



Parent Bulletin

13th February 2026

February half term marks the midpoint of the academic year and is a good point to reflect on the different types of progress that have been made and the possible next steps to ensure that the year is a successful one. With this in mind, I have very much enjoyed the review meetings that I have had throughout this week with some of our Year 11 students, discussing their trial exam performance, reviewing revision and examination strategies as well as discussing post-16 choices and future aspirations. I think that I can speak for all of my colleagues who have led these meetings over the last week or so to say that they are a real highlight of the school calendar.

In keeping with this theme, I would like to thank parents and carers who attended the Year 13 parents' evening on Wednesday. This is obviously a critical point in the two year programmes for the cohort and the support of parents and carers alongside that of their teachers remains incredibly important. As a reminder, Year 9 and Year 12 parental consultation evenings take place in the second half term. Year Leaders for the respective cohorts will be writing to parents and carers in the coming weeks to share details regarding the booking of appointments.

We have enjoyed two excellent themed weeks over the past fortnight with careers week taking place during the week beginning 2nd February and Languages week taking place this week. I would particularly like to thank all of the volunteers who attended the school throughout the two weeks to create such wonderful experiences for our students. The Year 11 interviews with genuine employers is always a highlight as are the options fairs for the Year 9 and Year 11 cohorts, which provide every student with the opportunity to talk to older students first hand about what it is really like to study specific subjects at the next stage.

There are several key activities and events to look forward to during the next half term, not least the school production, which this year will be the **Addams Family**. This will take place in the main school hall on the evenings of Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th and Friday 6th March 2026. A letter providing more detail about the production including how to purchase tickets can be found via this link [\[click here\]](#) as well as via the school website. The staff and students involved have worked incredibly hard in rehearsals so it would be great for them to perform to a full audience on every one of the evenings.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our staff, students and families a wonderful half term and say *Ramadan Mubarak* to all of our families observing the holy month of Ramadan with commences next week.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Arbor Parent Portal

Thank you to the majority of parents who have created an Arbor Parent Account. We informed Students, Parents and Carers at the start of the year that we would be moving over to the Arbor Parent Portal in March. This will be taking place on Monday 16th March. From the 18th March, Edulink will no longer be supported by the school. You will be able to see most of the students' details except Homework in the Arbor Portal. We are working on an alternative using the Google Package to allow for parents and carers to continue to monitor homework completion.

I have re-sent the login details on Monday 9th February to all parents who have not currently logged into the Portal. Please could you download the App through your relevant App Store and create an account.

If you are having any issues logging in please email: it-help@vynersschool.org.uk

Thank you for the feedback from parents who have already been using the App. We fully appreciate like all systems there are positives and negatives but as a school it makes sense to streamline our systems and where possible save money that can be redirected back into the students education rather than paying a third party.

Mr Newbey, Assistant Headteacher

Making payments via ParentPay

A couple of parents have queried with us why a payment to the school is sometimes marked as 'pending' on ParentPay. This is the advice we have received:

Payments to the school made via the 'one-click' method are immediately deducted from a parent bank account. What then happens though is that the payment needs to travel through the UK banking system. It will routinely take 10 working days for the first payment to reach the school. Subsequent payments are likely to be faster at 2-3 days.

If you want a payment to reach us more quickly, please click on the 'other method' button. This will enable you to make an instant payment by credit or debit card.

The school will structure all future trip payments so the deadline for payment is at least 10 working days before the activity takes place. This will ensure we have received the money before your child takes part. As the school is not routinely funded to take students out on trips, it remains the case that students cannot take part until payment has actually been received. Prompt payment is essential in order to secure your child's place

Thank you for your understanding

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Increase in canteen prices after half term

After half term, there will be a small increase to school meal prices. Trustees originally approved a 2 year price freeze. This has, however, been eroded by the employers NI increase in April 2025, national minimum wage increases and continuing food inflation. It is unfortunately no longer possible to continue with the current prices and continue to run a high-quality and sustainable catering service.

In line with the tariff increase, the FSM allowance will rise to £3.02. The main course 'meal deal price' is frozen at £2.93. A main plated meal alone may be purchased at break 2 for £2.56 . This still represents excellent value for money.

Miss Williams, Business Manager

Maths Challenge

About 150 Year 9, 10 and 11 students took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge on 28th January 2026. 79 students earned either Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates.

11 students from our school have qualified for the next round which is an 'Invitation Only' round. They are Nathan Griffiths, Sultan Abu Irshaid, William Kelf, Dylan Lewis, Trikha Kaur Madhan (all Year 11s), Zach Easton, Millie Sowby, Emma McCormick, Ajoveer Singh (all Year 10s) and Rowan Tilbury and George Rooke (all Year 9s). This is a huge achievement considering this year we saw one of the hardest Maths Challenge papers in recent years.

Mrs Malegaonkar, Maths Department

Careers Week 2026 – Supporting confident next steps for Year 11

Last week, our Year 11 students took part in Careers Week – a programme designed to help them feel more confident about their future, understand the full range of post-16 options available, and develop the skills needed for the next stage of education, training, or employment.

Throughout the week, students experienced a variety of sessions to support both decision-making and employability. A key highlight was the Employer Mock Interviews, where students prepared in advance, attended a realistic interview-style appointment, and received constructive feedback on their answers, communication, and presentation. Many students described this as a valuable “real-world” experience that helped them understand what employers look for and how to improve. Please [\[click here\]](#) for further information.

Students also took part in sessions focused on interview skills, including how to structure strong responses, use confident body language, and handle common interview questions. Alongside this, they explored post-16 pathways such as A Levels, vocational courses, and apprenticeships, helping them compare options and consider what would suit their strengths and future ambitions.

Another popular event was the Sixth Form Subject Exhibition, where Year 11 students spoke directly to our Sixth Form students about subject choices, workload, assessment style, and what to expect from Key Stage 5. Students valued the honest advice and found it reassuring to hear from peers who have recently made similar decisions. Please [\[click here\]](#) for further information.

We also welcomed an alumni speaker, Police Constable Luke Youens, who shared their career journey and progression route, helping students see how different pathways can lead to meaningful careers. Sessions also included apprenticeship guidance and careers exploration activities using Unifrog. Please [\[click here\]](#) for further information.

Students' feedback captured the impact clearly:

- “The mock interviews made me feel more confident and helped me understand what I need to improve.”
- “It gave me a better understanding of the pros and cons of apprenticeships and sixth form/college.”
- “The subject fair helped me finalise my decisions because I could ask questions properly.

We are proud of how thoughtfully students engaged with the week and grateful to staff, Sixth Form ambassadors, and external supporters for making it possible. Careers Week is part of our wider commitment to ensuring every student leaves Year 11 feeling informed, prepared, and ambitious about their next steps.

Mr Kohli, Head of Careers & Digital Learning

PE Update

Post Half Term PE

Years 7/8/9 will be taking part in hockey lessons in PE after half term. It will be expected that students bring gumshields and shin pads to lessons so that Hockey can be taught with full safety measures.

Interhouse Sport

As some may have noticed, interhouse sport has not been able to take place this academic year. Unfortunately the weather has been awful and disrupted plans but we plan to run our events after half term; football, netball, rounders, softball and Sports Day.

Mr Hall, Subject Leader, PE

Middlesex Cross Country Championships

Five Vyners' students represented Hillingdon in the Middlesex Cross Country Championships at Harrow School on Tuesday 10th February. A wet, muddy and hilly course but successful runs for all.

- Dylan Lewis - Year 11 placed 2nd in the Year 10 & 11 Boys Race, only 7 seconds behind 1st place and 1st runner through for Hillingdon.
- Anna Knight - Year 8 placed 18th in the Year 8 & 9 Girls Race and 1st runner through for Hillingdon.
- Leo Da Costa - Year 10 placed 36th in the Year 10 & 11 Boys Race and 3rd runner through for Hillingdon.
- Bella Da Costa Lima - Year 10 placed 29th in the Year 10 & 11 Girls Race and 2nd runner through for Hillingdon.
- Keira Wickenden - Year 10 placed 39th in the Year 10 & 11 Girls Race and 4th runner through for Hillingdon.

Well done to all runners and a big thank you to the parental support too.

Miss Hawes, PE Department

World Book Day Update

Still on its way (Thursday 5th March) so here is the information about what will be happening:

- Years 7, 8 and the Sixth Form (both Year 12 and 13) are invited to dress up as a book character or literary figure; this can include costumes, props (instead of or in addition to costumes), or simply bringing in a copy of their favourite book to have with them throughout the day. It must be stressed, however, that this is not a noon-uniform day and therefore not a day to dress in casual attire.
- On the day, Year 7 and 8 students will be taking part in the World Book Day Scavenger hunt - trying to find and list as many characters as possible that they see School Staff and Sixth Formers have dressed up as. Scavenger hunt sheets will be given out to students in advance of this. There will be certificates for the top scoring scavengers!
- Also, **BIG NEWS**, we are excited to share the return of Great World Book Day Bake Off! Anyone, from budding bakers to masterful muffin-makers are welcome to create a baked treat for Thursday 5th March and enter it into the competition! More details coming soon. Any cakes brought in will be displayed in the LRC, and must be entered into one of three categories:
 1. Most creative design;
 2. Most delicious
 3. Most wacky.

Each category winner will receive a certificate and prize; then, be entered into judging for the overall Bake Off winner (judged by Mr Mullings) and awarded the prize for overall winner of the event.

Vyners English department presents...

WORLD BOOK DAY



BAKE OFF

Any baked goods are welcome (from cupcakes to cake). Bring your tasty creations to the LRC before the start of school on 5th March.

Categories: Most creative design - Most delicious - Most wacky.

Allergy information must be clearly labeled (with ingredients) or disqualified.

THURSDAY 5TH MARCH
LUNCH TIME - LRC

Food Technology

Year 11 Practicals

Our Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been working hard in recent weeks to prepare, cook and present an inspiring range of complex dishes as part of their GCSE non exam assessment. This year's theme is 'Starchy Carbohydrates' and our young chefs have produced beautiful dishes from around the world. Before half term, the students will cook their final three dishes as part of the practical element of the NEA.



Year 12 Practicals



On Wednesday 28th January, our Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition students completed the practical element of their Year 12 non exam assessment. The challenge was to complete three courses in three hours, demonstrating a range of complex preparation, cooking and presentation skills. This year, the students had to plan their dishes with the nutritional needs of children in mind. Using their own meticulous planning, attention to detail and organisation skills, all were able to produce a fantastic array of culinary delights. Students completed highly complex

tasks such as making pasta and puff pastry from scratch. The results were extremely impressive! Congratulations to all involved.



Friends of Vyners

On Friday 30th January the Vyners school staff quiz entered their usual team for the first Friends of Vyners quiz of 2026. The team, consisting of an eclectic mix of teachers & support staff gave an impressive performance coming a very respectable 3rd of a field of 13 teams made up of not just parents but alumni and other members of the local community.

Teams consist of a maximum of 8 members and while our general knowledge is being tested, the team tables are awash with everything from table cloths to candelabra not to mention the snacks we all bring along. Food in the form of fish & chips can be ordered upon entry and this is delivered ready for a break halfway through the quiz.

The last quiz evening raised over £600, which really shows what a brilliant and supportive community we have. Your continued support makes a real difference to the work Friends of Vyners do for the school, and events like this wouldn't be possible without you all getting involved..

The next quiz will be on Friday 13th March, so please get it in your diaries – we'd love to see you there.

VLT Notices

Please [click here](#) for the latest Trust update letter

Please [click here](#) for the link to the Vacancies page on the school website which shows the latest staff vacancies across the VLT sites.

Attendance Figures

Please find below attendance figures for w/c 2nd February 2026

| Year Group | Present Marks (%) |
|------------|-------------------|
| Year 7 | 96.07% |
| Year 8 | 95.60% |
| Year 9 | 94.21% |
| Year 10 | 93.87% |
| Year 11 | 91.52% |
| Year 12 | 95.72% |
| Year 13 | 93.39% |

Please find below the top tutorials for attendance for w/c 2nd February 2026

| Tutorial | Present Mark (%) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 8W | 99.06% |
| 7H | 99.03% |
| 8M | 98.97% |

Spring Term Key Dates

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|--|--|
| Friday 13 th February | Year 8 reports issued |
| Friday 13 th February | Ticket booking system for school production opens at 3pm |
| Monday 16th to Friday 20th February - Half Term | |
| Monday 23 rd February | Sixth Form applications deadline |
| Friday 27 th February | Year 9 reports issued |
| Wed 4 th , Thur 5 th & Fri 6 th March | School Production |
| Thursday 5 th March | World Book Day (details to follow) |
| Friday 6 th March | Year 10 & 12 reports issued |
| Thursday 12 th March | Year 9 parent consultation evening (online) |
| Friday 13 th March | FOV Quiz Night |
| Monday 16 th March | Year 8 and 9 options deadline |
| Tuesday 17 th March | Year 12 parent consultation evening (online) |
| Friday 27 th March | Year 7 reports issued |
| Friday 27th March | End of Spring Term (3pm finish) |
| Monday 13th April | Start of Summer Term |