

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to half term - I know I am! I have quite a few notices which are listed below.

### **Half Term Message - Mr Newbey**

It does not feel like only five weeks since I joined Vyners and in particular became SLT link for Year 8. On my first day Miss Hawes told me how wonderful her year group is and she was completely right. I am very lucky to teach a lot of Year 8 and you have all made me feel very welcome and I thank you for that. The messages below from Miss Hawes are important and we need to maintain the very high standards and excellent reputation Year 8 are creating for themselves at Vyners. Have a lovely half term break, spend time with friends and family and keep yourselves safe. We want to see you all back on the 19th in one piece.

Best wishes,

Mr A Newbey  
Assistant Headteacher - Year 8

### **Year Group Assembly**

This morning the year group assembly was on 'words you use' and the impact this can have on others. There were three examples of this including squeezing out toothpaste, scrunching up a piece of paper and throwing an apple on the floor. The volunteers were asked to return their items back to their original state. The aim of this was to emphasise that when you use unkind words, this can have a lasting impact on people. I highlighted the word "banter" and how we perceive jokes differently and the effect this can have on people. It was also important to stress racist language and that regardless of your race/ethnicity, nobody should be using discriminatory language or racial stereotypes. This is unacceptable behaviour which will be consequence and dealt with appropriately. Please could you reiterate this message at home too. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Break/Lunch Behaviour**

There has been an increase in silly behaviour at break and lunch which is resulting in more consequences being received by Year 8s. I have made it very clear, if students push other students, regardless if they are friends or not, they will be issued with a C3 consequence. Often students take it too far, resulting in students getting hurt.

### **Altering Skirts**

Unfortunately staff have had to have many conversations with students in rolling their skirts or having had their skirts altered far too short. School skirts should be no shorter than just above the knee as per the uniform policy. I will be communicating home with parents of students whose skirts have been altered and are too short. You will be required to purchase a new skirt or have this adjusted back to the correct length. They will remain out of circulation for break and lunch until this has been met.

### **C3 Changes**

C3 Detentions should only be changed if parents email in to myself as the last option. With this in mind, this will only occur if there is a medical appointment with evidence of this. No C3's are rearranged for clubs.

### **Dropping Off Forgotten Items**

As a reminder from last week's Headteachers Newsletter in regards to dropping off items. As the school has grown in size we have experienced a significantly greater number of parents and carers dropping off forgotten items for their children during the school day. This has included items such as PE kits, packed lunches, resources for lessons, etc. Unfortunately,

this is impacting on the capacity of the office staff to undertake their required tasks. Having spoken to a number of schools in the locality, it is clear that most do not allow parents and carers to drop off items in this way due to the reasons outlined. Therefore, a decision has been taken to no longer allow parents to drop off items in this way from 19th February 2024. A more detailed letter explaining this process can be found here ([click here](#)). We apologise for any inconvenience caused to families.

### **Options Form**

A gentle reminder that the options videos have all been shown and students can now submit their options form. The link is both on google classroom as well as the school website

<https://www.vynersschool.org.uk/page/?title=Options&pid=277>

The deadline is Friday 22nd March. Students can resubmit their form at any time and the most recent form will be your final submission.

### **Equality week**

VLT Equality Week will take place the week beginning Monday 19th February 2024. The Vyners community will be taking part in a range of activities over the week that focus on equality and diversity. Students will engage with a number of activities to celebrate what makes us different. For more details please refer back to the Headteachers Update - 02.02.24.

### **Brilliant Parents – Children's Mental Health Awareness Week**

Please see attached a PDF with some fantastic resources aimed at supporting and promoting emotional health, and mental wellness for our children and the whole family.

### **Place2Be**

We will be working with Place2Be, a national charity supporting schools to improve the confidence and wellbeing of children and young people. Place2Be provides emotional and therapeutic support to children and young people, families and staff in more than 450 schools nationwide. We will have a service called Place2Talk which is open to all children and they can make an appointment during their break or lunch to spend 15 minutes with a trained counsellor, either by themselves or with a friend.

Place2Talk is operated using opt out parental consent. *Unless we hear otherwise from you (email to the school office), the school and Place2Be will assume that your child has parent/carers' permission to come to Place2Talk. The link to the full letter is [here](#) on the school website.*

### **Safeguarding snapshot**

This week's snapshot highlights the social media app MY LOL. Here is the [link](#).

I hope you have a lovely half term and I look forward to seeing Year 8 back in school on Monday 19th February, with perfect school uniform, a full pencil case and exemplary behaviour.

Kind regards,

Miss Hawes

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*Miss K Hawes  
Year 8 Leader  
Teacher of Physical Education*