Vyners School

Striving for Excellence

Year 11 Update 23/10/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to half term.

Progress Checks

Your son/daughter has now been emailed the first of this year's progress checks. The reports will also be available on the Arbor app. Included in this report are:

- Subjects taken at Key Stage 4
- Current grade (based on teacher assessment of progress to date). This is colour coded to show progress against the student's target grade in that subject.
- Key Stage 4 target grade.
- Average point score (APS) - An average of the best 8 grades currently achieving in their chosen subjects. This may be asked for when applying for post-16 courses. The APS reported on the Progress Report only includes the results listed on the report and does not include any GCSEs already taken, although these may be taken into account when applying for post-16 courses.
- Attitude to Learning - This shows the attitude to learning that they bring to their lessons.
- Exam Readiness - This shows how focused on the exams students are and how prepared they are to sit them. For Core PE, the Exam Readiness is a value given to the students based on their Lesson Readiness.

The current grade is a holistic judgement of the student's current capabilities in each subject, based on a range of assessments and work done in class. It should reflect the grade the student is currently working at. It is not a projected or predicted grade. The November grade may be slightly lower than the Year 11 target grade, as the students are still developing the knowledge and acquiring the skills necessary to reach and exceed this grade in their final exams.

Using the lettered grading system:

- 6A - student is working at a high grade 6 and, with effort, could move up to a grade 7.
- 6B - student is working at a secure grade 6.
- 6C - student is working at a low grade 6 and is in danger of dropping to a grade 5.

We value your involvement in this process, and we would ask you to spend some time going through the progress check with your son/daughter and discussing with them their planned approach to their Year 11 trial exams, the main period of which is from **1st December to 17th December**. The trial exam timetable can be found on the school website in the student zone.

There will be a number of revision and intervention sessions organised by departments for students in Year 11 over the forthcoming months. We hope to be able to support every student to help them achieve the very best grades they can by the end of the academic year. Please stress to your son/daughter how important it is that they attend these sessions.

Trial Exams Timetable and Topics

Here is the timetable and topics which have also been emailed out to students. The main period is between 1st December and 17th December, with Art and Photography the week before. Please do not request edit access.

Surprise Pre-GCSE Letters of Encouragement

As our Year 11 students approach their GCSE exams this May, we want to surround them with as much self-belief and support as possible. We are launching a surprise initiative to collect personal letters, messages, or notes from parents and carers to hand to students just before they sit their first exam, reminding them how proud you are of their hard work, resilience and unique strengths.

How to contribute:

- Option 1 (Quick & Digital): Complete our short [Google Form Link] to type your message directly.
- Option 2 (Handwritten or Typed Attachment): If you prefer to write a handwritten letter or attach a typed document, you can email it directly to khawes@vynersschool.org.uk or drop a sealed envelope off at Reception (clearly marked with your child's full name and form group) and for the attention of Miss Hawes.

Please keep this top secret! We want these letters to be a complete surprise for the students on the morning of their exam to give them a comforting boost when it matters most.

Behaviour

Unfortunately, there is a very small number of students in the school who are in possession of vapes, in the vicinity of someone with a vape or consistently using the toilets in a suspicious manner. Please discuss with your child the importance of not being involved in these behaviours. I want to make it clear to students and parents that if they are in a group in the toilets or caught in the same toilet cubicle as another student, they will be sanctioned for this. I would highly recommend keeping an eye on your child's possessions in both blazers and bags.

Parent Survey

Please may you complete the Year 11 **Parent Survey.** We would really appreciate it as we aim to find out how we're doing and how to improve. **The deadline is Monday 2nd November.**

Remembrance Day - RBL Poppy Appeal

Please note that after half term, from Monday 2 November 2026, the sixth form executive team will be going round the school with the poppies to be purchased with a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We have enclosed the QR code to enable anyone to make a donation online. If your child would like to purchase a poppy, we will need cash payment as this goes directly into the charity boxes that we have with the poppies supplied by the RBL. They also provide us with a box of RBL wristbands, rulers, and reflective poppies if your child would like to purchase something other than a poppy.

Half Term Help

Throughout the October half-term holiday, Morrisons and Kellogg's are offering free breakfasts for both children and adults at Morrisons Cafés nationwide. Available from 12 October to 1 November, the offer includes:

- A bowl of Kellogg's Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies
- Choice of dairy or non-dairy milk
- A piece of fruit (apple or banana)

The offer is available to all family members, providing an opportunity for families to enjoy a free breakfast together during the school holidays. This initiative aims to help ease the cost of living pressures many families experience during holiday periods when school-based breakfast provision may not be available.

Safeguarding Snapshot
This week's Safeguarding Snapshot includes information from the Metropolitan Police regarding mobile phone safety and the use of e-scooters/e-bicycles. Please [**click here**] for further information

Trust Update
Please [**click here**] for the Trust Update, October 2026.

Support Staff Vacancies
Please [**click here**] for the list of support staff vacancies across the VLT sites.

Key Dates for this year - Year 11:

Autumn Term 2026	
21st September - 2nd October	Year 11 In Class Assessments
Monday 28th September	Year 11 Parent Information Evening
Friday 2nd October	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 20th October	Sixth Form Open Evening (applications open)
Monday 26th to Friday 30th October – Half Term	
Friday 6th November	Year 11 reports issued
Wednesday 18th November	Governance Day
Thursday 19th November	Staff Conference (school closed to students)
Friday 20th November	Staff Conference (school closed to students)
Monday 23rd November	Occasional Day (school closed)
Friday 27th November	FOV Quiz Night
1st December - 18th December	Year 11 Trial exams
Thursday 3rd December	Senior Citizens' Christmas Party
Wednesday 9th December	VLT Christmas Concert
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16th December	Vyners Christmas Concert
Friday 18th December	**End of Autumn Term (12.20pm finish)**

Spring Term 2027	
Monday 4th January	**Inset Day (school closed to students)**
Tuesday 5th January	Start of Spring Term
Friday 29th January	Years 11 reports issued
Friday 29th January	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 2nd February	Year 11 parent consultation evening (online)
8th February - 5th March	Year 11 In Class Assessments
Monday 15th to Friday 19th February - Half Term	
Monday 22nd February	Sixth Form applications deadline
Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th & Friday 5th March	School Production
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Friday 12th March	Year 11 Theatre Company Visit

Thursday 25th March	End of Spring Term (3pm finish)

Summer Term 2027	
Monday 12th April	**Start of Summer Term**
Friday 16th April	Year 11 & 13 reports issued
Monday 3rd May	**Bank Holiday**
Monday May 10th	**GCSE's Start**
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June – Half Term	
Friday 25th June	**Inset Day (school closed to students)**
Thursday 1st July	Year 11 into 12 Induction Day
Thursday 1st July	Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 21st July	**End of Summer Term (12.20pm finish)**
Thursday 19th August	GCSE results day

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me (khawes@vynersschool.org.uk), Mr Smith (msmith@vynersschool.org.uk), Mr Millard-Healy (amillard-healy@vynersschool.org.uk) or Mrs Tighe, who is our family liaison officer for KS4 (ktighe@vynersschool.org.uk).

Thanks so much for your support.

Miss Hawes
Year 11 Leader