



### In loving memory - Sarina Rashid



We recently received the devastating news that one of our recent former students, Sarina Rashid, passed away after a short illness during the Christmas period. Sarina left Vyners in the summer after completing five years at the school and would have been part of the current year 12 cohort. It goes without saying that Sarina will be sorely missed by many at the school. She was recognised as a hard working and friendly person who always had a smile on her face and whilst she didn't find all aspects of learning in the classroom to be easy, she was conscientious and determined and faced challenges with great positivity. I would like to thank staff and members of the Sixth Form who have been conducting a series of charitable activities in the school

to raise funds for Sarina's favourite charity, 'Save the Children'. I would also like to express my sincere condolences to Sarina's parents, family and friends on behalf of the wider Vyners community.

### Mobile Phone Reminder

I would like to remind parents and carers of the message that was shared in the Parent Bulletin on Friday 5th December [\[click here\]](#) regarding mobile phone use and the updated Behaviour Policy. We have taken the decision to strengthen our mobile phone policy, which means that any phone that is now confiscated as a result of unauthorised use will be confiscated for 24 hours. We do understand that parents may wish to contact their child as they travel home at the end of the school day and may not be aware that a phone has been confiscated. Therefore, we will ensure that in such circumstances parents are informed of any such confiscation and can make arrangements to collect their child from school where necessary. Please also note that the school does reserve the right to prevent a child from bringing a mobile phone to school in specific circumstances. This may include where a child frequently breaches the mobile phone policy or refuses to hand over a phone when requested.

### Poetry Success

This week I would like to give a special mention to the students in Year 7 who participated in the Trust-wide poetry competition that took place at the end of the Autumn term. However, I do need to pay particular attention to Zonera Ali (7M) who not only won the Vyners section of the competition but also won the overall Trust-wide competition and as such is awarded the title of the 2025-26 Vanguard Learning Trust Poet Laureate. This is a wonderful achievement for a young student who is just beginning her journey with poetry and we would encourage a wider range of students to do so in the future. Our warmest congratulations to Zonera and thanks to Mr Nicholls in the English department for his work in organising the Vyners section of this competition.



## **Parental Consultation Evenings**

As a gentle reminder to parents and carers, the spring term is a busy one for parent meetings, with five different meetings scheduled to take place between now and the Easter holidays for various cohorts. I would ask parents and carers to take note of the dates provided in this update and also look out for letters providing more details shared by our Year Leaders. A full range of dates for events for the calendar year can also be found via the school's Google calendar on the website [[click here](#)].

## **School procedures in the event of an unexpected closure**

Whilst we are pleased that we have been able to resolve the main issues that we have experienced with our heating systems last week, I am also aware that certain other incidents and events can occur from time to time that might lead us to a decision to either fully or partially close the school. The recent events in Kent where schools and homes have been without running water provides a timely example of this. It is always important that we have contingencies in place. In the event that the school needs to close unexpectedly for any reason, parents and carers will be informed of any such decision via Edulink by 7.30am on the day of the closure. This information will also be published on the school's website. In making this decision, we will access all relevant information and consider likely health and safety issues. The school will always endeavour to move to a remote provision as quickly as possible and we will keep parents updated as we deal with any situation.

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**

## **Year 9 into 10 Options Evening**

This is just a reminder that on **Wednesday 21st January** we will be hosting the Year 9 into 10 Options Evening. This will start at 6pm but arrivals can be from 5.30pm. The purpose of this evening will be to discuss the process moving forward and give information about different pathways, whilst clarifying some details about subjects such as Triple and Combined Science. There will be parking on site on a first come, first served basis. Please do try to attend this evening in order to ensure that you can support your child through this important process.

**Ms John, Year 9 Leader**

## **Year 8 Enrichment Choices Evening**

[This brochure](#) contains all the information about the Year 8 into Year 9 enrichment choices process. Please use [this link](#) to reserve a place at the Year 8 Enrichment Choices Evening on **Tuesday 20th January** at 6.30pm. You only need to attend this evening if you have any further queries about the process as no additional information will be given on the evening.

**Mr Abraham, Year 8 Leader**

## Year 13 Students Take Part in the AMGEN Biotech Experience

Year 13 Biology students at Vyners School recently took part in the AMGEN Biotech Experience, an exciting opportunity to engage with techniques used in cutting-edge scientific research. Throughout the programme, students explored real-world applications of biology, including personalised medicine and forensic science.

Over a number of lessons, students processed multiple DNA samples and used gel electrophoresis to analyse genetic material. By carefully interpreting their results, they were able to identify the culprit of a simulated crime while helping to exonerate others, mirroring the methods used by scientists in professional forensic investigations.

All students should be extremely proud of the precision they demonstrated and the high-quality data they collected. Success required a strong understanding of the methods provided, close attention to detail, and the ability to follow strict safety protocols at all times. These skills are essential in both academic and professional scientific environments.

The Year 13 Biology cohort benefited greatly from the generous loan of the AMGEN Biotech kit to Vyners School, which provided hands-on experience that brought classroom learning to life.

**Ms Holt, Subject Leader - Science**

Below are some comments from students:

The Amgen Biotechnology Experience was genuinely valuable, particularly the hands-on use of professional laboratory equipment for gel electrophoresis. Being able to carry out the process myself — from sample preparation to analysing DNA fragments — moved it from theory to real technical understanding. Using advanced equipment gave me confidence in practical lab skills and exposed me to the level of precision required in real biotechnology and research environments. This immersion confirmed my interest in pursuing biotechnology in the future, as it showed me how biological concepts are applied using sophisticated technology to generate meaningful data.

**Khushal, Year 13 Student**

The AMGEN experience was very useful to me especially since I am hoping to work in the field of pharmaceuticals, it helped me gain some insight into more high tech equipment and overall allowed me to develop practical hands-on skills I hope to use in the future.

**Yara, Year 13 Student**

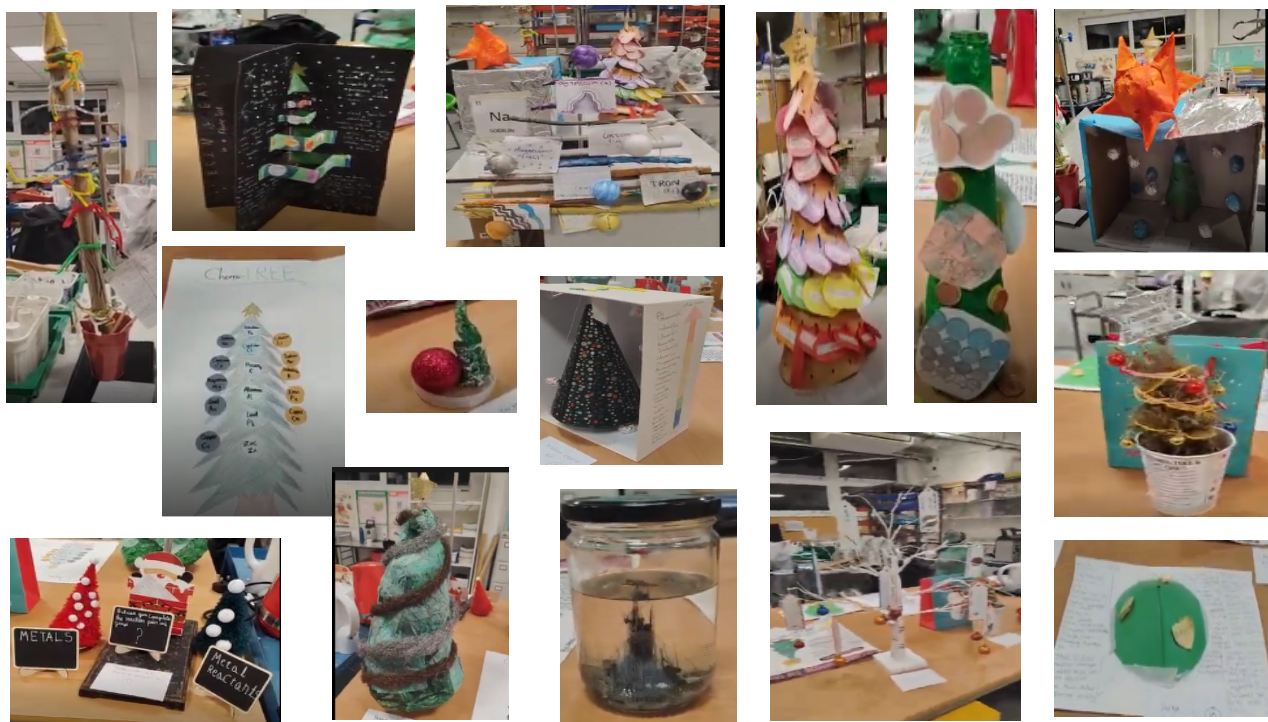


## KS3 Science Chemis-TREE Competition 2025

The Vyners Chemis-TREE Competition for KS3 students took place in December on the theme of 'The Reactions of Metals'. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to research and learn about the importance of metals in the world around us. Not only did students need to create their Chemis-TREE with the Science theme, but this year we incorporated an additional twist to the proceedings with a Dragon's Den component. This gave an opportunity for the students themselves to be able to explain their entry in more depth and convince the Dragon's Den that their entry was the best!

Students worked independently and covered a range of topics from the chemistry of fireworks, flame colours, metal salt reactions and corrosion, even growing their own crystal Chemis-Tree. All creatively woven into a seasonal Chemis-tree theme to show off their research, organisational and communication skills.

In round 1 our Head of Science Ms Holt, Mrs Harvey, Deputy Headteacher and I shortlisted our finalists for the Dragon's Den. In our efforts to get down to the final 3, it was too close to call and we narrowed it down to 6 candidates to face the dreaded Dragon's den stage. In the words of Mr Mullings 'we were incredibly impressed with the entries, some presenting for the very first time'. We received an overwhelming number of entries from our youngest cohort where Ms Holt described the Year 7 efforts as simply ".. knocking it out of the park". Due to popular demand we have made the video available in each of the Science Google classrooms in Years 7 and 8.



**So what did the candidates have to say about it all?**

*"I liked seeing the other trees and learning more about the Periodic Table"* - Tamara, Y7 student  
*"It (the Dragon's Den) was a bit scary, but then easy as the teachers were really supportive"* - **Amelia (8W)**

*"I really liked making the project ...but I think they asked too many questions!"* - **Heena (7W)**

*"Building the model was fun"* - **Riyen (7P)**

*"I learnt to be patient and if it doesn't work at first, then just keep doing it"* - **Andrew (7W)**

*"It was a bit scary at the start, but then I got used to it"* - **Harrison (7M)**

A special shout out to the Year 12 A level Chemistry class for promoting this event and helping to organise and conduct the post presentation interviews.

The Dragon's Den decisions only counted towards 50% of the vote. The rest was up to the Year 7 and 8 tutor groups who voted remotely by Google form on the last day of term during tutor time. As a result we proudly announce our winners below.

The Vyner's KS3 Chemis-TREE Competition 2025 winners were:

Overall Winner	Andrew Baz (7W)
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner up	Harrison Brenard (7M)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner up	Riyen Chavda (7P)
Special Teachers' award	Tamara Auriemma (7P)



Andrew Baz (overall winner)

All the participants will receive a certificate for their hard work and ingenuity in producing their entry. I would like to thank all the participants for their engagement, dedication and hard work. Well done!

**Dr Ganguli-Roy, Assistant Subject Lead, KS3 Science**

## Oxbridge Super Curricular Activities

In order to enhance their curriculum studies, pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of super curricular activities which often give them the opportunity to work with leading institutions across numerous areas of study. Some of these opportunities involve sustained effort on the part of pupils and demonstrate their commitment to their development. Equally, there are some opportunities which involve shorter periods of application and these are also very useful in enhancing pupil understanding of areas of interest beyond the curriculum.

The courses written about below are predominantly Oxbridge based ( COMPOS, Lucy Cavendish APP, STEM SMART) but also include a review of a Data Science and AI in Mathematics course run by the MEI organisation. These reviews are written by pupils in Years 11 and 12 but there are opportunities available for younger pupils that are frequently sent out by various Heads of Year via their information newsletters and I would encourage your son/daughter to get involved if they find a course/opportunity of interest.

**Mr Kelly, Oxbridge Coordinator/Lead Maths Practitioner**

STEM SMART is extra tutoring course that lasts until around May 2027 that focuses on STEM subjects. In my case, that would be Maths, Further Maths and Physics. Currently, I am enjoying the course as they have 1 hour sessions for maths and 30 minute sessions for physics once a week and set some homework which takes around 1 hour per subject. This course benefits me as they have said that it can boost my grade by approximately one grade which will help me boost my chances to get into the university that I want. Therefore, that's why I enjoy doing STEM SMART.

**Henry, Year 12 Student**

The Lucy Cavendish programme has been such an incredible opportunity to partake in, in particular the English literature sessions I've been attending. These sessions not only provide the opportunity to collaborate with other likeminded peers from across the country, but also allow me to explore texts outside of the curriculum that I would not otherwise be exposed to. Also, these amazing sessions have given me the opportunity for essays and pieces of writing I've completed to be marked and improved by a Cambridge tutor which has massively helped my work improve!

**Caitlin, Year 12 Student**

I'm currently participating in a Maths into Data Science and AI course. The course is about the integral role mathematics plays in AI, and it aims to teach students how they can use mathematics, as well as the computing language Python, to manipulate data in many ways and even create simple forms of AI. While the course is designed for all students taking maths, I am finding it extremely useful for computing as well, as it is allowing me to develop my knowledge of Python and use it in real-life applications (e.g. analysing UK climate data). Despite involving some computing, I would greatly recommend the course to anyone taking maths who is interested in how AI works.

**Kaavye, Year 12 Student**

Currently, I am participating in the Lucy Cavendish programme organised by the University of Cambridge. We take part in different lectures, for example, last week, I attended a lecture where we were introduced to different super-curricular activities and the importance of it when it comes to applying for a top university in the country. Peer discussion group sessions are also very beneficial. We meet other people within the cohort and share and express our ideas within a given theme. It allows us to further develop our oracy skills and learn how to communicate more effectively, boosting our confidence when we interview for our dream university.

**Andrea , Year 12 Student**

In the COMPOS sessions, we are able to learn maths and Physics content that is at a much higher level than what we would normally study in class, and I am greatly enjoying being able to explore this subject further through the COMPOS programme. It is a great experience and I am excited to be participating in a course that will allow me to expand my knowledge of a subject I already enjoy and look to pursue in the future. This programme has allowed me to appreciate the subject more and as a result, I am greatly enjoying both the programme and the related subjects.

**Nathan, Year 11 Student**

For the past three months, the Lucy Cavendish programme has offered a range of sessions that are beneficial for the journey from A Levels to university. For example, the University readiness sessions provide crucial information about what university life is really like and how extracurricular activities can strengthen our personal statements. I personally found these sessions extremely useful, as this information is not specifically taught in school.

In addition to the University readiness sessions, we are also required to attend peer discussion sessions. In these sessions, we are assigned to groups and have discussions with students from across the country who are also taking part in the AAP course. This has helped to improve my communication skills when interacting with people I have never met before, as well as developing my ability to be a good listener. Even though I have only attended one peer discussion session at the moment , I have already gained knowledge about the importance of communication skills and gained confidence to have a conversation with people that are my age across the country

The course also assigns us to subject-specific groups based on the A Levels we study at school. I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology, so I attend Biology and Chemistry sessions approximately once a month. During the Biology sessions, we revise A Level content such as biological molecules, but we also explore topics that we may not be familiar with. I believe this is beneficial for revision while also allowing us to gain deeper knowledge beyond the school curriculum. This gives me an advantage when writing my personal statement, as I can demonstrate my understanding of the subject and explain why I am well-suited to the course I plan to study at University.

**Claudia, Year 12 Student**

## Health and Welfare

### Flu catch-up clinics

Please [click here](#) for details on flu catch-up clinics.

### Health Questionnaire for **YEAR 9 students only**

The Hillingdon School Nursing Team supports the health and well-being of our children in Hillingdon. They want to ensure that the school community remains healthy and receive the right support when it is needed. In order to identify any child health needs as early as possible they are asking for parents/carers to complete a questionnaire [click here](#) by Friday 30th January 2026. Please [click here](#) for further information.

### Health Questionnaire for Students in **YEAR 12 only**

For parent/carer's information, Year 12 students have been sent a link to complete a health questionnaire. This questionnaire should be completed by students by Friday 30th January 2026. Please [click here](#) for further information.

## Charity Events

### Park Run/Walk - Number 2: Saturday 17th January

Miss Hawes and Miss Charlton are raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital and St Barnabas Hospice. They are also running the London Marathon in April in aid of these charities. Their next charity event for our parkrun/walk which went well last time is this weekend. Please come down and support them (either walk/run or Marshall) for 30 minutes to run/jog/walk with friends/family/pets. This is taking place on Saturday 17th January, arriving from 9.15am for a 9.30am start and our second event is 2.6km (1.6 miles) starting and ending in Swakeleys Park (nearest school). Donations would be massively appreciated. If you would like to donate, we would really appreciate it via cash on the day or through our JustGiving pages below. Let us know if you are able to Marshall. Thank you

- <https://2026tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/emma-charlton>
- <https://2026tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/kirsty-hawes>

**Miss Hawes and Miss Charlton**

### Care4Calais

Last weekend, Ms Amin travelled to Calais with other National Education Union members to volunteer with [Care4Calais](#). The organisation provides services including phone charging, goods distribution, medical assistance, English practice, and legal aid to refugees in Northern France. The local Union branch will be making a donation to Care4Calais to support the work they do, any additional donations would be greatly appreciated and can be made via this link [click here](#).

**Ms Amin**

## Friends of Vyners

Please [click here](#) for information on the next Quiz Night on Friday 30th January.

Please [click here](#) for information on the FOV AGM on Thursday 26th February.

## Attendance Figures

Please find below attendance figures for w/c 5th January 2026

Year Group	Present Marks (%)
Year 7	94.03%
Year 8	93.51%
Year 9	90.81%
Year 10	92.11%
Year 11	91.88%
Year 12	95.76%
Year 13	91.09%

Please find below the top tutorials for attendance for w/c 5th January 2026

Tutorial	Present Marks (%)
12C	100%
12J	98.97%
11H	98.86%

## Spring Term Key Dates

Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Year 9 into 10 Options information evening
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Year 8 & 9 options forms open
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Years 11 and 13 reports issued
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 11 parent consultation evening (online)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 13 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 8 reports issued
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term</b>	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Sixth Form applications deadline
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 reports issued
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> , Thur 5 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> March	School Production
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 & 12 reports issued
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	FOV Quiz Night
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 and 9 options deadline
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 12 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7 reports issued
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>End of Spring Term (3pm finish)</b>