

14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers.

The progress that has been made under the Government's road map does make it feel that we are making great strides towards getting back to normal ways of working. I have certainly noticed a considerable increase in the volume of traffic as I return home in the evening, which is a far cry from my journeys to and from the school during the latter stages of the first lockdown last year. Over the coming weeks we will be starting to plan for what we hope will be a regular school year with, for example, the reintroduction of school trips and visits and a return to a more extensive extra curricular offer. For us, it will be important to take the time to review the lessons learned from the way that we have had to work in the past year and we will be seeking the views of parents, carers and students to help shape our future plans. I will write to parents and carers about this more fully nearer to the May half term.

Face Coverings in Education

I am sure that many parents are aware that the DfE guidance for the use of face coverings in education has been updated. The most significant change in the guidance is that it will no longer be the advice from the DfE for students or teachers to wear face coverings in classrooms. At Vyners, we have been careful throughout the pandemic to review the guidance for issues such as face coverings and make decisions in the best interests of the school community based upon the evidence at the time. Therefore, from Monday 17th May, students will not be required to wear face coverings in lessons or examination settings.

Students and staff will be required to continue to use face coverings in communal areas where social distancing is not possible. This will include areas such as corridors, cafeteria queues and servery areas. Students and staff should continue to follow all established protocols including hand washing / sanitising, LFD testing and effective respiratory hygiene. We are very much aware that some students may wish to continue to wear face coverings within classrooms and we will continue to support students in such circumstances. We are all hopeful that we continue to make progress on the road map and that there will be no requirement for the use of face coverings within the school community before the end of the summer term.

Moderation Day

A reminder for all families that Wednesday 19th May will be a moderation day for the teacher assessed grades process. The school will be closed to all students and work will be set for students in Years 7 to 10 and 12 on Google Classroom in line with each child's school timetable for that day. I would like to thank all families for their support in helping the school to ensure that all students receive fair and equitable grades this summer. I have written to all parents, carers and students in Years 11 and 13 today to outline the next stage of the process. A link to the **Year 11 letter** can be found [here](#) and the **Year 13 letter** [here](#)

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

office@vynersschool.org.uk
www.vynersschool.org.uk

Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Unofficial Vyners Instagram Page

It has been brought to our attention this week that there is an Instagram page in existence that purports to be linked to Vyners School. I am sure that this account is well intended but some of the information shared is inaccurate and it certainly is not an official Vyners School account. I would specifically like to highlight that the information regarding closure of the school for different year groups next week is simply wrong and misleading. In addition, I would ask that (however well meaning) the authors of this account act reasonably by deleting it at the earliest possible opportunity or, at the very least, making it clear that this is not a Vyners School account.

Mental Health Awareness Week

This week we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week and focused on this year's theme of 'Connecting with Nature'. Students were encouraged to reflect on ways that they can connect with nature at home, outside and in school. This theme links closely with mindfulness and the concept of focusing on the present moment, whilst trying not to worry about things that are out of our control at that particular point in time. This is an area that we will continue to work on with students. Mental Health awareness is an area that we regularly visit and as always we encourage students to seek support.

60th Anniversary Tree Planting

As many of our 60th Anniversary events were cancelled last year, we were pleased to be able to hold a small ceremony on Tuesday 30th March to plant a tree in commemoration of this. A poetry competition had been held for Year 7. The winners of the competition were **Ruby Farrington (7G)**, **Marli Pistorius (7J)** and **Viya Shah (7C)**. They each produced thoughtful and imaginative poems which were read out by the students prior to helping to plant the tree. Mr Mullings, Mrs Harvey and Mr Maheady were in attendance. We were very grateful for the warm weather, which made the event all the more successful and enjoyable. We hope that like Vyners, the tree will continue to grow and flourish for years to come.

Benjamin Surguy (12W)



Eid al-Fitr

Finally, I would like to say Eid Mubarak to all of our families celebrating Eid this week. Whilst the current pandemic restrictions will have limited celebrations I also appreciate how important this date is for followers of the Muslim faith.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

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

Gary Mullings
Headteacher