

11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to update you with regards to our reopening plans and to also share some information prior to the A-level and GCSE forthcoming results days, particularly as there has been a significant amount written about these two issues in the media over the past week.

### **September Reopening**

We are very much on track with our planning for reopening the school to all students in September. We will also be delivering the full curriculum to all students. However, I would like all parents, carers and students to understand that it will not be 'business as usual' and that there will be some very stringent health and safety systems in place, which we are confident will benefit all. We will be finalising our reopening strategy document and associated risk assessment this week and hope to share with all stakeholders early next week.

One of the concerns that does remain about schools reopening is the interaction between school children and members of the public on public transport. As part of the strategy we will be requesting that the majority of students walk or cycle to school. However, we are very much aware that this poses a challenge for some students. With this in mind, we will be sharing a Google survey with parents and carers in the coming days to enable us to gain a clear understanding of student travel plans for the autumn term. I would be grateful if all parents would respond to this promptly. I would also like to stress that we will be continuing to work to significantly reduce the number of cars that come onto Warren Road at the start and end of the school day and that there is no capacity for additional numbers to drop off or pick up near to the school.

### **GCSE and A-Level Results**

I am sure that all who are associated with students who will be receiving examination results in the next two weeks will have been following discussions in the media with regard to the awarding of results this year. What has now become clear from the regulator, Ofqual, is that in many cases, centre assessment grades (CAGs) will not be taken into account when deciding final grades for this year's cohorts. This is because of the methodology being used by Ofqual for this year's results in both sets of qualifications. Ofqual has provided information regarding the grading system and next steps for parents and students. This can be accessed [here](#).

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**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher

As has been reported, the regulator has decided that where a subject has more than 15 entries in a school, centre assessed grades (CAGs) will not be used as part of the final grade calculation. Most of this summer's grades will be based on statistical modelling and the rank order of students in every subject submitted by schools to exam boards. The exception will be where there are subjects with no more than five entries in a school. In these cases, students will be awarded their CAGs, as the statistical modelling would be inaccurate with such a small cohort. For entries in school subject cohorts of between five to 15 students, CAGs will play a role in the calculation, alongside an element of statistical modelling.

In essence, this will mean that CAGs will play no role in the final grading in the overwhelming majority of GCSE subjects and a significant number of A-level subjects. The key factors to determine grades will be a student's rank within a cohort and the national standardisation model, which will be largely based on the distribution of grades nationally, the prior attainment of the cohort for each subject and each school's historic performance in each subject.

It is worth noting that national standardisation occurs for GCSE and A-level outcomes every year to ensure that similar standards are maintained year-on-year. However, this year has provided examiners with a unique situation.

At this point in time I would ask that students and parents do not worry unnecessarily. There is no more that can be done at this point. I am confident that the overwhelming majority of our students will receive positive outcomes but I am also sure that there will be some anomalies.

As is the case with most schools we have taken the decision not to systematically release centre assessment grades alongside final outcomes on results days as we believe that this may cause unnecessary anxiety to some. However, we will be happy to release this information on request. Information regarding the process for requesting CAGs as well as the appeals process and the autumn resit exams series will be shared on results days and will also be available via the [school website](#).

Mrs Harvey and the Sixth Form Team will be on hand on Thursday and Friday of this week to support students in the Sixth Form regarding their outcomes and post-18 progression.

With regard to GCSE results days we have taken the decision to accept a student's best grade (CAG or final grade) when seeking access to courses in the Sixth Form. Please note that this may not be the case if your child has applied to another institution. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate students who do not have the evidence to support progression to Sixth Form at Vyners but we will ensure that they are fully supported to find an appropriate institution of their choosing if they have yet to do so.

Finally, I would like to wish each and every student who is anticipating results in the coming days the very best of luck and would also like to reassure you that we will do our very best to ensure that they are able to progress successfully to the next phase of their journeys.

Yours faithfully,



**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**