

12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

With half term approaching I think that it would be prudent for students and staff to spend as much time away from their computer screens during the coming week as possible. The pandemic has meant that there is a surge in the amount of time that individuals and certain groups of people are spending sitting for long periods looking at some form of screen or other. The research related to this issue is inconclusive but I am sure that a week where we are all more physically active and spending less time in front of electronic devices will be beneficial in more ways than one.

The school has now conducted three Parent's Information Evenings using the SchoolCloud video call system. Thank you to all parents and carers of students in Years 11, 12 and 13 who have attended online and to those that have given feedback of their experience. The main positives that parents commented on were; the ease of using the software, the time saved by having these meetings in the comfort of home and the clarity that a 5 minute appointment slot gives to proceedings. There has been some feedback about extending the length of slots. While this is possible it would have a knock on impact in relation to the amount of slots that would be bookable in an evening. As we have traditionally had 5 minute booking slots we will continue with this approach to maximise the amount of parents that can see their teacher. However, we will keep this under review.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to respond to our survey about remote learning. At the time of writing this update, 326 parents have responded to the parent survey. The survey will be open until 6.00pm on Monday 15th February and I would encourage parents that have not already done so to complete it. Gathering information from students, staff and parents enables us to review our practice and to this end we are grateful for your comments.

Initial responses show 91% of parents confirming that students are accessing all the work set remotely. 62% of parents say that the amount of work being set is about right, 19% that it is too much and 19% that it is not enough. 72% of parents say their preferred mode of delivery is the current blended approach with 28% of parents preferring live lessons. We will spend time looking at both the quantitative and qualitative data from the survey and report back to you with action points after the half term holiday. The link to the survey can be found [here](#).

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Futures Fund Update

Further to my announcement two weeks ago, I am delighted to be able to share pictures of the brand new canopies installed on the school Quad, outside the new canteen. These are a direct match for the canopies we installed a number of years ago at the top end of the Quad, which have proved very popular with students, who use them to shelter from the elements at break and lunch, whilst still having the advantage of fresh air.



This is a major long term investment in the fabric of the school. The lifespan of the canopies is estimated at 20 years, so thousands of students will benefit from them over the years to come.

The canopies have been entirely funded by the 'Futures Fund' - a voluntary donation fund set up to capture parental donations to the school. I would like to express my grateful thanks to all of you who have contributed, regardless of whether your contribution has been big or small, regular or a one off. Every single donation has mattered, and has enabled us to do something very special for your sons and daughters.

If you have not contributed to the fund, and are now inspired to do so, you may make a donation via the 'Trips and Visits' section of the sQuidcard portal. Every donation makes a difference - and if you do wish to contribute, please do remember to 'gift aid' your contribution.

Virtual Half Marathon for the Hillingdon Hospitals Charity

16 members of Vyners teaching and support staff are undertaking the challenge of a virtual half marathon over the month of February in aid of the Hillingdon Hospitals Charity. The aim is to clock up a total of 13 miles (walking or running) over the month. The charity is currently raising funds for a Child Bereavement Suite to support families who have sadly lost a child. We hope you will agree with us that this is a really worthy cause and so close to the hearts of some many in our wider community.

The staff taking part have already clocked over 100 miles collectively and, through our entry fees and our supporters, we have already raised £623.75 towards the general total. We are really hoping to reach £1000! If you would like to donate to the charity and sponsor us, please click on the link below and give 'Team Vyners' a mention in your donation comment so that we know you have donated in support of us.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/hillingdonhospitalshalfmarathon>

Many thanks in advance and, by all means, feel free to put your trainers on and join in with us too! You can send us pictures of your running efforts to apape@vynersschool.org.uk if you do decide to get involved, which we will then share directly with the charity. For more information on how to enter, please see the attached flyer.

Finally this week I would like to congratulate all of our students for their efforts throughout the past six weeks. We currently have over 1300 students at the school and I am aware that each of them will have their own very different experiences of this lockdown and that whilst some will find the routine and structure required to work successfully suits their nature, we fully appreciate that others require additional support.

I would particularly like to congratulate all students who have received certificates for the Student of the Week Awards that staff have been nominating. Personally, I have really enjoyed reading the information on each of the certificates that highlights the standard of work that many children are producing throughout this lockdown.

I do hope that all families are able to have a restful and enjoyable half term.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher



The Hillingdon Hospitals **VIRTUAL HALF MARATHON** 13 miles | February 2021



YOU choose when | YOU set the pace | but can you beat your friends? | All entry fees support the work of the hospital. Further fundraising is up to you.

You can go the distance any time you choose between 1st-28th Feb 2021. Just send us digital proof of your finished time!

All participants win a medal and for Gold, Silver and Bronze winners a SPECIAL medal, fame and glory!

£15 participation fee. Register your interest here: thh.charityhalfmarathon@nhs.net