

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

In my meeting with our Chair of Governors, Mark Hague this week I was able to reiterate the fact that parents and carers at Vyners have been incredibly supportive of the staff at the school in what have, at times, been incredibly testing circumstances. It has been a half term that has involved three separate episodes of positive Covid-19 cases, significant numbers of staff and students being required to self-isolate and days where it has been incredibly difficult to fully staff the school. However, through the commitment of the staff and students at the school and the support of the wider community we have managed to successfully navigate our way through the first 7 weeks of the academic year.

Sadly, we have had to wish three highly regarded members of staff a fond farewell as they have each made the difficult decision to retire. **Frances Davies** (Mathematics) has taught at Vyners for 28 years. She has been a remarkable classroom teacher, colleague and friend to many and I know that there are many parents and carers who would have been taught by Frances and will have appreciated her knowledge, expertise and unbending commitment to the children at Vyners.

**Pat Foley** has worked as a technician in the DT department since 1998 and is someone who has been the backbone of a successful team throughout that time. Often working behind the scenes, I am sure that most students would not quite appreciate the contribution of individuals such as Pat. However, it is his expertise that has allowed our teaching staff within the department to deliver such excellence for many years. Pat's service to the school has been remarkable and he will also be sorely missed.

Many of us will also miss **Neil Earwood** who has worked quietly and efficiently within the Science team as a technician over the past three years. Neil's expertise, alongside his colleagues, allows the teaching staff within the department to deliver practical science and the type of experience that makes students passionate about the subject. My sincere thanks to Neil, Pat and Frances. We very much look forward to celebrating with them at a time that is more appropriate.

We recently received confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) that most GCSE and A level examinations will take place three weeks later than in previous years for summer 2021. However, at least one GCSE Maths and one GCSE English Language paper will be sat in May. This is to ensure that students have the opportunity to sit at least one paper for each qualification either at the start or end of the examination window if, for example, they were in a position where they were required to self-isolate.

**Vyners School**  
Warren Road, Ickenham,  
Middlesex, UB10 8AB  
Tel **01895 234342**  
Fax **01895 237955**

[office@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:office@vynersschool.org.uk)  
[www.vynersschool.org.uk](http://www.vynersschool.org.uk)

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

We are expecting further announcements about the GCSE and A-level exams for 2021 in the latter part of the Autumn Term. At this point, students should prepare as they would have done in previous years. I would stress, however, that it is quite possible that centre assessment grading may be involved to some extent in deciding the final grades for students. With this in mind it is essential that students ensure that they are fully prepared for trial exams series and other key assessments as this would be key evidence for centre assessment judgements in such circumstances. We will be publishing timetables for GCSE and A-level trial examinations for November / December shortly after half term.

Vyners Sixth Form Open Evening will be virtual this year and will be launched on the school website at 6.00pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Comprehensive information will be provided via Loom presentations, videos and information slides for each subject, as well as e-copies of our Sixth Form Prospectus and Brochures. This information will include details of courses offered, entry requirements and FAQs.

At that point, if parents and carers have any unanswered questions, there will be an opportunity to submit further queries via a Google Form. Year 11 students will also be given the opportunity to speak directly to Sixth Form teachers and current students during their PSHE session on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

This year, Halloween will take place during the half term break. Sadly, last year there were several unsavoury incidents whereby young people within the community, including children who attend Vyners, caused considerable disruption and distress to other members of the wider community. I would make a plea to all parents and carers to ensure that they support the wider community by ensuring that this does not happen this year. The behaviours that were reported to us would be inappropriate at any time. However, in the current context it would be even more unacceptable to be gathering in groups for such activities. Your support is very much appreciated.

I do hope that all families are able to spend quality time together over the half term break. I would stress that it is essential that if you are planning to travel abroad as a family during the half term break that parents and carers check the travel advice before departing. Please do consider any travel during this period carefully.

Thank you all once again for your support throughout this half term. I do hope that all members of the Vyners family are able to enjoy the half term break and that all are safe and feeling invigorated when the school reopens in November.

Kind regards,



**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**