Vyners School

Striving for Excellence

Year 11 Update 13/11/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the weekend. Thank you for your support as always.

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.

Exam Stress

As we head into trial exam preparation, we are noticing high levels of dedication and understandably, a degree of anxiety across the Year 11 cohort. To help your child balance preparation with well-being, we recommend the following home habits:

1. Prioritise Sleep over Early Morning Revision: Late night or early morning cramming impairs memory retention and spikes stress. Ensure your child gets 8-9 hours of sleep.
2. Create Clear Boundaries: Encourage a strict "stop time" for revision each evening (e.g.8.00-8:30PM) so their brain can wind down before bed.
3. Focus on Process, Not Outcome: Ask "How did your revision session go?" rather than "Do you feel ready for the exam?"

I have also shared with students today an example of an exam timetable. Please see here.

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.

Online Resources for Revision

To support your child in preparing for their upcoming Trial Exams, we have arranged access to **Century**, an online learning platform designed to aid their revision.

- **Access:** Your child can log in via the Century platform [here].
- **Username:** Their school email address.
- **Password:** The first part of their school email address followed by 1234 (for example, John Smith's password would be 22smithj1234).

We encourage your child to make full use of this resource to support their independent study. Access will remain active until **4th January 2027**.

Free GCSE Maths Revision site

If you want to practice some Maths topics in the run up to your mocks, or the real thing, you might like to look at the Zelo site where you can get questions on any topic. The site is here.

If you want to practice some papers and see how the questions are worked out, either live or via a recording you might want to have a look at this site here. The site covers both Higher and Foundation tiers, you just need to log in to Youtube at the time shown on the site to watch live.

VLT Sustainability Week

Next week is this year's VLT Sustainability Week. Please see activities on this link which will be happening next week.

Safeguarding Snapshot

This week's safeguarding snapshot is regarding Com Networks (also known as The Com and including groups such as 764). They are online groups of people who set out to cause serious harm, both online and offline, through physical, sexual and financial crimes. Members gain status within the group by obtaining the most extreme and disturbing content. This includes coercing young people into recording or sharing images of sexual or physical abuse, either of themselves or of others. Please [click here] for further information.

Friends of Vyners AGM

Friends of Vyners will be holding their annual general meeting on **Wednesday 25th November at 6pm**. We will be discussing events for the rest of the school year to continue fundraising on behalf of the school and children. If you would like to dial into the call please email friendsofvynersschool@gmail.com for further details.

Opportunities from Mr Kelly

Oxford University- Event Spotlight: Bright Matter Webinar Series 2027 (Year 12):

Bright Matter is open to women, trans and non-binary students in Year 11 and 12 with an interest in studying STEM subjects at university. It is run jointly by St Anne's, Mansfield, Magdalen, St Catherine's, St Hilda's, Christ Church, Oriel, Wadham, and Worcester Colleges.

This programme aims to support students in developing their interest in STEM subjects at university, introducing them to STEM at Oxford and its application process, and to build a network of peers with whom to connect. We aim to boost confidence, provide a sense of belonging and opportunities to engage with current students, academics and staff at Oxford.

The programme will consist of 14 online sessions introducing each subject area with a description of studying that subject at Oxford, and a twenty-minute academic taster session.

Students who attend at least one of our online sessions will be invited to register their interest in attending an academic taster day at one of the constituent colleges, further selection criteria may apply. **Sign up here**

Oxplore Livestreams (Year 7-13)

Join the debate live where we tackle a new Big Question with live chat that makes it a great space to test your ideas. To take part, simply visit the Oxplore Livestream page when the livestream starts. You'll be able to watch live and send your thoughts straight to our team. **Oxplore Livestream: Could we live on another planet?** 16 November 2026 View full details

Physics Taster Mornings (Year 10-11)

If you are in Year 10 or year 11 (or equivalent) and you are considering studying physics or a related subject at university and would like to know more about your options and what this might look like, then these events is for you! We're going to be showcasing some of our favourite bits of physics through interactive workshops, and talking about what it's like to study physics at university. There'll be a chance to put your questions to a panel of current undergraduates and we hope to have guests from as many of the physics sub-departments as we can find. Come and join us! **All three of these events are different and you are welcome to register for and attend all of them. Events take place on 28th November 2026, 20th March 2027 and 26th June**

View full details - November

View full details - March

View full details - June

Physics EMPower (Year 11)

Empower has grown from small beginnings in 2022 into a two year programme for students of black heritage which includes online workshops and academic mentoring. Sessions include Problem Solving Skills, Waves and Maths, Forces and Mechanics, and Exam Technique for GCSEs. View full details

Inspire Critical Thinking (Years 9-11)

Inspire Critical Thinking is a free online course run by St John's College, open to all pupils in Years 9-12 at non-selective state schools in the UK. The programme is split into 4 interactive booklets, all linking to a central theme, and includes articles and activities, from a range of subject viewpoints, developed by University of Oxford academics and students. By taking part in the programme, pupils will have the opportunity to explore their interests in depth, discover new and exciting topics which they might not have studied before, and develop confidence in their critical thinking ability. Pupils will also have the chance to submit responses to competitions, to be in with a chance of winning prizes, in addition to sharing their opinions in our forum and casting their vote on key debates. The course takes place on our virtual learning platform, the **Inspire Hub, between January-April**. Registration for the programme opens on the 5th October 2026.

For pupils in Year 11, there is also a competitive application process for a free Inspire Residential Summer School at St John's College.

Registration closes at 12pm on 16 November 2026. Confirmation of your registration will be sent out after the closing date.

Year 11 - What does the future hold?

Disrupt It! Reimagining Industries through Technology and Innovation: Poster Competition (Years 11 and 12)

Oxford Edge, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Christ Church Access are delighted to announce a poster competition on the theme of 'Disrupt It! Reimagining Industries through Technology and Innovation'.

The competition is for UK pupils from state-maintained schools in Year 11 or 12.

Shortlisted finalists and one supporter will be invited to attend a celebration day at the Oxford Edge and Christ Church on Wednesday 10 March. More information here

Cambridge University - Click Cambridge

Peterhouse is one of the Cambridge College that participates in 'ClickCambridge'. This is an online outreach programme for Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Arab (BPA) or mixed-BPA students in Year 11/12 (England/Wales), S4/S5 (Scotland) and Year 12/13 (Northern Ireland) in state-maintained schools. The programme aims to equip students with the information and skills to apply to selective universities, through a series of online sessions.

Sessions will be targeted towards each age group and include:

- A-Level Subject Choices - Year 11 (or equivalent)
- Choosing a University Course - Year 12 (or equivalent)
- Q&A with current BPA students - for all

For more information about ClickCambridge, please visit the programme website

Please click here to apply. **Applications close at 10am on Monday 14th December.**

SEND Advisory Service Information: Parents' Information Session

📅 Wednesday 2 December 2026

🕐 10.00am to 2.00pm

📍 Yiewsley and West Drayton Community Centre, 228 Harmondsworth Road, West Drayton, UB7 9JL

This free drop-in event will provide parents and carers with practical advice and support to help them navigate their child's journey. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet local organisations and service providers, learn more about Children's Social Care and SEND reforms and share their views on the services and support available across Hillingdon.

A play-and-stay crèche and refreshments will be available throughout the session.

Parents and carers can find out more and book their place via the following link: **Parents' Information Session**.

Key Dates for this year - Year 11:

Autumn Term 2026	
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