

14th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to you to update you on our plans for reopening in September. On Thursday 2nd July, the Government announced that schools are to reopen for all students full-time from the start of the autumn term. At Vyners, we welcome the news as we realise how important school is for the children's education and wellbeing. Understandably, some of you may be anxious about the news and I hope that this letter will put your mind at ease.

How will social distancing work in school?

To minimise the contact between individuals, we have been advised to divide students into separate groups or 'bubbles' consisting of year groups. We will stagger breaks and start/finish times to prevent crowding in corridors and social areas and to minimise contact between bubbles. Assemblies and other events requiring mixing of bubbles will not happen. Some areas such as the dining room will need to be used by different bubbles at different times, but will be cleaned regularly between 'bubble sittings'.

What changes will be made in classrooms?

Classrooms will be rearranged with forward-facing desks with students spaced as much as possible. The current 15-child cap on class sizes will no longer be in place, so students will be in their normal class groups. Equipment will not be shared between classrooms unless thoroughly cleaned first. Teachers will teach from the front as much as possible. Students will not need to distance from each other within a bubble, but will be reminded to distance as much as possible from staff and other bubbles.

How will standards of hygiene be maintained?

Students will be reminded to clean their hands regularly, especially when they arrive at school, return from breaks, or before eating. Additional hand sanitiser stations will also be set up. Hygiene expectations will be communicated daily to students and built into school routines and culture. Throughout school, additional cleaning schedules will be implemented, particularly focusing on rooms shared between groups or surfaces that are frequently touched. Students will need to wear full school uniform and will be able to bring a school bag into school. Use of student lockers will be temporarily suspended. Resources such as home learning and reading books will be allowed home.

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

What will the learning look like?

Our curriculum will still be broad and ambitious. All subjects will still be taught and we will still have high expectations for all our students. In September, once the children have settled back into the school routine, we will assess each child to see where they are and will create tailored plans for each child. In the Autumn Term, there will be an increased focus on wellbeing, emotional and social education. Sports and physical education will go ahead, but using our outdoor sports areas as much as possible. Contact sports will be avoided. Music lessons, including 1-to-1 tuition will take place as normal. Specific measures will be in place to ensure that activities such as singing and use of wind instruments are undertaken in well ventilated spaces. Although trips and visits can resume from September, overnight trips remain prohibited. We are not anticipating running any overnight trips before Easter 2021, at the earliest. A full series of public examinations will take place in the Summer of 2021. There will be no significant changes to specification content. Ofqual are currently consulting on adjustments that may be made to some subject examinations (e.g. increasing the number of optional questions and/or removing questions based on practical investigations, etc).

What happens if a student/teacher develops coronavirus symptoms?

If a child/teacher develops symptoms at school, they will be sent home and advised to get tested for Covid-19. We will ask for the result to be shared with school. Swift action will be taken if someone tests positive for coronavirus with robust procedures in place to deal with this. We will work with our local health protection team to definitively identify exactly who else within the bubble needs to be sent home. We will also actively engage with NHS Test and Trace. We will ask that children who are ill (even with what appears to be a minor illness) are not sent into school.

Is it optional for children to go back to school?

School attendance is mandatory for all students from the beginning of the Autumn Term. This means from September, the usual expectations on school attendance will apply. Sanctions can be applied for non-attendance.

Do students who are clinically vulnerable have to return to school?

If a child cannot attend school because they are deemed clinically vulnerable, a plan will be drawn up and the school will provide remote education and additional support. Students who are self-isolating due to coronavirus or are following other clinical advice will not be penalised for their absence. Students who live with those who are clinically vulnerable can and should attend school.

Our full reopening plans and risk assessments will be sent out prior to the start of the Autumn Term so that you are aware of all the specific actions that we will be taking to maximise safety and wellbeing. If you have any individual concerns, please email the school office on office@vynersschool.org.uk. We will continue to monitor emails throughout the month of August.

We look forward to welcoming all the students back in September. We are fully aware of the huge task ahead but know that, with your support, we can support our young people to get back on track to make the academic, emotional and social progress that they are all capable of.

Yours sincerely



Gary Mullings
Headteacher