

4th December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly this week, I would like to thank all parents and carers who engaged with our Year 12 parental consultation evening that took place remotely yesterday. I am aware that on a handful of occasions technical issues arose that made some appointments difficult. However, it does appear that in most instances the use of the School Cloud platform appeared to be productive and efficient. Mrs Lane will be sharing a Google form to gain feedback about this event and I would be grateful if parents and carers of students in Year 12 would complete the form as this will help us to improve the processes going forward.

I would like to commend all students in Year 11 who have conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion during this week's trial examinations. The students have been punctual, well prepared and on the whole, have given their best in each exam sitting. I would also like to wish all students in Year 13 the very best as they get underway with their written papers from Monday morning.

2021 Summer Exam Series

On Thursday, the Department for Education finally shared some additional information with schools regarding their proposals for the adjustments that will be made for the 2021 Summer Exam Series. Whilst it has been deeply frustrating that all concerned have had to wait until December for this announcement there were several positive elements to the statement that was released by the Secretary of State, Gavin Williamson. There does seem to be the will to ensure that students get a fair deal this year.

The key points from the Secretary of State's statement are as follows:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation; and
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

The full statement can be found [\[here\]](#).

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Headteacher

I believe that it is particularly important that the awarding of grades for this summer is more generous than in previous years and that this was a particular issue in the centre assessment grading process that led to a number of difficulties that were encountered this summer. We look forward to receiving the specific details from individual examples that will allow us to prepare students effectively for this summer's exams. We also note that the pandemic has had a varying impact on schools across the country (particularly schools in tier 3) and look forward to hearing from the expert group with regard to how these inequalities will be catered for.

Hillingdon Foodbank

Thank you to all parents and carers (and members of staff) who have contributed to the Hillingdon Foodbank to help support families in need in the lead up to Christmas. The boxes are being collected on Wednesday 9th December from school, so any donations before then will be gratefully received - please ask your child to bring the donation to the school reception at the start of the day. The items most needed are longlife juice/squash, UHT/powdered milk, tinned meat, fish and fruit.

Crisis at Christmas

I would like to thank Mrs Vine and the students in 13F who have once again been fundraising for Crisis at Christmas. With the help of others throughout the Sixth Form and staff, the tutorial has hit their target of raising £700 for the charity, which aims to get homeless people off the streets during the Christmas period. I know that the group would like to continue raising funds for this worthy cause. If parents or carers wish to contribute to this charity via the 13F fundraising effort then they can do so through the JustGiving page link [\[click here\]](#).

Christmas Gifts for Senior Citizens

Mrs Vine and the Art Department have also been busy working with students in Years 7 and 8 to create small Christmas gifts and messages that will be shared with senior citizens in the local community in the coming week. The students have done an amazing job and we hope that these gifts and messages will at least go some way to replacing our senior citizen's Christmas party that we have been unable to hold this year. Well done to everyone involved!

School Uniform Donations

Student Services would like to ask for donations of Vyners school uniform that are no longer needed – specifically branded clothing such as blazers, PE kit & sports hoodies. Please contact Mrs McLaren in Student Services (vmclaren@vynersschool.org.uk) if you have any uniform to donate.

Healthy Food Competition

Finally this week, I would like to congratulate all students who participated in the recent Healthy Food Competition that was led by the DT department. The standard of food produced (in a socially distanced format) was exceptional but I would particularly like to congratulate the overall winner, who is **Devina Daby** (10G) who produced a complex and nutritious Greek Meze, as well as the four runners up, **Katie Holland** (9M), **Hanif Dryden** (7H), **Sean Coxwell** (7F) and **Yasmin Heidari** (9M). Thank you to the DT team for all of their efforts. Images of the excellent dishes can be found on the DT department Twitter page.

Have a peaceful and safe weekend.

Kind regards,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher