



18th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) update

I am writing to you to provide a further update regarding the detection of RAAC on the school site and the decision to close the school on a temporary basis.

Firstly, I would again like to thank parents and carers for their understanding and patience in relation to this matter and also to reassure you that the measures that we are taking are precautionary as a result of the most up-to-date guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). At this stage, we are awaiting the appointment of a case worker from the DfE. It is our understanding that once this appointment has been made, the DfE will be responsible for carrying out a more detailed assessment and will provide guidance on the next stage of the process through a management plan. We are in regular contact with the DfE and will let parents and carers know when a case worker has been appointed.

Throughout today, work has been undertaken to secure areas of the school where RAAC is suspected or has been identified, relocate key departments and plan for remote learning. I am pleased to be able to inform parents that Mr Davey, Assistant Headteacher, has made significant progress adjusting and updating the timetable; this should allow us to be in a position to reopen to students on Wednesday 20th September 2023. The information below outlines the specific arrangements for remote learning on Tuesday and reopening on Wednesday.

Tuesday 19th September 2023 – Remote Learning

On Tuesday 19th September 2023, students will be required to work remotely at home. Students in Year 7 and 8 will be required to log onto their tutorial Google Classroom at 8:30am for a 'live' morning tutorial. Tutorials will not take place for students in Years 9-13. However, students in these year groups must log onto their first session by 8:50am.

Students will be able to access the arrangements for all of their normal timetabled lessons (for Tuesday Week A) via their Google Classroom. Each class teacher and tutor will post specific instructions for each of their classes with clear instructions. Students should log onto their relevant classroom at the start of each lesson. Teaching staff will make it clear in the classroom whether the lesson is 'live', recorded or a resource that they are expected to access. If your child is new to the school, further details about Google Classroom can be found [here](#).

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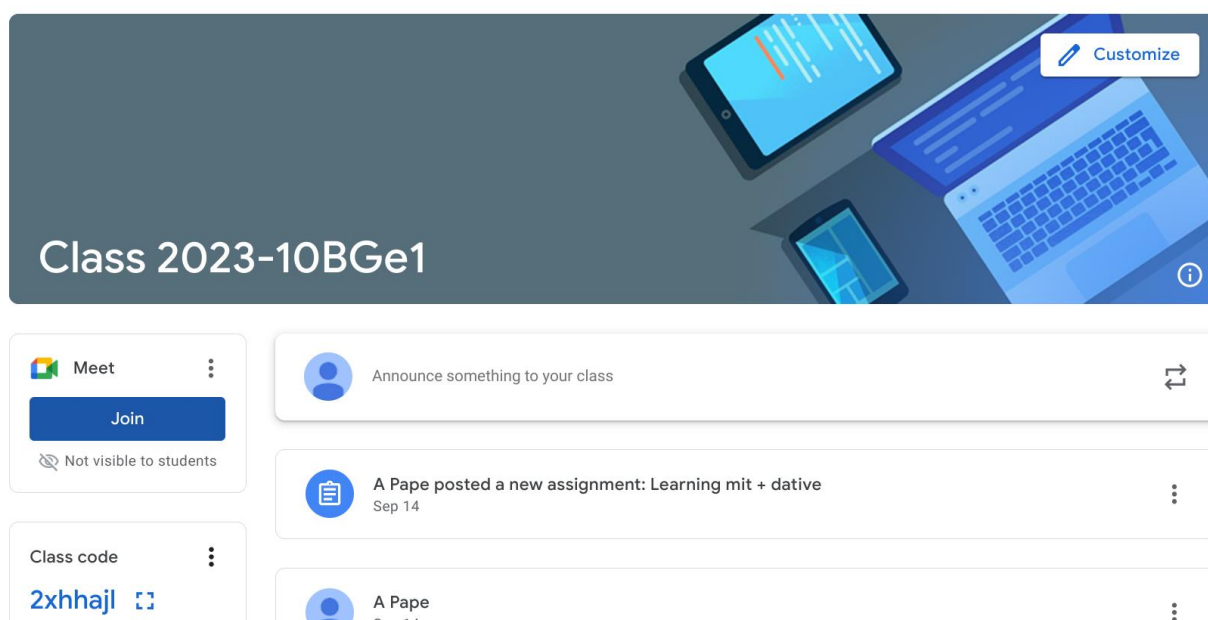
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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher



At Vyners, we have employed a blended approach to our remote learning provision. This approach is designed to incorporate the school's teaching and learning strategy, EPT (Explaining, Practising and Testing). All new learning is effectively explained. The medium for this could be 'live' content (eg. via Google Meet) or through recorded content using platforms such as Loom. Teaching staff have the flexibility to set independent tasks during the Practice phase of the learning sequence. This also enables students to review their learning from the Explanation phase, often utilising excellent online resources such as Seneca Learning that give automatic feedback to learners. It also allows for students to complete tasks and gain feedback from their teachers after they have been submitted online. Students can expect a mixture of different tasks depending on the subject they are studying.

It is essential that students follow our expectations regarding their Google Classroom use, especially if teachers require students to meet them for live lessons, using Google Meet. The link for every Google Meet can be found just under the heading for each class's Google Classroom. Please remind your child to click the 'join' button.



Details of the existing school protocols (including the instructions for clothing, location and use of mobile phones during remote education) can be found [here](#).

Wednesday 20th September 2023 - School Reopening

Years 7 and 11

Our current plan is to reopen to students in phases on Wednesday 20th September 2023. Students in Years 7 and 11 should arrive onsite by 8:25am at the latest for their morning tutorial and will follow their normal full timetable for the day. During the morning tutorial, students will be guided through the changes that have been made at the school including changes to specific health and safety protocols.

Sixth Form Students

Students in the Sixth Form should attend school for their lessons only and may remain onsite between lessons if necessary; they must ensure that they arrive at school at least five minutes before the start of any given lesson and must sign out in the Sixth Form Study Room before leaving the site.

Years 8, 9 and 10 Students

Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 should attend their **session 1 and 2 lessons remotely**. They should then arrive at school between 11:45am and 11:55am and proceed to their period 3 lesson. I would ask that all parents and carers ensure that their child attends at this time as students will be guided through the changes that have been made at the school including changes to specific health and safety protocols.

Timetable Changes and Edulink

Updated student timetables will be available on Edulink from 3:00pm on Tuesday 19th September 2023. It is essential that all students access Edulink before returning to school and record any room changes. We will not be reissuing paper timetables for students on Wednesday morning.

Catering

Whilst we await confirmation about the nature of the materials in the roof of the main hall and the canteen, these areas will remain out of use. The servery area of the canteen is safe to use as the roof area does not contain RAAC. However, the entrance and exit to and from the canteen will have to change and we anticipate that this might lead to some initial issues with regard to the speed of service. Whilst we will still have our regular service in the lower canteen and pod located on the music quad, parents and carers are advised to consider sending their child to school with a packed lunch from home for the first few days. Students who are entitled to free school meals will continue to receive their daily allowance of £2.85 and this may continue to be spent on whatever product they wish to purchase.

Lockers

Unfortunately, there are four sets of lockers located on the second floor that will need to be temporarily decommissioned. We are currently planning to ensure that any items that are currently stored in these lockers can be safely returned to the correct students in a timely manner and for vacant lockers to be reallocated to these students; this will unfortunately reduce our overall capacity to house lockers and will mean that we are unable to provide lockers to all students who wish to have one for the foreseeable future.

School Events

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone a number of school events that were scheduled to take place this week. The Year 7 information evening will be rescheduled to a later date and the whole-school photograph will now take place in September 2024. Parents and carers who have been contacted by Mrs Williams, Business Manager, regarding photo consent are asked to reply still to this communication as it will be carried forward to next autumn.

I would like to thank parents and carers again for their continued co-operation and support with this situation and that the email address emailqueries@vynersschool.org.uk has been set up for parental questions. A frequently asked questions (FAQ) document has been devised based upon questions asked to date; a copy of this FAQ document is attached to the email along with this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher