



19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you for the final time this academic year as we head into the summer holidays on one of the warmest days of the year to date. I am sure that the majority of staff, students and families are looking forward to spending some time away from school, maybe travelling on holiday, so that they can recharge their batteries and spend some quality time with loved ones.

With regard to the academic year that concludes today, it has felt like a largely successful one. When having time to reflect, it is quite incredible to think about the amount of activity that goes on in a large secondary school in any given year, both inside and outside of the classroom. There have been incredible highlights and the students have achieved so much. With that in mind, we are very much looking forward to celebrating with our Year 11 and 13 cohorts in August when they receive their GCSE and A level results.

It was also lovely to see so many students receiving awards at our celebration assemblies this week. It continues to be incredibly important that we recognise the successes of our students and that parents, friends and classmates are able to share in those successes. I would like to thank all parents and carers who were able to attend on either Monday or Tuesday of this week and apologise to the small number of parents who did not receive their invitations. We will be happy to invite those parents to our Awards Evening in December where their child will be able to receive their Silver Award or Service Award with family members present.

We are very much looking forward to the academic year ahead and are always excited to welcome the new Year 7 cohort to the school at the start of September. Equally, many of our current Year 11 students, having received their examination results, will be progressing to the lofty heights of the Sixth Form, dressed smartly in business attire, ready to meet the challenges of A level study.

At this time of year, we always say farewell to some of our staff as they move on to new opportunities. I have highlighted our staff leavers within this letter and thank them for their excellent contributions to the school, regardless of their length of service. However, I will highlight Mrs Vine (Subject Leader, Art) and Miss Baccam (English) who have both been exceptional practitioners and will be leaving us after seventeen and ten years respectively. I wish them both the very best in their future endeavours.

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Headteacher



Vanguard Learning Trust

Registered in England and Wales Number 07796938

Registered address - Field End Junior School, Field End Road, Eastcote, Middlesex, HA4 9PQ

At the end of the year it is useful to remind all within the Vyners community about our values and high expectations so that we can start the new academic year in a positive way. With this in mind I would be grateful if you would take the time to go through the information in this communication in preparation for your son/daughter starting back at Vyners in September.

Return to School in September

As has previously been the case, we will be starting the academic year in September with a staggered start. On Monday 2nd September, there will be a staff development day. The start of the academic year for each year group will be as follows:

Year 7

The new Year 7 cohort will start the term on **Tuesday 3rd September at 8.25am**. The school day will finish for students in Year 7 at **2.00pm** on both Tuesday 3rd September **and** Wednesday 4th September. Normal finish times will apply thereafter (see below).

Year 12

Students moving into Year 12 will start the term on **Tuesday 3rd September and should register in the hall at 1.00pm**. Any Year 12 students who are new to the school will be invited to attend at 12.00pm for a tour of the school. All students will receive their timetables and the school day will finish at 3.00pm.

Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13

Students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 will start the new term on **Wednesday 4th September**. Students in these year groups should arrive on site by 8.25am. There will be an extended tutorial session between 8.30am and 9.15am so that students can finalise their timetables and receive any key start of term information. From 9.20am through to 9.50am there will be an abridged lesson. Normal lessons will resume from session 2 onwards.

Parents are reminded that the school is now very close to its capacity following our expansion project with the first extended year group now transitioning into the sixth form. This will mean that there will be in excess of 1500 children on site, in addition to 150 adults on a daily basis. Whilst this will provide some challenges, we have planned to ensure that there are smooth transitions from lesson to lesson and that congestion in different parts of the school is minimised.

A link to the term dates for 2024-25, including the plan for the start of term can be found ([click here](#)). I would ask all parents and carers to study this document carefully to ensure that their child arrives at school on the appropriate day and time. There are slightly different arrangements for some of the year groups.

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The School Day

The start of the school day in September will be in its normal structure with all students arriving on site 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 continue to stagger the departure time for students as follows:

Year 7, 8 & 9: **2.55pm**

Year 10, 11, 12 & 13: **3.00pm**

We hope that this will help alleviate the issues related to the large numbers of students leaving the school site at the same time.

The structure of the school day will be as follows:

8.25am	Arrival (latest)
8.30am	Tutorial
8.50am	Period 1
Lesson change over	
9.55am	Period 2
10.55am	Break 1
11.20am	Period 3
Lesson change over	
12.25pm	Period 4
1.25pm	Break 2
2.00pm	Period 5
2.55pm	Years 7, 8 & 9 dismissed
3.00pm	Years 10, 11 12 & 13 dismissed

Punctuality and Attendance

Despite a concerted strategic effort nationally, attendance and punctuality rates in secondary schools in England remain below those that were recorded pre-pandemic. There are a number of factors contributing to this. However, evidence from the Department for Education (DfE) and the 2022 Children's Commissioner report ([click here](#)) suggests that children who miss one of the first few days of the new term for unauthorised reasons are much more likely to miss long periods of their school than peers who attended the first few days. Given this evidence, I would ask that every family do their utmost to ensure that their child attends during those early periods and contact the school for support where necessary. We will have a team on hand to contact families where necessary.

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All students are expected to be on site by 8.25am at the latest but **no earlier** than 7.45am unless they have been specifically invited by a member of staff for an intervention or meeting. Morning tutorials and assemblies will start at 8.30am.

Unfortunately, we have been disappointed with the number of families who have chosen to take family holidays during term time this year. This should not happen in a high performing school. Permission for leave of absence for holidays during term time will not be granted and we trust that going forward, all families will respect this and not take their son/daughter out of school for this reason. I would ask that families use the term dates shared above to plan holidays outside of term time.

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

Uniform and Appearance

We have spent a lot of energy improving school uniform standards over the past decade; 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 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 Kicker leather trainers or similar styles are not acceptable. Please also ensure that your child starts the academic year with an appropriate haircut. As a reminder, the minimum length haircut for students in Years 7-11 is a **grade 2**.

During the summer term, it was evident that a number of students were wearing items that no longer fitted them appropriately, particularly shirts, blouses, trousers and skirts. This is quite normal towards the end of the year. However, I would politely ask parents and carers to ensure that all necessary items are replaced including skirts that fit the waist but are no longer of an appropriate length.

There has also been a trend for some female students to use handbag / fashion bags instead of standard school bags or rucksacks. Please note that these type of bags will not be accepted in September and students will be asked to replace them where necessary.

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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 on five Wednesdays during the summer holidays. Full details are on the school website.

With an eye on current economic pressures, can I also remind you that a special Facebook page operates to provide a useful forum for the sale or donation of second hand uniforms. The page can be accessed via this link [\[here\]](#).

Equipment

It is 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. Please note that frequent equipment checks will be made throughout the academic year and I will be writing to parents when it is clear that their child is coming to school unprepared for learning.

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 (clear pencil cases are required for external examinations)
- Calculator and maths set
- Glue sticks
- Safe scissors
- Reusable water bottle

Support for Families

I think that it is important to recognise that this can be a very challenging time of year for some families on low incomes when schools publish lists of items that need to be acquired. If there are families who do require support to acquire either items of uniform or equipment then I would ask that they contact Mrs Tighe, Family Liaison Officer, who will try to arrange for assistance where possible: ktighe@vynersschool.org.uk

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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 and abroad or have chosen to retire. There are some staff who have chosen to take a break from teaching and one member of staff who will be starting teacher training. We say a very fond farewell to them and wish them every success in the future:

Mr Abbas	Science
Mr Peran	Science
Mrs Davies	Science
Ms Keramitsi	Science
Mr White	English
Miss Baccam	English
Mrs Vine	Art
Ms Jackson-Smith	Geography
Mr Cawley	PE
Ms Kamboj	Maths
Miss Rose	Art & Photography
Miss Lovett	HIRB Learning Support Assistant
Mr Luscombe	D&T technician

Parents may be aware that recruitment in the education (and many other) sectors continues to be challenging. Having spoken to many colleagues in other schools in different parts of the country, it is clear that there many schools who have not been able to fully staff this year, and amongst those that have, there has often been a reliance on non-specialist or unqualified staff. Given this, or any other context, I am pleased to be able to share with parents that we are fully staffed with excellent specialist teachers across all areas of the curriculum and we will continue to develop our strategy to ensure that we secure excellent teaching and non-teaching staff going forward. I would like to say a very warm welcome to the following staff that will join us at the start of term:

Ms Egbedi	Maths
Dr Ganjuli-Roy	Science
Mrs Maurya	Science
Mr Sheehan	Science
Mr Gunasekera	Science
Mr Nicholls	English
Miss Saleh	English
Mr Harper	PE
Miss Woodward	Spanish
Miss Florea	Art
Mr Alhadeff	Humanities
Mrs Reynolds	HIRB Learning Support Assistant
Ms Lokaj	HIRB Learning Support Assistant
Mrs Flint	Rewards and Consequences Administrator

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Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

Please click [\[here\]](#) for the VLT Newsletter, Summer 2024.

VLT Summer Holiday Parents Information Padlet

This Padlet is an attempt to bring together knowledge about local and national initiatives, activities and resources that could help support families during the six week summer holiday. Follow the link or QR code below for access.

Link: bit.ly/vlt-holiday-support



Finally, I would like to congratulate all our students on their endeavours this year. There have been so many achievements that they and their families should be proud of. I would also like to thank the staff for their efforts and the support that they have given students, and would also thank all parents and carers for their continued support. My final thanks go to the members of the Local Governing Body and Trustees of the Vanguard Learning Trust for their commitment to the school and wider trust throughout this year. Their support has been invaluable.

Wishing our entire community a very enjoyable summer holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Yours sincerely,



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