

Parent Bulletin

2nd October 2026

We are now at the end of four full weeks of the academic year and I am pleased to be able to report that it continues to feel like an incredibly positive start overall with lots to celebrate. We enjoyed a very busy open evening last week with hundreds of families attending across the evening. Whilst this is a significant event for us at the school, we very much appreciate the inconvenience caused for local residents and I would again like to thank all of our neighbours for their patience as well as the London Borough of Hillingdon for supporting our traffic management efforts so successfully. I would also like to thank all of the students (and their families) who supported the evening. Whilst looking round the school buildings is extremely valuable for prospective families, we know that it is the opportunity to engage with the students that they most value.

Year Group Information Evenings

There were three parent information sessions this week for parents and carers of students in Years 9, 11 and 12. We were pleased with the level of attendance at these events. However, our target for these important evenings is 100%, so we would urge all parents to do their very best going forward to be in attendance. Each session is tailored to the specific year group so that we can address the main issues that are relevant at that stage. The Year 11 session was primarily focused on preparation for the trial examinations in November as well as providing some initial information about the summer examination series. We were delighted that our friend (and educational psychologist), Dr Martjin van der Spoel, was able to attend the evening to share with parents some of the work that he will be doing with our students to build their confidence and help them prepare for the challenge of external examinations.

The Year 9 session focused on a broad range of topics including positive mental health and well being, safeguarding and family support as well as teaching and learning and curriculum related matters, whilst the Year 12 session focused on the year ahead including UCAS, study habits and next steps information. There are two further sessions taking place next week for parents of students in years 10 and 13. It would be wonderful if at least 90% of parents were able to attend to assist in supporting each child to succeed.

Attendance and Punctuality

I would also like to thank all families who continue to support us with our drive towards pre-pandemic attendance rates at the school. I am delighted that, as we approach the October half term, the attendance rate in Years 7-11 (statutory school age) stood at 95.0%, whilst the rate was 96.5% for the sixth form. Year 7 is leading the way with a 97.5% attendance but this has been matched by a very impressive 97.4% for the Year 8 cohort and 97.1 for students in Year 12. Our historic data does show that rates tend to fall in the lead up to Christmas and that this is primarily due to illness. To try to counteract as much of this absence as possible, we will be having a big push on hand and respiratory hygiene leading up to and beyond the half term break as we now know from the experience that these are the biggest issues in relation to the spread of illness in the winter months.

Parents and carers may also be aware that we are having a big drive on improving punctuality at the start of the school day. Whilst we are aware that the 20 minute same day detention after school is not universally popular, it has significantly reduced lateness with students being late to school down to single digits on most mornings. Whilst this is the case, we do still have too many students who arrive at or near to 8.30am and, as a result, are late to tutorial which also results in a detention. I would again ask for the support of parents and carers in ensuring that their child arrives on site by 8.25am so that they are in their tutorial room ready for the day by 8.30am at the latest.

Jack Petchey Foundation Award Winner

Finally this week, I would like to warmly congratulate Eesa Lateef (11C) who received a Jack Petchey Achievement Award. The award is for young people aged 11-25 who have been recognised as going above and beyond, putting in effort or overcoming challenges. Eesa has made a wonderful contribution to the school community during his time at the school and continues to do so as part of our excellent Year 11 prefect team. We are also delighted that Eesa nominated the £300 grant, which is part of the prize, to the Geography department so that they can purchase a virtual reality (VR) headset to help make lessons even more immersive for students. It's a wonderful achievement for which he should be incredibly proud.



Wishing all families a restful weekend.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Stand Up! Education Against Discrimination Visits Next Week

We are thrilled to announce that next week, on Thursday and Friday, we will be welcoming the team from Stand Up! Education Against Discrimination to our school. This is an incredible opportunity for our students to engage in high-impact, transformative workshops designed to empower young people and foster an inclusive, supportive school environment.

Stand Up! is a leading educational initiative renowned for delivering practical, engaging, and age-appropriate interactive sessions. Their facilitators bring a wealth of expertise, encouraging students to think critically, speak up safely, and champion equality both in school and in the wider community.

Year 7 Anti-Bullying Workshops: As our Year 7 students build their confidence and settle into secondary school life, these sessions will provide them with essential tools to recognise, challenge, and prevent bullying in all its forms. The interactive activities focus on empathy, active bystander intervention, and building a culture where kindness and mutual respect are standard practice.

Year 9 Anti-Discrimination Workshops: For our Year 9 students, the focus will broaden to addressing discrimination, prejudice, and stereotyping. Through guided debate and real-world scenarios, students will explore the importance of celebrating diversity, understanding personal responsibility, and challenging harmful attitudes wherever they encounter them.

We are extremely proud to partner with Stand Up! for these workshops. At our school, we are firmly committed to ensuring every child feels safe, valued, and respected. We know that education is the most powerful tool for creating lasting, positive change, and these sessions will equip our young people with the awareness and skills they need to navigate the world as thoughtful, compassionate citizens.

We encourage you to talk to your children about their experiences after the sessions—these workshops often inspire fantastic, thought-provoking discussions at home! Thank you for your continued support as we work together to nurture an inclusive and welcoming community for all.

Mr Millard-Healy, Deputy Headteacher

Elevate Project

Over the last year Mr Hall and I have been developing a project to support our boys and young men called Elevate. The aim of Elevate is to work with a small number of boys over eight weeks and provide them with a space to talk about their concerns and offer guidance on how to navigate the world they are growing up in a little better. As part of the expansion of this project we would like parents and carers to be involved.

This would involve you coming into school at different points in the year to discuss with the boys what it was like for you growing up, discussing some of the challenges you faced or simply being a different voice for the boys to hear. This is open to both male and females and we are looking for members of our community with a variety of backgrounds. Think of it as a chance to impart wisdom and also a chance to support our young people.

If you are interested please complete the Google Form [\[click here\]](#). If you know of a sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent who would like to be involved please forward the form onto them.

Mr Newbey and Mr Hall, Elevate Project

Empowering Year 11: A Specialist Study Skills Evening with Dr Martijn van der Spoel

We were delighted to host a special information evening for our Year 11 families, featuring an inspiring presentation by Dr Martijn van der Spoel, Educational Psychologist and Director of Glia Learning. Bringing over 25 years of experience in UK schools and a PhD from the Institute of Education, Dr van der Spoel delivered an engaging, interactive session on the psychology behind effective studying.

He spoke to parents on evidence-based tools to support their children through this crucial final GCSE year. The feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, with many leaving the session feeling motivated and far better prepared to guide their teenagers through revision. Dr van der Spoel is now eager to work directly with our Year 11 students, helping them unlock key strategies to stay motivated, boost retention, and approach their GCSEs with confidence!

Miss Hawes, Year 11 Leader

Artificial Intelligence in Student Learning

Mr Beale delivered an assembly to all students on AI and learning this week. It was focussed on the impact that the use of Artificial Intelligence can have on cognition and learning.

Students will already be interacting with AI to support their learning whether we like it or not. It's reported that about 8 in 10 students use AI for their school work. The focus of the assembly was to encourage students to be more critical in their use of AI by asking themselves some important reflection questions and we would welcome your support with helping them to navigate their use of AI responsibly and ethically. The impact that we'd like to see is students recognising themselves that they do need to think hard to learn more.

Please click [\[here\]](#) to read some of the different levels with which we can all interact with AI and what kinds of reflection questions we are asking.

Miss Pape and Mr Beale

Design & Technology Lego Club

Please help us keep our young designers and engineers creating! The Design & Technology Lego Club is running very low on bricks, and we want to ensure our students have all the resources they need to bring their big creative ideas to life. If you have any unused Lego sets, loose bricks, or minifigures gathering dust at home, please consider donating them to the DT department. Every single brick helps fuel our students' imagination, problem-solving skills, and hands-on creativity. Donations can be dropped off at the Vyners School Reception with a note stating 'for Mr Babra - DT Department'. Thank you for supporting our builders of tomorrow!

Ms Babra, Design & Technology Department

Sports Update

U16's Girls FA Schools Cup

On Tuesday 1st October Vyners took part in round 2 of the FA Schools Cup against JFS in Brent, after receiving a BYE in round 1. At half time the score was 4 - 1 to Vyners and finished 8 - 3 after a more testing second half. Vyners' goal scorers were Amber Woolfrey, Orlaith O'Donohue, Bow Mower, Orlaith O'Donohue, Lily Havard, Libby Scarisbrick, Amber Woolfrey, Orlaith O'Donohue.

Ms John, PE Department

VLT Notices

- **Student Activities Booklet**

Please [click here](#) for the student activities information booklet which details the planned activities for 2026/27.

- **Staff Vacancies**

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

Friends of Vyners

Please [click here](#) for the latest winners of the FOV 100 Club. For further information on Friends of Vyners [click here](#).

Attendance Figures

Please find below attendance figures for w/c 21st September 2026

Year Group	Present Marks (%)
Year 7	96.27%
Year 8	95.64%
Year 9	95.00%
Year 10	92.69%
Year 11	93.62%
Year 12	96.77%
Year 13	92.45%

Please find below the top 3 tutorials for attendance for w/c 21st September 2026

Tutorial	Present Mark (%)
7G, 7W, 8J	100%
8G	98.75%
12N	98.21%

Autumn Term Key Dates

Autumn Term 2026	
Tuesday 6th October	Year 10 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 7th October	Year 13 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 13th October	Year 8 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 20th October	Sixth Form Open Evening (applications open)
Friday 23rd October	Year 8 and Year 13 reports issued
Monday 26th to Friday 30th October – Half Term	
Friday 6th November	Year 11 reports issued
Friday 13th November	Year 10 reports issued
Thursday 19th November	Staff Conference (school closed to students)
Friday 20th November	Staff Conference (school closed to students)
Monday 23rd November	Occasional Day (school closed)
Friday 27th November	Year 12 reports issued
Friday 27th November	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 1st December	Year 11 & 13 Trial exams start
Thursday 3rd December	Senior Citizens' Christmas Party
Wednesday 9th December	VLT Christmas Concert
Friday 11th December	Year 9 reports issued
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16th December	Vyners Christmas Concert
Friday 18th December	Year 7 reports issued
Friday 18th December	End of Autumn Term (12.20pm finish)