



Headteacher's Update

7th January 2022

As appears to be the case in most London schools, the start to the spring term has been relatively challenging. Having spoken to colleagues from across the borough it is clear that a reasonable number of students and staff have not returned to school this week due to Covid reasons.

Given the current situation, we anticipate that staff shortages will be a problem at various points throughout the term and with this in mind, I would ask parents and students to be patient when dealing with absent teachers and other members of the school staff. In addition to the return of face coverings in all indoor areas, we have also put in place a number of additional measures that we hope will help us to ensure that there is minimal disruption to education this term.

One ongoing issue in all schools is that of ventilation in classrooms. Without going into specifics, we are continuing to follow the guidance from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), ensuring that fresh air is let into all rooms during lessons. However, the HSE also specifies that staff (and students) should not have to work in chilly environments and that these two issues need to be balanced. We have provided clear guidance to staff on how to manage their classrooms through the colder period to ensure that they remain comfortable working environments but we will also make adjustments to uniform regulations on a temporary basis.

As was the case through the winter months last year we amending the dress code through to February half term in the first instance. Students should attend school in full school uniform but can wear a Vyners branded hoodie or sweatshirt (e.g. PE hoodie, Year Group hoody, etc.) in addition to their uniform. Please note that no other hoodie or sweatshirt will suffice. Students should also consider wearing additional layers, i.e. t-shirts or vests under their shirt / blouses as well as the Vyners v-neck jumper beneath the school blazer. Under the current circumstances, plain grey v-neck jumpers (without the Vyners logo) will be permissible. I would also add that we do have a good supply of Vyners jumpers that we can provide for students if support is required. I would ask

parents to contact their child's Year Leader regarding this matter in the first instance.

Change to self-isolation rules

From 11 January, [people without symptoms who have a positive LFT result, no longer have to take a PCR test to confirm their status](#). Whichever type of positive test result you have, you are required to [self-isolate for at least seven days](#). Day zero is the day you either first develop symptoms or the day of your positive test, whichever is earliest. Two negative lateral flow tests (LFT) are required to end self-isolation - the first no earlier than day six, followed by a second test result 24 hours later. If both tests are negative - and you do not have a high temperature - you can stop self-isolating on day seven at midnight and return to your normal activities on day eight. If the day-six test is positive, you can take two further tests on subsequent days, and can stop isolating once you've received two negative tests, 24 hours apart.

Absence Line

As a gentle reminder, could all parents ensure that they contact the absence line prior to 8.30am on any occasion when their child is ill and unable to attend school either by calling the school number and **pressing 1 for student absence or by emailing attendance@vynersschool.org.uk**. By doing so, we will be able to ensure that a text is not sent to check on a child's whereabouts.

Year 7 Parents Evening

I would like to remind parents of students in Year 7 that the parental consultation evening will take place via the remote School Cloud system on Thursday, 13th January. Whilst this is an online activity, I am aware that our staff are very much looking forward to speaking to parents and carers of our new cohort. Here are the links to the letters that were sent to parents - [English/Maths/Science letter](#) and [Other Subjects letter](#).

Have a safe and peaceful weekend.

Gary Mullings Headteacher