

16th July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Monday 19th July will see significant changes to the way the country operates and manages the coronavirus pandemic. In the short term, there will be very few changes in how we operate as a school but we continue to plan for the start of a new academic year in September. One significant change that does apply to the school on Monday is the changes to track and trace, which will cease to be the responsibility of the school and will instead move to the NHS Track and Trace service. What this will mean in practice is that students will no longer be required to immediately self-isolate where a contact tests positive on a LFT device. The student who tests positive will be required to self-isolate and then get a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is positive then close contacts will be identified and contacted by the NHS Track and Trace service and it will be at that point that they will be required to isolate.

This should be a good step forward for all schools as the current situation, where nearly 1 million children are currently not attending school due to the requirement to self-isolate, is clearly unsustainable as we move into the autumn. Unfortunately, these changes apply from Monday and students who are currently isolating will need to complete their 10 days as instructed. I appreciate how difficult this has been for some families (one of my children has also been isolating recently), but I am confident that the new process will improve the overall situation for school aged children.

We have also taken the decision to conduct our end of term awards assembly remotely again this year. This is due to the fact that cases in the community are continuing to rise so we do not wish to bring dozens of children and adults together in an enclosed space given this context. Certificates and badges will be posted home during the week and the remote assembly will be available via the school website from Thursday onwards.

Please also note that Friday will be a half day with the finish time being 12.20pm for all year groups.

John Spencer

I learnt last week of the sad passing of former Vyners staff member, John Spencer. As you will see from his obituary in [the Guardian](#) John's best teaching years were spent at Vyners and one of his significant contributions was the design of the school badge that still adorns the uniform that students wear to this day. I am sure that John is sadly missed by family and friends. We send our sincere condolences to them all.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Trust Recognition

I would like to congratulate several students this week for their excellent work and achievements, which have been recognised at the Trust level. Firstly, congratulations to Kaavye Sikka (7J), Jared Houston (10W) and Benjamin Surguy (12W) who each received the Vanguard Learning Award for their key stage for the spring term. Each student was selected for their adherence to the Trust values of Aspiration, Community and Equity, maintaining incredibly high standards throughout the academic year, whilst dedicating a significant proportion of their time to help and support others.

Five students in Year 9 were selected to be a member of the school's Sustainability Project team that took part in the Trust-wide dragons' den competition last Friday. This was a fantastic development by the Trust given even more status by a specially recorded introductory message by the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. The team consisting of Jayden Desai (9W), Aaryan Patel (9W), Ved Sakaria (9W), Kyal Dhir (9C) and Rhys Heal (9W) presented their concept to a group of 'dragons' in a bid to secure the funding required to launch the project at Vyners. The idea of individualised reusable canteen equipment was warmly greeted by the dragons and we were delighted to learn that funding has been awarded to the team for the project. I would again like to thank Mrs Vine for leading the initiative within the school and to all at the VLT involved in the development of this Trust-wide project.

I would also like to congratulate Ruby Farrington (7G), Karam Sarwar (7C), Zara Ali (7H), Lubna Tadmori (11M), Sarah Clack (10H), Holly Bell (10F), Benjamin Surguy (12W), Helen Caines (13C) and Libby Bray (12W) for their excellent contribution to the Trust-wide poetry competition. The theme of the poems, 'identity' brought a rich and diverse range of interpretations which were very much enjoyed and appreciated by the judging panel. We were delighted to learn that Karam Sarwar won the overall prize for Key Stage 3, which is a wonderful achievement for a young creative writer. Congratulations to all involved. I very much hope that they each continue to develop their creative talents.

Year 7 Enrichment Projects

Our Year 7 students recently presented their English Enrichment Projects as part of their oracy assessment to coincide with their study of *The World Around Us* where they had been exploring a variety of texts from different cultures. The topic-based research allowed the students to choose from the following: Hurtful language and its damaging effect on society, how different cultures have contributed to the UK, International Poetry, British influence on other cultures and music playlists of cultural struggles.

Well done to the following students who each received a Headteacher's Commendation for thoroughly engaging their audience with a range of creative and imaginative ideas: Elizabeth Allen (7G), Selina Dattani (7J), Julie Tadmori (7W), Rohit Rahanu (7C), James Worley (7G), Sean Coxwell (7F), Gurneet Narang (7J) and Danni Sui (7M).

Free Books

As part of our work to prepare the school for the 'restart' in September we have audited and rationalised our collection of library books. This has meant that we have a considerable number of books that we are looking to give away. We will be inviting students to come to the school hall at various times next week to see whether there are any books that they may wish to take home. We hope that the students engage with this. We know that reading increasingly complex texts is essential for the development of vocabulary, comprehension and skilful writing. We will also be sharing guidance in the coming academic year that helps families to support their child's reading.

Finally, this week I would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to complete our parental survey over the past fortnight. I very much appreciate the constructive comments that were shared and although we will not have the capacity to address every individual point that was made, we remain committed to using the feedback as part of our continual efforts to improve the school. Mr Beale has also contacted all students in the school, via email, to complete a Blended Learning Survey. This is a chance for pupils to reflect on the last 18 months of learning in different contexts and give the school feedback on their experience. This will help the school in making decisions about teaching and learning moving forward. The deadline for responses is Wednesday 21st July.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Mullings', written in a cursive style.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher