



18th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you for the final time this academic year as we head into the summer holidays after a spell of prolonged warm weather. I am sure that the majority of staff, students and families are looking forward to spending some time away from school, maybe travelling on holiday, so that they can recharge their batteries and spend some quality time with loved ones.

With regard to the academic year that concludes today, it has felt like a hugely successful one in many ways. It is quite incredible to think about the amount of activity that goes on in a large secondary school in any given year, both inside and outside of the classroom. There have been incredible highlights and the students have achieved so much. With that in mind, we are very much looking forward to celebrating with our Year 11 and 13 cohorts in August when they receive their GCSE and A level results.

We were also delighted that His Majesty's Inspectorate visited the school in the spring term and were able to confirm that despite the many challenges posed since the previous inspection, we have been able to maintain our very high standards. However, as previously mentioned, we continue to be an ambitious and forward-thinking school and will always seek ways to improve.

It was also lovely to see so many students in Years 7-10 receiving awards at our celebration assemblies this week, as well as our students in Year 12 last week. It continues to be incredibly important that we recognise the successes of our students and that parents, friends and classmates are able to share in those successes. I would like to thank all parents and carers who were able to attend on either Tuesday or Wednesday this week as their attendance did make the events even more special for the students. We are also very much looking forward to our main Awards Evening for gold awards and bestowed award winners that will take place on 18th September 2025.

We are looking forward to the academic year ahead and are always excited to welcome the new Year 7 cohort to the school at the start of September. Equally, many of our current Year 11 students, having received their examination results, will be progressing to the lofty heights of the Sixth Form, dressed in business attire, ready to meet the challenges of A level study and equivalent.

Vyners School
Warren Road, Ickenham,
Middlesex, UB10 8AB
Tel **01895 234342**

office@vynersschool.org.uk
www.vynersschool.org.uk

Mr Gary Mullings MEd
Headteacher



Vanguard Learning Trust

Registered in England and Wales Number 07796938

Registered address - Field End Junior School, Field End Road, Eastcote, Middlesex, HA4 9PQ

At this time of year, we always say farewell to some of our staff as they move on to new opportunities. I have highlighted our staff leavers within this letter and thank them for their excellent contributions to the school, regardless of their length of service. However, I will highlight Mrs Foster, Deputy Headteacher, who will now be taking up a position as the Vanguard Learning Trust's Inclusion Lead, as well as Mrs Donohoe, Reprographics Technician and Mrs Kendall, Food and Textile Technician who have both been exceptional servants to the school community and leave after 22 and 21 years of service respectively. We wish all of our leavers this year the very best in their future endeavours.

At the end of the year it is useful to remind all within the Vyners community about our values and high expectations so that we can start the new academic year in a positive way. With this in mind I would be grateful if you would take the time to go through the information in this communication in preparation for your son/daughter starting back at Vyners in September.

Return to School in September

As has previously been the case, we will be starting the academic year in September with a staggered start. On Monday 1st September, there will be a staff development day. The start of the academic year for each year group will be as follows:

Year 7

The new Year 7 cohort will start the term on **Tuesday 2nd September at 8.25am**. The school day will finish for students in Year 7 at **2.00pm** on both Tuesday 2nd September **and** Wednesday 3rd September. Normal finish times will apply thereafter (see below).

Year 12

Students moving into Year 12 will start the term on **Tuesday 2nd September and should register in the hall at 1.00pm**. Any Year 12 students who are new to the school will be invited to attend at 12.00pm for a tour of the school. All students will receive their timetables and the school day will finish at 3.00pm.

Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13

Students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 will start the new term on **Wednesday 3rd September**. Students in these year groups should arrive on site by 8.25am. There will be an extended tutorial session / assembly between 8.30am and 9.50am so that students can finalise their timetables, attend a start of the year assembly and receive any key start of term information. Normal lessons will resume from session 2 onwards.

Parents are reminded that the school is now at its capacity following our expansion project, which started in 2019, with every year group now extended including the sixth form. This will mean that there will be in excess of 1550 children on site, in addition to 150 adults on a daily basis. Whilst this will provide some challenges, we have planned to ensure that there are smooth transitions from lesson to lesson and that congestion in different parts of the school is minimised.

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A link to the term dates for 2025-26, including the plan for the start of term can be found ([here](#)). In addition, attached to this letter are the key dates for the 2025-2026 school year which I hope parents and carers will find useful. I would ask all parents and carers to study this document carefully to ensure that their child arrives at school on the appropriate day and time. There are slightly different arrangements for some of the year groups.

The School Day

The start of the school day in September will be in its normal structure with all students arriving on site by 8.25am and in tutorial by 8.30am. Students can use either entry gate from Warren Road. The back gate will not be in general use throughout the year. In response to feedback we have taken the decision to continue to stagger the departure time for students as follows:

Year 7, 8 & 9: **2.55pm**

Year 10, 11, 12 & 13: **3.00pm**

We hope that this will help alleviate the issues related to the large numbers of students leaving the school site at the same time.

The structure of the school day will be as follows:

8.25am	Arrival (latest)
8.30am	Tutorial
8.50am	Period 1
Lesson change over	
9.55am	Period 2
10.55am	Break 1
11.20am	Period 3
Lesson change over	
12.25pm	Period 4
1.25pm	Break 2
2.00pm	Period 5
2.55pm	Years 7, 8 & 9 dismissed
3.00pm	Years 10, 11 12 & 13 dismissed

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Punctuality and Attendance

Despite a concerted effort nationally, attendance and punctuality rates in secondary schools in England remain below those that were recorded pre-pandemic. There are a number of factors contributing to this. Overall attendance in years 7-11 exceeded 93% during the academic year and we recorded a rate in excess of 94% in the sixth form. I would ask that every family do their utmost to ensure that their child attends from the very first day of term as the evidence suggests that poor attendance in the first few weeks tends to have a significant impact on a child's attendance and engagement with education across an academic year. We will have a team on hand to contact families where necessary.

All students are expected to be on site by 8.25am at the latest but **no earlier** than 7.45am unless they have been specifically invited by a member of staff for an intervention or meeting. Morning tutorials and assemblies will start at 8.30am.

Unfortunately, we have been disappointed with the number of families who have chosen to take family holidays during term time this year with some families on holiday as I write this letter. This should not happen in a high performing school. Permission for leave of absence for holidays during term time will not be granted and we trust that going forward, all families will respect this and not take their son/daughter out of school for this reason. I would ask that families use the term dates shared above to plan holidays outside of term time.

There is a formal process for requesting leave of absence for any reason. Within the new Attendance Policy [[click here](#)], there is a form to complete to request absence during term time - please [[click here](#)] to download the form. This should be completed and emailed to the Attendance Officer at attendance@vynersschool.org.uk, at least two weeks prior to the date of the absence for formal approval. I would ask that parents and carers do not email me or any other member of staff directly to request an absence as this is likely to slow the approval process.

Uniform and Appearance

We have spent a lot of energy improving school uniform standards over the past decade; students have embraced the improvements and I am very proud of their appearance. Visitors to the school always comment on how smart our students are.

Students are expected to wear the uniform correctly which includes top buttons being done up, ties worn correctly with the crest below the knot, shirts tucked in and skirts of the correct length. They must reach the top of their knees – if this is not the case, a new skirt will need to be purchased for September.

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Please ensure shoes meet the high expectations of the Vyners' uniform policy. Kicker boots, Vans or Kicker leather trainers or similar styles **are not acceptable**. Please also ensure that your child starts the academic year with an appropriate haircut. As a reminder, the minimum length haircut for students in Years 7-11 is a **grade 2**.

During the summer term, it was evident that a number of students were wearing items that no longer fitted them appropriately, particularly shirts, blouses, trousers and skirts. This is quite normal towards the end of the year. However, I would politely ask parents and carers to ensure that all necessary items are replaced including skirts that fit the waist but are no longer of an appropriate length. There are also a small number of girls in the upper school who are wearing skirts that they have owned since Year 7. Please note that these skirts are no longer appropriate to be worn and should be replaced by September.

There has also been a trend for some female students to use handbag / fashion bags instead of standard school bags or rucksacks. Please note that these types of bags will not be accepted in September and students will be asked to replace them where necessary.

I would also like to remind parents and carers of students in the main school that children are permitted a maximum of one earring stud in each lobe. This should be a plain stud. There have been an increasing number of students having additional piercings during the school year, either in the upper ears or their nose. Please note that students will not be permitted to wear such items in years 7-11 for any reason, including cultural reasons and will have to be removed. I would ask parents to support us with all aspects of our uniform policy. We do wish to work with families to avoid making expensive mistakes.

A link to the uniform page on our website can be found [\[here\]](#). This page includes our Uniform Policy with a full uniform list. I would be grateful if you could spend time checking the uniform list carefully to ensure your son/daughter arrives properly dressed. The page also includes details of our uniform suppliers. Beat School Uniforms will be operating a pop up shop at the school on Wednesdays during the summer holidays, please click [\[here\]](#) for further details.

With an eye on the general cost of living, I would also remind parents that a special Facebook page operates to provide a useful forum for the sale or donation of second hand uniforms. The page can be accessed via this link [\[here\]](#).

Equipment

It is essential that students have the correct equipment with them every day. The sharing of equipment will continue to be prohibited. The summer holiday is an ideal time to replace those broken rulers, protractors, rubbers, pens or pencils. Please note that frequent equipment checks will be made throughout the academic year and I will be writing to parents when it is clear that their child is coming to school unprepared for learning.

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Essential Equipment List:

- 2 x blue/black pens (we recommend black as this colour is now exclusively used in examinations)
- 1 x green pen (ReAct work/self and peer assessment)
- Sharpened pencil
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Suitable pencil case (clear pencil cases are required for external examinations)
- Calculator and maths set
- Glue sticks
- Safe scissors
- Reusable water bottle

Support for Families

I think that it is important to recognise that this can be a very challenging time of year for some families on low incomes when schools publish lists of items that need to be acquired. If there are families who do require support to acquire either items of uniform or equipment then I would ask that they contact Mrs Tighe or Mrs McLaren, Family Liaison Officers, who will try to arrange for assistance where possible, via the school office: office@vynersschool.org.uk

Staffing

This summer we have a number of staff who are at a point in their careers where they have been fortunate to gain promotion to posts in other schools and some who are either relocating to other parts of the UK and abroad or have chosen to retire. There are some staff who have chosen to take a break from teaching and one member of staff who will be starting teacher training. We say a very fond farewell to them and wish them every success in the future:

Mrs Foster - Deputy Headteacher
Ms Duran - English
Ms Saleh - English
Mr Sankey - History
Mr Singh - Computing
Ms Bartlett - Learning support
Mr Harvey - Learning support
Ms Munir - Learning support
Mrs Donohoe - Reprographics Technician
Mrs Kendall - Food and Textiles Technician

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Parents may be aware that recruitment in the education sector continues to be challenging. Having spoken to many colleagues in other schools in different parts of the country, it is clear that there many schools who have not been able to fully staff this year, and amongst those that have, there has often been a reliance on non-specialist or unqualified staff. Given this, or any other context, I am pleased to be able to share with parents that we are fully staffed with excellent specialist teachers across all areas of the curriculum and we will continue to develop our strategy to ensure that we secure excellent teaching and non-teaching staff going forward. I would like to say a very warm welcome to the following staff that will join us at the start of term:

Mr Millard-Healy - Deputy Headteacher
Miss Mills - History
Ms Balaskas - Computing
Miss Babra - Design and Technology
Mr Smith - English
Mr Jalaleddin - Cover Supervisor
Mrs Jaspal - Food Technician
Mr Daushvili - Design and Technology Technician
Mrs Thomas - Reprographics and Displays Officer
Mrs Gjini - Learning Support
Mrs Rothwell - Learning Support
Miss Holmes - Learning Support
Miss Weekes - Learning Support (HIRB)
Miss Lewis - Learning Support (HIRB)

Mrs Julia Lea

Yesterday, we also had the opportunity to say farewell to one of our much loved colleagues, Julia Lea, who sadly passed away earlier this month after a period of illness. Julia had been one of our team in the school canteen for the past 25 years. During that time, she would have prepared and served meals to thousands of children and staff and always did so with a wonderfully infectious smile. Julia was a wonderful colleague who will be missed by us all. Our very best wishes to Julia's family and friends at this difficult time. The school community will be honouring Julia's memory in the coming academic year after consultation with her family.

Long Service Awards

I was delighted this week to be able to present long service awards to six members of staff this week.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 Years | Ms Holt, Subject Leader, Science
Mrs Moore, Subject Leader, Drama and Performing Arts
Mrs Foster, Deputy Headteacher |
| 20 Years | Mrs Nathan, Subject Leader, RE and Ethics
Mrs O'Reilly, Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) |
| 25 Years | Ms Kendall, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) |

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I am sure that parents and carers would join me in thanking these individuals for their excellent service and commitment to the school.

Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletters

This year has been another excellent year for the Vanguard Learning Trust (VLT). There are a number of publications that have been shared to update parents and carers this week. The links to these publications can be found below.

- Click [[here](#)] for the VLT Newsletter, Summer 2025.
- Click [[here](#)] for the VLT Update, including: [Review of Student Activity, 2024-2025](#) and the [Student Activities Booklet, 2025-26](#)

Friends of Vyners

Please click [[here](#)] for the Friends of Vyners end of year message

Universal Team - Hillingdon Youth Offer

We have been asked to share the following information with all families as we enter into the summer break.

Hillingdon Council's Universal Team has locality teams that deliver drop-in sessions for children and young people in Hillingdon during term-time and school holidays. Sessions start from as little as 50p and include activities such as sports, games, music, cooking and other learning opportunities. To find out more visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/universal-programmes.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all our students on their endeavours this year. There have been so many achievements that they and their families should be proud of. I would also like to thank the staff for their efforts and the support that they have given students, and would also thank all parents and carers for their continued support. My final thanks go to the members of the Local Governing Body and Trustees of the Vanguard Learning Trust for their commitment to the school and wider trust throughout this year. Their support has been invaluable.

Wishing our entire community a very enjoyable summer holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mullings
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Vyners School Key Dates, 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025	
Monday 1 st September	INSET Day (School closed to students)
Tuesday 2 nd September	Year 7 - first day in school (until 2pm) New Year 12 attend from 12pm Returning Year 12 attend from 1pm
Wednesday 3 rd September	Years 8-11 and 13 return to school Year 7 dismissed at 2pm
Tuesday 9 th September	Individual photos - New Year 7
Wednesday 10 th September	Individual photos - New Year 12
Monday 15 th September	Year 7 co-curricular fayre (tbc)
Wednesday 17 th September	Year 7 Parent Information Evening
Thursday 18 th September	Awards Evening
Wednesday 24 th September	Junior School Open Evening
Tuesday 30 th September	Year 9 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 1 st October	Year 12 Parent Information Evening
Friday 3 rd October	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 7 th October	Year 10 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 14 th October	Year 8 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 15 th October	Year 11 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 21 st October	Sixth Form Open Evening (applications open)
Friday 24 th October	Year 8 and Year 13 reports issued
Monday 27th to Friday 31st October – Half Term	
Friday 7 th November	Year 11 reports issued
Friday 14 th November	Year 10 reports issued
Friday 21 st November	FOV Quiz Night
Thursday 27 th November	Staff Conference (school closed to students)
Friday 28 th November	Staff Conference (school closed to students)
Monday 1 st December	Occasional Day (school closed)
Monday 8 th December	Year 11 & 13 Trial exams start
Wednesday 10 th December	VLT Christmas Concert
Friday 12 th December	Year 9 reports issued
Wednesday 17 th December	Vyners Christmas Concert
Friday 19 th December	Year 7 reports issued
Friday 19 th December	End of Autumn Term (12.20pm finish)

Spring Term 2026	
Monday 5 th January	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Tuesday 6 th January	Start of Spring Term
Tuesday 20 th January	Year 8 into 9 Options information evening
Wednesday 21 st January	Year 9 into 10 Options information Evening
Friday 23 rd January	Year 8 & 9 options forms open

Friday 30 th January	Years 11 and 13 reports issued
Friday 30 th January	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 3 rd February	Year 11 parent consultation evening (online)
Wednesday 11 th February	Year 13 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 13 th February	Year 8 reports issued
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
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 27 th March	End of Spring Term (3pm finish)

Summer Term 2026	
Monday 13 th April	Start of Summer Term
Friday 17 th April	Year 13 reports issued
Tuesday 21 st April	Year 11 reports issued
Thursday 14 th May	Year 8 parent consultation evening (online)
Friday 15 th May	FOV Quiz Night
Monday 25th to Friday 29th May – Half Term	
Thursday 4 th June	Year 7 parent consultation evening (online)
Monday 15 th June	Student Photos - Y8, Y9, Y10
Friday 19 th June	Year 7 reports issued
Tuesday 22 nd June	Year 12 UCAS Day and Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 24 th June	Sports Day (year groups tbc)
Thursday 25 th June	Sports Day (year groups tbc)
Thursday 25 th June	Year 10 reports issued
Friday 26th June	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 11 into 12 Induction Day
Friday 3 rd July	Year 8 reports issued
Thursday 9 th July	Year 12 emergency parents evening (online)
Thursday 9 th July	Year 12 reports issued
Friday 10 th July	Year 9 reports issued
w/c Monday 13 th July	Silver awards assemblies – Years 7 ,8, 9 and 10
w/c Monday 13 th July	Year 12 work experience week
Friday 17 th July	End of Summer Term (12.20pm finish)
Thursday 13 th August	A Level results day
Thursday 20 th August	GCSE results day