

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure that for many of you this has been a year where you have faced unprecedented challenges. This has, without doubt, been the most challenging year that I have witnessed in my 25 years working in the education sector but I remain optimistic about the future at Vyners, mainly due to the strength of the community and the excellent partnership between staff, parents and students.

The lifting of most legal requirements earlier this week will mean changes for us in September. However, we still anticipate that we will have to continue with some measures as the situation develops and the guidance from the DfE evolves. We are currently in the process of revamping our risk assessments for September and I would ask all parents and carers to keep an eye on their email inboxes in late August as we anticipate that there will be a number of updates from the school.

As a reminder, the track and trace process for school-aged children has changed. This will now be undertaken by the NHS track and trace service as a result of a positive PCR test. Given that this is the case the school will not be undertaking these actions over the summer break. However, we would appreciate it if parents / carers would complete a short Google form if their child does test positive over the summer holidays as this will allow us to keep our records up to date. The form is available via the school website and a link to the page can be found [[here](#)].

I would be grateful if you could take time to go through the information in this letter in preparation for your son/daughter starting back at Vyners in September.

### **Return to School in September**

We have planned a phased return to school this year, which will allow for induction processes to take place for students in Years 7 and 12 as well the mass testing programme that is required for the start of term. **For details of the programme please click [[here](#)].**

Our data suggests that **over 90%** of Vyners students live within 1.5 miles of the school. Therefore, we encourage all students to either walk or cycle to school. We would ask parents / carers to read our guidelines for students bringing cycles to school and ensure that their child is fully compliant. The guidance is available via the school website and a link to the webpage can be found [[here](#)].

If, on occasion, parents need to drop off or collect their child from school we would ask that you arrange to meet them at a reasonable distance from the school and avoid stopping on Warren Road. Parents are also reminded that there is no routine vehicle access to the school site in order to drop off or pick up students.

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

## Friday, 3rd September

### Staff INSET Day

#### **Year 7 Mass testing from 8.00 am.**

Students will return home after their lateral flow test. I would remind parents of children in the new Year 7 cohort to **complete the consent Google Form** [\[here\]](#) indicating whether or not you consent to your child being tested.

#### **Year 8 Mass testing from 12.00 pm.**

Students will return home after the lateral flow test.

***No other year groups will be on site during that day.***

## Monday 6th September

**Year 7 students** start school at 8.00am with an assembly. Students will receive their second lateral flow test in the Sports Hall throughout the morning. This will be a shortened day and will **finish at 2pm**.

**Year 8 students** will come into school at 8:30 am to complete their second lateral flow test with their tutor in their tutorial room. Students will be provided with a home testing kit to also take home with them to continue twice weekly testing. Students will **return home at 9:15am**.

#### **Year 9 Mass testing from 12.30 pm.**

Students will return home after their first lateral flow test in the Sports Hall.

**Year 12 students** should arrive in school **at 1:00pm** and will go straight to tutor rooms for testing and induction.

## Tuesday 7th September

**Year 7 students** start school at 8.30am. This will be a shortened day and will **finish at 12.20pm**

**Years 8 and 9** will have a late start during the day of Tuesday 7th September **at 1pm**. The aim is to enable students to spend time with their tutor to receive timetables and to re-familiarise themselves with the layout of the school. Students will **finish at 3pm**.

#### **Year 10 Mass testing from 8.00am.**

Students will return home after their first lateral flow test in the Sports Hall.

#### **Year 11 Mass testing from 11.00am.**

Students will return home after their first lateral flow test in the Sports Hall.

**Year 12 students** do not attend school on this day.

## Wednesday 8th September

**Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 students'** first day of normal timetabled lessons.

#### **Year 13 Mass testing from 8.00am.**

Students will return home after their first lateral flow test in the Sports Hall.

## Thursday 9th September

**Year 13 students'** first day of normal timetabled lessons.

### **The School Day**

We are currently finalising our plans for the start of the autumn term in September. Our initial planning has sought to return to a school day that is as close to pre-pandemic structure as possible. However, this is subject to any further announcements from the DfE. We will ensure that any developments are communicated during the summer holidays. We will also share our most up to date Covid risk assessment at that point.

The start of the school day will be returning to the normal structure with all students arriving by 8.25am and in tutorial by 8.30am. Students can use either entry gate from Warren Road. The back gate will not be in general use. In response to feedback we have taken the decision to stagger the departure time for students as follows:

Year 7 & 8: **2.55pm**

Year 9 & 10: **3.00pm**

Year 11, 12 & 13: **3.05pm**

We hope that this will alleviate the issues related to the large numbers of students leaving the school site at the same time. This decision will remain under review throughout the autumn term.

The structure of the school day will be as follows:

8.25	Arrival
8.30	Tutorial
8.50	Period 1
Lesson change over	
9.55	Period 2
10.55	Break 1
11.20	Period 3
Lesson change over	
12.25	Period 4
13.25	Break 2
14.00	Period 5
14.55	Year 7 & 8 dismissed
15.00	Year 9 & 10 dismissed
15.05	Year 11, 12 & 13 dismissed

## **Punctuality and Attendance**

All students are expected to be on site by 8.25 am. Morning tutorials and assemblies will start at 8.30am. Excellent attendance is something we work very hard on and contributes to raising standards of achievement.

***Permission for leave of absence for holidays during term time will not be granted*** and we trust all families will respect this and not take their son/daughter out of school for this reason. A full list of term time dates for 2021-2022 is shown [[here](#)] for your use in organising family holidays outside these dates.

There is a formal process for requesting leave of absence. Letters must be addressed to me as the headteacher, at least two weeks prior to the date of the absence.

## **Uniform and Appearance**

We have spent a lot of energy improving school uniform standards over the past nine years; students have embraced the improvements and I am very proud of their appearance. Visitors to the school always comment on how smart our students are.

Students are expected to wear the uniform correctly which includes top buttons being done up, ties worn correctly with the crest below the knot, shirts tucked in and, for girls, skirts of the correct length. They must reach the top of their knees – if this is not the case, a new skirt will need to be purchased for September.

Please ensure shoes meet the high expectations of the Vyners' uniform policy. Kicker boots, Vans or Kickers leather trainers or similar styles are not acceptable and could lead to you making an expensive mistake.

A link to the Uniform page on our website can be found [[here](#)]. This page includes our [Uniform Policy](#) with a full uniform list. I would be grateful if you could spend time checking the uniform list carefully to ensure your son/daughter arrives properly dressed. The page also includes details of our uniform suppliers. Beat School Uniforms will be operating a [pop up shop](#) at the school for five consecutive weeks in August. Please note that use of this facility will be by appointment only.

Unless we receive public health advice to the contrary, it is our intention to fully reopen the PE changing rooms for September. Therefore, students will no longer be coming into school in PE kit on days when this lesson is timetabled.

## **Equipment**

It will be even more essential that students have the correct equipment with them every day. The sharing of equipment will continue to be prohibited. The summer holiday is an ideal time to replace those broken rulers, protractors, rubbers, pens or pencils.

### **Essential Equipment List:**

- 2 x blue/black pens (we recommend black as this colour is now exclusively used in examinations)
- 1 x green pen (ReAct work/self and peer assessment)
- Sharpened pencil
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Suitable pencil case
- Calculator and maths set
- Glue sticks
- Safe scissors

## Staffing

This summer we have a number of staff who are at a point in their careers where they have been fortunate to gain promotion to posts in other schools and some who are either relocating to other parts of the UK or have chosen to retire. We say a very fond farewell to them and wish them every success in the future:

Beth Bennett	Assistant SL Science
Cecilia Freely	Assistant SL Maths
Clare McComick	Art and Photography
Katherine Morais	History
Alice Edwards	Science / Physics
Lynn Bellinie	Learning Support Assistant
Jessica Osejindu	Sixth Form Administrator
Oti Tozser	Teacher of the Deaf
Benne Dignum	LSA Hearing Impairment Resource Base
Natalie McLaren	Learning Support Assistant
Meghan Moore	Learning Support Assistant

At this stage, I would also like to wish Ms Vorce (SL Mathematics) the very best as she will be starting her maternity leave from September onwards.

The reputation of the school means we have been able to appoint outstanding replacements for staff that are leaving or going on to maternity leave. Our ongoing expansion also provides us with additional staffing needs but I am delighted to share that we are fully staffed for September. I would like to say a very warm welcome to the following staff that will join us at the start of term:

Helena Maxwell	Art and Design
Kate MacManus	Science / Physics
Rachel Ford	Science / Biology
Jarred Flynn	Mathematics
Mia Rose	Photography
Mollie Ahern	History
Tom Sankey	History
Meghana Malegaonkar	Mathematics
Meryl Davies	Science / Physics
Natalie Burwood	Teacher of the deaf
Paul Kelly	Lead Practitioner Mathematics
Ahmed Rahme	Mathematics
Aaron Alhadeff	Humanities
Juanita Alonso	Sixth Form Administrator
Emma Charlton	LSA / Psychology
Sian McCay	Learning Support Assistant
Cinzia Campofiloni	Learning Support Assistant
Sarah Keen	Learning Support Assistant
Elizabeth Atkinson	Learning Support Assistant
Amy Conti	Learning Support Assistant (HIRB)

I am sure these members of staff will be extremely happy at Vyners School and I look forward to working with them in September.

I would like to congratulate all our students on working so hard throughout this disrupted year. I would also like to thank the staff for their efforts and the help they have given students, particularly at a time when many have been having to manage their own family circumstances and would also thank all parents and carers for their continued support. Finally, I would like to thank the Local Governing Body for their commitment to the school throughout this year. Their support has been invaluable.

Have a very enjoyable summer holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Yours faithfully,

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

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**