



Headteacher's Update

19th November 2021

I thought that I'd share some brief messages this week ahead of the shortened school week ahead. As a reminder, the school will be closed to students on Thursday 25th, Friday 26th and Monday 29th November. Please note that staff will be providing guidance for students in Years 11 and 13 for revision activities that they should be engaging in, which will be important as part of the preparation for the trial examinations.

Summer Examinations 2022 Contingency arrangements

Parents and students in Years 11 and 13 may by now be aware that the DfE have published the consultation outcome regarding contingency arrangements should exams be further modified or cancelled in 2022.

The link to a useful summary from the Confederation of School Trusts (CST) can be found [here](#). The DfE has also produced a letter to students, which can be found [here](#).

The key points from the consultation are summarised below:

- Schools, colleges and students should assume exams will go ahead, with the adaptations that have already been confirmed.
- However, schools and colleges should systematically collect evidence *should* a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) be needed in the future. The TAG process appears to be very similar to last year.
- It is *suggested* (not mandated) that centres do three assessments over this year: once later this term; one in the spring term; and one early in the summer term. However, assessments should, as much as possible, fit in with your planned assessment points. Not all subjects need to be assessed at the same time.
- These assessments should be done under exam conditions where possible.

The fact that we have already planned for December trial exams is positive and we can continue to follow the assessment calendar to a large extent. We will keep students and parents informed of any changes made at school level as they happen.

Place of Safety Drill

Many parents will remember that primary schools have a process in place to enable them to 'lock' the school down in the event of an emergency. Our reasons for wanting all staff and students inside could be varied - it might be a concern about someone on the site; it could equally be an environmental problem though, such as an accident on the nearby A40.

In the same way that we practice fire evacuation, we too wish to start practising our 'place of safety' procedures. Your son or daughter may have told you of the assemblies delivered this week on this topic. Our first planned drill is this coming Monday. This is being planned in a measured

way, with students fully informed on this occasion. We are keen that students do not suffer unnecessary anxiety and come to view these drills as a normal part of school life going forward. Students will go through the process of what they should do in such circumstances. These drills will not resemble the type of activities that you may have seen in American schools in the media.

Remembrance Sunday

Following our Remembrance service at the school last Thursday, I was delighted to learn about three Vyners students who were involved in the march-past the Cenotaph in central London on Remembrance Sunday. Reyes Pollard (12G), Nathan Tempest (10C) and Thomas Guyett (10G), represented 2nd Ickenham Explorer Scouts in the march-past. They all volunteered to take part and marched with pride and dignity. We are all very proud of their achievement.

School Travel and Road Safety Initiative (STARS) - Road Safety

As noted in some of my recent correspondence, the school has engaged with the Transport for London STARS initiative, which is supported by the London Borough of Hillingdon. As part of road safety week students were given reflective items to support road safety and were encouraged to wear bright or highly visible items on their journeys to and from school. If, as a parent, you are due to be purchasing a coat for your child in the weeks ahead, we would recommend that it contains reflective items. If you wish to learn more about STARS then please contact Mr Heath at the school rheath@vynersschool.org.uk

Have a lovely weekend

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Headteacher's Commendations

Work Related Learning

Lorenzo Deda	8F
George Fox	8F
Ella Gardner	8F
Jasleen Johal	8F
George Langley	8F
Santiago Megson-Serrano	8F
Theo Murison	8F
Khadija Nagri	8F

English

Andrew Niznik	8M
---------------	----

CARE Value

Reyes Pollard	12G
Nathan Tempest	10C
Thomas Guyett	10G