

27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly update: 27th March

As we come to the end of this first week of enforced school closure my thoughts are very much with all members of the school community, whether they are currently unwell, in self-isolation or dealing with the challenges caused by a national lock down. The situation is incredibly challenging; however, I hope that you have all been inspired by the many wonderful stories of humanity that have been emerging. It was wonderful to see so many people on the streets applauding NHS workers and those working in the adult care industry yesterday evening and I am delighted that Vyners is one of many schools in the locality that has donated the majority of our protective goggles from the Science department (over 300 pairs) to help protect workers at Hillingdon Hospital.

Provision for vulnerable and key workers' children

I am pleased that the school has remained open to support the families of our most vulnerable students and the children of key workers. The students have been fantastic throughout, exhibiting a positive attitude whilst completing their remote learning activities and maintaining social distancing protocols. I have very much appreciated the support from the numerous staff who have readily volunteered to supervise the students as well as organise activities such as sports and the arts. We will be continuing this provision next week and would be happy to accommodate any additional children of key workers who may be returning to work as a result of the government's recent request for additional staffing whose children cannot be safely left at home. Please contact admin@vynersschool.org.uk if you wish to take advantage of this provision.

Remote learning

Remote learning on this scale has been a new experience for us all. We are very grateful to all of our parents and carers for your help in supporting your children in completing their remote learning whilst the school is closed. We understand that this can be challenging, and we want to support you to make it as easy and stress free as possible. I am sure you will appreciate that this is very much a learning process for us as much as the children, and we are working to try and improve the process for everyone.

Teachers are setting work according to the school timetable each day. We are encouraging students to complete the work set each day and where possible to do this following the school timetable. We are giving this advice to try to provide structure for the students at this difficult time. However, we are aware that sometimes this can be difficult to follow, for example due to demands on the family computer when both parents and children are working from home; as such, we will be increasing the length of time we give for children to complete the work. We hope that this will give more flexibility and reduce any additional stress which may be being caused by deadlines.

We have also had requests for online tutorials from staff. This is not currently possible due to a number of factors including significant issues related to safeguarding and the complexities of training staff and getting all students to access the webinar at the same time. I will be writing to staff today to ask them

Vyners School

Warren Road, Ickenham,
Middlesex, UB10 8AB
Tel **01895 234342**
Fax **01895 237955**

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

Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

to carefully review the type of work set ensuring that it is accessible for students when then are working independently without the requirement for additional support from an adult (however, please feel free to do so). Please also note that the additional home learning activities that would normally be set during the school term have been suspended meaning that the overwhelming majority of children should be able to complete tasks set within the timeframe of a normal school day. The local authority will also be sharing guidance for schools regarding education and support for students with SEND in the current context. I will share this in my update early next week.

Thank you to those of you who have shared constructive feedback to this point. We will be issuing a short survey soon to seek wider feedback, as we plan for continued remote learning after the Easter break. We very much value your views and thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this.

GCSE and A Level grades

Thank you to all parents and carers of students in Years 11 and 13 for their patience and understanding with regard to GCSE and A-level grading. We are expecting a further update from Ofqual next week regarding teacher predictions and other elements related to the methodology that will be used to calculate grades. I will ensure that I share any additional information with you at that time.

Year 8 and 9 Options

I would like to remind parents and carers of students in Years 8 and 9 that the online options form needs to be completed by **Monday 30th March**. We are very much aware that you may have some concerns about options given that the Year 8 parental consultation has been postponed. If you have any questions please contact individual teachers by email, if it is subject based, or your child's Year Leader for more general enquiries. As a reminder, there is a frequently asked questions page within the options brochure that was shared with you and remains available online.

The options processes will be managed by Assistant Headteacher, Mr Davey. When your child submits a completed options form it has a timestamp attached to it. Mr Davey will use the most recent timestamp when he processes all of the options, so if for any reason a student changes their mind, they can complete the form again and he will ignore any previous submissions.

Students will be advised of the subjects allocated to them after the May half term when the majority of the timetable will have been completed.

Finally, may I end by thanking all of you who have found the time to write in and express your thanks to the school for how we have dealt with matters during this very challenging time. Your messages really do make all the difference to the staff at the school. We are extremely grateful to our parents and carers for working with us to maintain the children's learning. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you feel there is anything else we can do as a school that would make this difficult time a little easier.

Best wishes from us all at Vyners.

Yours sincerely

Gary Mullings
Headteacher