

2nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Unfortunately, this morning we received the news that we have had another positive COVID case within the school community, which has meant that a number of students within the Year 10 bubble will unfortunately be required to self-isolate over the coming days. I know that this will cause a sense of frustration for some parents and carers, but it is a stark reminder that there is still some way to go before a solution is found to ensure that the education of school aged children is no longer disrupted. The link to a COVID Update letter containing guidance and further information can be found [\[here\]](#).

I was encouraged to hear the comments from the Education Secretary this week that implied that schools will not be required to operate in bubbles in the autumn term and that the Department for Education (DfE) are working on a strategy that will minimise the requirement for children to isolate when identified as a close contact of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. The situation that has occurred over recent weeks whereby in excess of a quarter of a million children have been out of school in a given week is clearly unsustainable. We are currently planning a timetable for September that will mean that children will not be operating in bubbles. However, we will also have contingencies in place if it is the case that the situation changes.

A Level and GCSE Grading Update

We are continually updating our dedicated webpage for teacher assessed grading with information as and when it is acquired. Additional information has been uploaded this week including the JCQ guidance to the appeals process and YouTube video recording by Mrs Harvey that outlines both the grading and appeals processes. The link to the webpage can be found [\[here\]](#). We will continue to highlight any further updates to parents and students going forward.

Year 6 Transition Day

The borough wide transition day arrangements for Year 6 students have been significantly disrupted by the current COVID restrictions. The challenge has been that for normal transition to have taken place, children from different feeder schools would have been mixing in a secondary school setting even if they remained separated from other year groups. After much consultation we have decided to cancel our transition day arrangements and will instead plan activities for the start of the autumn term to support their transition to secondary school. In the meantime, we have planned a number of remote activities. Parents and carers of prospective Year 7 students can find out more about our transition activities via the dedicated page on the school website. A link to the webpage can be found [\[here\]](#).

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Parental Survey

We are currently in the process of gaining stakeholder feedback to support our strategic planning for the next phase of the school's development. A link to a Parental Survey can be found [\[here\]](#). We will consider feedback from parents and carers at any stage of the academic year. However, I would ask that as many parents complete the survey as possible by **Friday 9th July** as this will help us to plan for the coming academic year.

Parental Consultation Evening Feedback

Thank you to all parents and carers who participated in and shared feedback about our consultation evenings this year. I am pleased to be able to report that Miss Pape (Assistant Headteacher) has analysed the data from the feedback and responded to it with a '*you said, we did*' document which outlines the adjustments that have been planned for the year ahead. A link to the document can be found [\[here\]](#).

Sixth Form Leadership Group

On Wednesday of last week I had the pleasure, alongside Mrs Coyle and Mrs Lane of interviewing twelve candidates for the key roles within the Sixth Form Executive Team. The students, all in Year 12, had reached this stage by performing to an impressive standard in a series of tasks that required them to demonstrate effective leadership capabilities. By reaching this stage, they have each gained a position on the student executive board for the coming academic year. However, at the end of the process, we were delighted to be able to appoint Riya Bhogal (12M) as Head Girl and Benjamin Surguy (12W) as Head Boy.

Their deputies next year will be Roman Lawrie (12W), Seavahan Suthaharan (12W), Kika Bedborough (12C) and Tanisha Sethi (12F). The remainder of the leadership group will be made up of Dhruv Gajjar (12G), Jaden Gray (12C), Coral Denham (12M), Maya Odedra (12H), Lexie Hendrie (12M) and Jodie Jacob (12G). I am delighted that we have such a strong team this year particularly as we have several projects that we wish them to engage in as the school returns to a degree of normality in September. Congratulations to all involved and my sincere thanks to Mrs Harvey and the Sixth Form team for conducting such a rigorous process. I am now very much looking forward to the upcoming selection process for our Year 11 prefects.

Term Dates

I would like to make parents and carers aware that the amended term dates for 2021-22 and the dates for the 2022-23 academic year have now been published on the school website. Please note that there are minor changes to the original dates published for next year due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Year 7 and 8 Sports Day

Last week students in Years 7 and 8 were fortunate enough to experience their first Sports Day since joining Vyners. The day was a huge success with all students completing a full range of athletics events. Staff and students enjoyed a full day of competitive sport representing their houses which brought back a slice of normality to the school community. All students were exemplary on the day and helped to contribute to a fantastic atmosphere. A special mention must go to our record breakers for the day; Luke Atkinson (Year 7 Boys 1500m), Issy Stone (Year 8 Girls 1500m) and Melia Gaynor-Parmer (Year 8 Girls Shot Putt). As a PE department we were very proud of all involved and it filled us with excitement for the return of competitive sport in September this year. Thank you to all involved and especially to our dedicated team of PE staff.

Mr Hall, Subject Leader PE

Modern Foreign Languages Spelling Bee

Bonjour, halo and hola! Last term, all Year 7 language students took part in a spelling bee competition. Stage 1 started in our classrooms and eventually progressed to Stage 3, which was the London Regional Competition where the top 3 spellers competed against each other. The top 3 were Lara Plesu (7F), Kaavye Sikka (7J), and myself, Khadija Nagri (7F). For the first stage, we learnt the spellings and meanings of 50 words. Stage 2 added another 50 words and Stage 3 another 50. Altogether, we had to learn 150 words along with their spellings and meanings. Oh mon Dieu! From stage 1, we were all very eager to participate and prepare for the upcoming stages. It was a very difficult and nerve racking tournament as a wrong accent or determiner could cost you the whole spelling bee. Overall, this competition was a challenging one; however it gave us an opportunity to really test our memory and speed. I was honored to be a part of this as it was a very exciting and educational experience. I also want to say thank you to all our teachers who trained and assisted us. Lara Plesu was our well-deserved winner: she will now be taking part in the National Final of the Spelling Bee on the 22 July. I would also like to thank the MFL department for providing such a wonderful opportunity for us.

Khadija Nagri 7F

Finally this week, I would like to wish the England Football team the very best of luck against Ukraine on Saturday evening. It would be great to see England progress as these types of events do seem to have a galvanising effect on the nation and provide moments of uplift and solidarity. If you are following any of the other seven teams in the quarter finals then my best wishes also. It should be an eventful weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher