson removals and no longer be referred to as a C3+. Students who are removed from lessons after three warnings will remain in the reflection room (formerly C4 room) for the remainder of the lesson, two additional lessons and one social / break time. Lesson removals happen very infrequently. However, when they do, we will continue to ensure that parents are informed and that a restorative meeting takes place between the student and the member of staff to ensure that all issues are resolved prior to the next time that the same lesson takes place.

It is also important to note that we are continuing to develop our rewards system for positive behaviour, as this is far more important to us than any sanctions and, as part of this, we will be ensuring that rewards escalate for good work in the classroom and that prizes are given to tutorials for achieving strong attendance (with the removal of outliers), merits and absence of consequences. We thank parents for their continued support.

**Ms Ogunlabi, Assistant Headteacher**

## MFL Christmas Card Competition



**A MIGHTY congratulations to all our MFL Christmas card competition entrants!**  
 We received over 30 amazing cards making it very hard for our Language Ambassadors to determine the winners.



1- Alice D. 7C



2- Kaeli T. 7C



3- Chloe J. 8J



## GCSE Home Languages at Vyners School

Being able to speak another language is something that should be celebrated. If your child (aged 14-16) is thinking about taking a GCSE in another language and can understand, speak, read and write in one of the languages listed below, please ask them to see Mr Bendifallah as soon as possible in room 249.

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Arabic   | Persian    |
| Bengali  | Portuguese |
| Chinese  | Russian    |
| Gujarati | Polish     |
| Italian  | Turkish    |
| Japanese | Urdu       |

**Mr Bendifallah, Teacher of MFL**

## Co-Curricular Timetable - Spring 2025

Please click [\[here\]](#) to find the co-curricular activities taking place during the Spring Term.

## Music Instrumental and Singing Lessons

If your child wants to learn an instrument at Vyners School then please click [\[here\]](#) to sign up for lessons, all information is provided in the link. Please be aware that there are waiting lists for the guitar lessons at the moment. Merry Christmas!

**Mr Cullum, Director of Music**

## Information Received

Please click [\[here\]](#) for information from the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership for reducing the first risks for e-scooters and e-bikes.

## VLT Staff Vacancies

Please click [\[here\]](#) for support staff vacancies across the VLT sites.

## Spring Term Key Dates

Monday 6th January	Staff Development Day - school closed to students
Tuesday 7th January	Terms starts
17th - 21st February	Half Term
Friday 4th April	Term ends (3pm finish)