

28th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the May half term is traditionally the point in the academic calendar when we say a fond farewell to students in Years 11 and 13. Under normal circumstances, they would be starting their period of study leave in preparation for their terminal examinations. This year students across the country will have finished a variety of different assessments that have been set internally in order that schools can make informed decisions about the grades that students will be awarded. Parents and carers will be aware from my previous correspondence that we are not allowed to share final grades with students or parents prior to the results days. Given this we have decided not to share the spring assessment data at this point as in many cases this provides a strong indicator of final grading outcomes.

The leaver's events for both year groups took place on the school site this year and involved inter house sports, BBQs, entertainment and the traditional leaver's assemblies. Year 13 students attended their final day in fancy dress (as is the tradition at Vyners), whilst students in Year 11 were invited to attend their event in non-school uniform but were encouraged to bring an old school shirt along so that they could get them signed by friends and members of staff; a rite of passage for all Year 11s. I would like to thank all staff involved in the organisation of these two events and particularly Mr Brooks and Mrs Bashford-Hynes (Year 11) and Mrs Harvey and Mrs Coyle (Year 13). I would also like to thank all parents, carers and students who shared gifts with staff this week. I know that these were greatly appreciated on each and every occasion.

Covid-19 Update

I am sure by now that parents and carers are aware that the variant of Covid-19 that originated in India is now present within the London Borough of Hillingdon. At this moment in time, cases have been recorded in specific parts of the borough and the local authority has initiated the strategy of surge testing. Information about the variant and the local strategy can be found [\[here\]](#). Whilst the postcodes within the immediate vicinity of the school currently remain unaffected, it is essential that we all remain vigilant and I would ask that all families continue to follow the Covid guidance and also ensure that students continue to undertake LFD testing throughout the half term break and that this continues on their return to school in June. Mr Cahill has provided an update regarding testing. This update can be found [\[here\]](#).

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

E-scooters

I have been asked by the Safer Schools Team to share information regarding e-scooters. I am very much aware that this affects relatively few students. However, I would suggest that parents and carers review this information if their child owns an e-scooter or are considering purchasing one [[click here](#)]. As a reminder, we do not allow students to bring e-scooters onto the school premises.

School Packed Lunches Survey for Parents & Carers

A new school menus steering group has been set up between colleagues in Public Health, EIP Team, the NHS and school leaders, with the aim to improve healthy eating for children across Hillingdon. The group met for the first time recently and they are keen to find out more about parents' views on healthy eating when children have packed lunches and have devised a survey for parents and carers to complete. The steering group has asked for the survey to be shared as the results will help them to better understand how to support parents when preparing packed lunches, to ensure they are healthy and nutritious lunches. The deadline for completing the survey is **Friday 18th June**. Parents & carers can access the survey via the following link: [School Lunchbox Survey](#)

Year 7 Parents Evening

Thank you for your patience and support with the Year 7 parents evening. We are delighted that most of our new Year 7 parents have finally had the opportunity to meet with their child's subject teachers. Thank you for sharing your experiences of the event and it was pleasing to hear such positive feedback.

We are aware of a technical issue which briefly affected the video appointments. We have reported this issue to SchoolCloud who have resolved the issue for future events.

Mr Maheady and Mr Neville

Trust Expansion

Following the announcement last term that Field End Junior School and Hermitage Primary School had accepted Vanguard Learning Trust's invitation to join the Trust, both schools' governing bodies and Vanguard Learning Trust's board of trustees have given their final approval following the due diligence and consultation processes. Whilst this is subject to the Secretary of State for Education's approval, the plan is for both schools to join Vanguard Learning Trust on 1st September 2021. In addition, all schools have been involved in reviewing the Trust's vision and values which were written in 2015 when Ryefield and Vyners formed the multi-academy trust. It is a fitting time to share them with the Trust's community ([click here](#)) as they reflect our commitment to outstanding, inclusive education which is strengthened through a collective common purpose.

Finally this week, I would like to wish everyone within our wider community a safe and peaceful half term. I very much look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday 7th June for the final half term of the academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher