

Year 11 Update

11/09/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and had a lovely summer holiday. I cannot believe your child is in Year 11 now. I would like to use this opportunity to say how proud I am of the RE GCSE results on the whole. They have set themselves up very well for this coming year, and I look forward to seeing the students thrive this year.

Headteacher Updates

Late Detentions

We are pleased to be able to report that we have experienced a significant reduction in the number of students who are late for school in the mornings during this week. This has occurred alongside the implementation of the school's updated punctuality procedures. Whilst we very much appreciate that some parents are forewarning us that their child will be late at specific times, please note that students will still be issued with a late detention if the lateness is related to transport issues. There are some exemptions to late detentions, for example, where a child attends a medical appointment that could not be scheduled outside of school hours. However, in most other instances, students will be required to serve a same day 20 minute detention if they are late at the start of the school day. We would again like to thank you to all parents and carers for their ongoing support with this matter.

Junior School Open Evening

Parents / carers were sent a letter yesterday regarding early closure for the school on Wednesday 23rd September (at 12.20pm) due to Open Evening and the late start on Thursday 24th September (students should arrive between 10.30am and 10.45am). Please [click here](#) for the letter.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Safeguarding Snapshot

This week's safeguarding snapshot has information on supporting students starting back to school. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Co-Curricular Clubs

Please [click here](#) for the co-curricular club timetable for the Autumn Term.

LAMDA

Please [click here](#) for information for students to sign up for drama classes with LAMDA. If you have any questions, please email theatre@longlanetc.com

Canteen Reminders

A reminder regarding the school canteen and how it works:

All students have an automatic daily limit of £6.50. This includes their free school meal (FSM) allowance. Please speak to your child to make them aware of this allowance. They should not be regularly buying food for their friends as this may mean they themselves run out of money. We

have the ability in school to adjust this daily allowance individually per child. Please email kwilliams@vynersschool.org.uk if you would like it adjusted either up or down.

Students in Year 7-11 will not be able to use a normal contactless card to buy food. Using such a card removes any visibility you have, as parents, about what they have been purchasing. You cannot see a purchase unless it is made via Parentpay.

The FSM allowance is £3.02 per day. This is enough to enable a child to buy a full hot meal and drink at lunchtime. It will not be enough to cover a breaktime snack, and you may wish to send them in with something. The hot meal is the best value item - please make your child aware this is a good choice for them to make.

If your child is FSM eligible, their allowance is spent first. Any purchases over £3.02 will need to be funded by you. Please top up the account in the normal way if you would like your child to have extra purchasing power.

Any unspent FSM allowance does not roll forward and disappears from the system at the end of the day

It is the responsibility of parents to make sure there is sufficient funds on parentpay to enable a child to buy food. There is an emergency system of 'pink slips' in place for those occasions where there has been a 'glitch'. Students should not regularly be asking for these slips though and the school will be contacting parents if a student regularly comes to school with no packed lunch or money on their account.

Any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me - kwilliams@vynersschool.org.uk

Uniform Standards

- Hoop/Dangle earrings are **not** permitted - these will be confiscated, and if continued, an internal exclusion will be issued.
- Flared trousers are also not permitted and must be straight leg.
- Students must be wearing school shoes.

Parent Information Evening - Monday 28th September

I will provide more information about our parent information evening nearer the time; however, please keep the date free. This will be led by Dr. Martijn van der Spoel who is a psychologist, educational specialist and motivational speaker who has worked in UK schools supporting students and parents with revision techniques, exam preparation and motivation.

Sixthform Open Evening - Tuesday 20th October

Times: 5.30 - 8pm

A talk in hall: 6pm and 7pm

Tickets will be available to book on the school website from 5th October via the Sixth Form Admissions page.

EPQ Presentation (Extended Project Qualification)

We will be running our EPQ presentations differently this year and will be holding our presentation event after school on **Thursday 24th September**, in order that parents, family and friends, as well as other teachers can attend.

Guests are invited to come to the school hall **between 4.00pm and 5.00pm on Thursday 24th September** to see all of the EPQ presentations, which will be displayed exhibition style. Students will be available to discuss their project and to answer any questions as part of the assessment process.

We encourage any Year 11 and 12 students who are interested in finding out more about the EPQ qualification and process to come along and see the finished result. There will be an opportunity to speak to the Y13 students about their experiences and to find out more about the project.

Please complete this brief Google Form ([click here](#)) to let us know that you are planning to attend and how many people will be in your party. In the evening, please report to the school reception where you will be met and brought to the hall.

Cambridge University Opportunities

Churchill College Webinars - 17th September 2026 – 4th May 2027

Churchill College is holding free online live presentations and question and answer sessions for prospective students, covering aspects of the Cambridge admissions process. The webinars run on Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 4.30 – 5.30 pm via Zoom. The webinars are aimed at prospective applicants in Years 11-13 (Y12-Y14 NI, S4-S6 Scotland) but teachers, parents and supporters are welcome to join as well.

See the full schedule on the website: [College Tasters and Applicant Events - Churchill College](#)

Live attendance is encouraged, as sessions are not recorded, nor are materials distributed afterwards. To sign up, please complete the form linked [here](#). The deadline to sign up is 9am on the day of the webinar you wish to attend. You will be sent the link for each webinar on the day the webinar is due to take place.

Fitzwilliam College - Student Voices - 26th - 28th October 17:00-18:00 Online

This Year 11 programme will include two webinars - one on Monday 26th October, one on Wednesday 28th October - which will cover key information and answer important questions about Higher Education, Cambridge and university preparation. The second session will be a Q+A panel with some current undergraduate students. This event is for **any Year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland), Year 12 (NI)** students currently attending a **state-maintained school**. We particularly encourage students from under-represented or marginalised backgrounds to attend. These could be if you...

- are care experienced or have caring responsibilities
- have been eligible for Free School Meals in the past six years
- are estranged from close family members
- live in an area of low progression to higher education
- live in an area of high deprivation
- are from an under-represented ethnic group

[Find out more information here.](#)

Girton College Music Taster Day (Requires a teacher nomination)

From Baroque to Blues and Beyond! Teacher nominations are now open for the Music taster day at Girton College. The day will include activities, workshops, tours, and a Q&A. Travel is fully funded for state school students.

Date: 15 October

Open to: Y11 and Y12 (S5 and S6 – Scotland, Y12 and Y13 – N.I.)

[Find out more and nominate students by 30 September](#)

Girton College Languages and Culture Taster Day

Teacher nominations are now open for the Languages and Culture taster day at Girton College. The day will include activities, workshops, tours, and a Q&A. Travel is fully funded for state school students.

Date: 14 October

Open to: Y10, Y11, and Y12 (S4, S5, S6 – Scotland, Y11, Y12, Y12 – N.I.)

[Find out more and nominate students by 30 September](#)

Oxford University Opportunities - Crescendo Programme (Years 10-13)

The Crescendo Programme, run by Oriel College and supported by the University of Oxford's Music Faculty, is a programme for UK Year 10-13 students at state schools who are interested in studying Music at university. The programme consists of five online sessions introducing new topics of Music scholarship and study skills, presented by academics and researchers at the university. Each of these sessions will run 5-6pm, on Thursdays across September, October and November.

Students are not expected to have prior knowledge in the topics – curiosity about the study of Music is all they need!

Any eligible Year 12 students who attend the online sessions will also be invited to participate in an essay-writing component, producing a 1000 word response to one of the session topics. Students will then get the opportunity to discuss their work in an online 'tutorial' to get a taste of Oxford's teaching style.

[View full details](#)

Kings College University of London (Aimed at Sixth Form but will offer places to Years 10-11 if really keen and spaces available). Calling all girls to join us in Unlocking AI & Computer Science!

Science is back for another year online sessions where you can explore the broad field of computer science and AI. Further details and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Key Dates for this year - Year 11:

Autumn Term 2026	
Thursday 17th September	Awards Evening
21st September - 2nd October	Year 11 In Class Assessments
Wednesday 23rd September	Junior School Open Evening
Monday 28th September	Year 11 Parent Information Evening
Friday 2nd October	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 20th October	Sixth Form Open Evening (applications open)
Monday 26th to Friday 30th October – Half Term	
Friday 6th November	Year 11 reports issued
Wednesday 18th November	Governance Day
Thursday 19th November	Staff Conference (school closed to students)
Friday 20th November	Staff Conference (school closed to students)
Monday 23rd November	Occasional Day (school closed)
Friday 27th November	FOV Quiz Night
1st December - 18th December	Year 11 Trial exams
Thursday 3rd December	Senior Citizens' Christmas Party
Wednesday 9th December	VLT Christmas Concert
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16th December	Vyners Christmas Concert
Friday 18th December	End of Autumn Term (12.20pm finish)

Spring Term 2027	
Monday 4th January	Inset Day (school closed to students)

Tuesday 5th January	Start of Spring Term
Friday 29th January	Years 11 reports issued
Friday 29th January	FOV Quiz Night
Tuesday 2nd February	Year 11 parent consultation evening (online)
8th February - 5th March	Year 11 In Class Assessments
Monday 15th to Friday 19th February - Half Term	
Monday 22nd February	Sixth Form applications deadline
Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th & Friday 5th March	School Production
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Friday 12th March	Year 11 Theatre Company Visit
Thursday 25th March	End of Spring Term (3pm finish)

Summer Term 2027	
Monday 12th April	Start of Summer Term
Friday 16th April	Year 11 & 13 reports issued
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Monday May 10th	GCSE's Start
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June – Half Term	
Friday 25th June	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Thursday 1st July	Year 11 into 12 Induction Day
Thursday 1st July	Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 21st July	End of Summer Term (12.20pm finish)
Thursday 19th August	GCSE results day

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact myself (khawes@vynersschool.org.uk) or Mrs Tighe who is our family liaison officer for KS4 (ktighe@vynersschool.org.uk).

Thanks so much for your support.

Miss Hawes
Year 11 Leader