

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been genuinely wonderful to welcome the overwhelming majority of our students back into school this week and to have the opportunity to speak to them and teach them face-to-face. The students have responded brilliantly to our new protocols and have dealt with the issue of wearing face masks for prolonged periods of time in a sensible and mature manner.

I have also been delighted with our testing programme, which has been highly efficient and professionally managed. The testing team, led by Assistant Headteacher, Mr Cahill and Business Manager, Miss Williams have dealt with the students in a calm, professional and timely manner, which has meant that the processes have run like clockwork.

Unfortunately, we have had a positive case returned amongst the 1,700 tests that have been undertaken at the time of writing this update. We are very much saddened for the students that this has affected, as we know that they were looking forward to returning to school but this does provide us with some reassurance that the tests are finding cases of COVID-19 prior to children returning to the classroom.

I would, again, like to thank all parents and carers for their support with regard to testing and the use of face coverings. We have been particularly grateful to receive a number of supportive messages from parents in the lead up to reopening. I am very much aware that parents in some schools in different areas of the country have, at times, been less supportive. In addition, I think that it is important to state that where parents have disagreed with the school's approach, that they have done so in a well-mannered and constructive way. This has been greatly appreciated.

### **Grading 2021**

School leaders are staying abreast of national responses to the recent Ofqual guidelines in order to ensure that Vyners offers the most supportive assessment framework for the exam year groups leading up to the final grading process. All schools are currently awaiting final guidance from Ofqual as well as support materials from the exam boards.

I can share that I participated in a live PiXL webinar event on Tuesday of this week, which allowed me (alongside three other Headteachers) to each share our current thinking about the process with over two hundred senior leaders from across the country. What is clear is that every school has its own COVID related context and that expecting all students to sit externally set exam papers would have been unfair and I am increasingly confident that we are in the process of constructing an assessment framework that best suits the needs of our students.

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

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

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

In line with our Spring Assessment Framework, assessment timetables have been issued to Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents/carers this week. The assessment window will run between 21<sup>st</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> May in order to maximise face to face teaching time leading up to the assessments, whilst allowing for marking, moderation and other quality assurance processes prior to the grade submission deadline on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Year 11 and 13 assessments have been scheduled for alternate days to support revision and preparation.

Year 11 students will stay in school throughout this period and will be supported by a tailored revision programme between assessments. Year 13 students will have a mixture of revision lessons in school and study leave during the assessment period. This information has been issued to them with their timetable but they should also keep an eye on their subject Google Classrooms as these will contain updated information. All current teaching and learning is in line with these assessments and linked to the revision topics which were issued before half term. We will continue to provide regular updates as and when new information becomes available.

### **Virtual Half Marathon for the Hillingdon Hospitals Charity**

We would like to say a big thank you to anyone who kindly supported the staff who took part in the virtual half marathon back in February to raise money for the Hillingdon Hospitals Charity.

We are delighted to say that our team of 16 runners all achieved the full 13 miles (or more!), either all in one go or gradually over the month. Some miles were walked and some miles were run. Well done to everyone who took part. **We were able to raise over £2,000 towards the total just from 'Team Vyners'**. The event reached its target and raised £15,764.

For its next challenge, the charity are organising a fundraising event for Easter weekend; more information is on their Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/HillHospCharity/>. Thank you.



Finally, this week I would like to wish all of the Mums within the community, a very happy Mother's Day for this coming Sunday. I think that we all appreciate just how much our mothers do for us and in lots of cases it has been mothers who have dealt with the multitude of issues that have arisen as a result of the pandemic including the management of home learning. It really shouldn't be about celebrating a single day. However, it is a great opportunity to show just how much we appreciate our mothers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Mullings', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**