



17th July 2026

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.

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 Thursday 17th September 2026.

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.

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.

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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 9PG

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 Wednesday 2nd September, there will be a staff development day and students will not be in school.** 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 **Thursday 3rd September at 8.25am**. The school day will finish for students in Year 7 at **2.00pm** on both Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September. Normal finish times will apply thereafter (see below).

Year 12

Students moving into Year 12 will start the term on **Thursday 3rd September at 1.00pm**. Students should arrive on site from 12.40pm and go to their tutor rooms for registration. 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 **Friday 4th 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. We would like to reiterate that **attendance is compulsory on Friday 4th September** and that it is important for all students to be in school on this day to ensure that they have a productive start to the academic year.

Parents are reminded that Vyners is an incredibly busy school with in excess of 1500 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.

A link to the term dates for 2026-27, including the plan for the start of term can be found [\[here\]](#). 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. In addition, please [\[click here\]](#) for the key dates for the 2026-2027 school year, which I hope parents and carers will find useful.

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**

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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

Punctuality and Attendance

Despite a concerted effort both nationally and locally, attendance and punctuality rates in secondary schools in England, on average, 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 7.55am** 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.

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Punctuality amongst some groups of students was poor this year so we will be introducing a new strategy in September that will mean that students who are late for school will sit a 30 minute late detention after school on the same day as the late. Parents and carers will be notified of the detention in advance and we would appreciate the support from all parents and carers in relation to this policy change.

I am pleased that fewer families have chosen to take holidays during term time this year but this does remain an issue for the 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 Attendance Policy, 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 continued to spend a lot of energy improving school uniform standards over the past decade; most of our 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.

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.

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I would also like to remind parents and carers of students in the main school that jewellery is not permitted. The only exception to this is that children are permitted a maximum of one earring stud in each lobe (not any other part of the ear) and/or one religious item if an individual is strictly obliged to wear it. 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. Students arriving at school with additional piercings, false nails, eyelash extensions, etc. will be placed in isolation until the matter is resolved. 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. Uniform pop-up shops will be available at school on Wednesdays during the summer holidays. Please click [\[here\]](#) for the Beats School Uniform dates and [\[here\]](#) for Uniform4Kids dates. All dates are also on our school calendar [\[here\]](#).

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.

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

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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 Gill	Mathematics
Mr Dennis	English
Ms Amin	Maths
Mr Flynn	PE
Mrs Ehsan	Science
Ms Spence	Science
Mr Wray	Maths
Mr Ogunlade	Media
Ms Ali	Place2Be

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:

Ms Palframan	Science
Mrs Patel	Mathematics
Mrs Parazhang	Mathematics
Mr Mazgajczyk	PE
Mr Smith	English
Mr Rohan	Premises

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Mr Matthew Wilcox Tribute

The passing of Mr Wilcox in June has profoundly affected our entire school community. Matt brought a vibrant, positive energy to his work, infused with a distinct sense of fun and adventure. A truly uplifting presence, he possessed a rare emotional intelligence and a naturally kind, gentle character, always standing ready to support his colleagues in any way possible. Matt's deep passion for creative culture informed both his classroom teaching and his after-school clubs. He was an extraordinary teacher who possessed a gift for connecting with young people, particularly our most vulnerable students. His absence leaves a void in the hearts of many. We are deeply committed to ensuring that his incredible legacy, both within the art and photography department and across the wider school community, continues to live on.

Mrs Rapinder Gill

Our subject leader for mathematics, Mrs Gill has been unwell for much of this year and will now leave the school at the end of the academic year. We would all like to wish her a full and speedy recovery and wish her and her family the very best for the future.

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 Williams, Business Manager
 Mr Welch, Assistant Subject Leader, Design and Technology

20 Years Mrs Purtill, Office Administrator
 Mrs Fincham, Science Technician
 Mrs Bashford-Hynes, Assistant Headteacher
 Ms Pape, Assistant Headteacher

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

Friends of Vyners

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



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Finally, I would like to congratulate all our students and their families 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,



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