

Year 11 Update

09/10/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the weekend.

Parent Information Evening

Slides and all information we have been able to receive from Dr Martijn van der Spoel are on the school website for you to access and refer back to. I am looking forward to the Year 11 students meeting him and the workshops in a few weeks time (10th November).

Trial Exams

Information regarding trial exams starting 1st December and topics involved will be shared in either the next update or after half term. Details are being finalised.

Sixthform Open Evening - Tuesday 20th October

This year our Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 20th October 2026 from 5.30pm - 7.30pm. Students and parents will have the opportunity to speak with staff and students from different subject areas about our curriculum offered at KS5.

There will be 2 scheduled talks in the main hall at 6pm and 7pm.

There will be parking on site however once this is full then you will need to park elsewhere. It is advisable to walk to the Open Evening where possible.

Please be aware that Year 11 students in attendance in the evening must be accompanied by a parent/carer.

Please note: Last entry for the evening will be 6.45.

The booking links are below:

They're advertised on the website here:

<https://www.vynersschool.org.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=286>

Direct link for booking is: <https://www.ticketsource.com/vyners/t-rzjkdlx>

Open Days at Schools/College Post 16

Please ensure you are starting to look at options for your child post GCSE's. I have posted on Google Classroom some upcoming, local open days for you to look into. Students will be or have had careers meetings with our careers advisor and have been looking at creating CV's in PSHE currently. We have careers week later in the year where they will have access to practice interviews and advice regarding their CV's too.

Free Parent Webinar: The Secret to GCSE Success

GCSEs can feel overwhelming - for parents as much as teens! That's why Emily Hughes (ex-teacher, education expert, and author of GCSE Survival Guide for Parents) is running a free webinar to make life easier.

 **Wed 14th Oct - 7pm** (replay available if you have a ticket)

Emily will share simple, stress-free revision strategies, how to set up a realistic plan, and what really helps (without the nagging or arguments).

It's practical, down-to-earth advice that will make the GCSE years feel less stressful for the whole family.

 Save your free spot here: <https://parentguidetoeducation.com/reg/gcse-success/4571>

Hello Yellow - Mental Health Awareness

This week, our school community proudly celebrated World Mental Health Day by taking part in YoungMinds' **#HelloYellow** campaign, with students invited to wear an item of yellow to show that no one has to face their mental health alone. Embracing this year's theme "*Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change*", the main school assembly focused on the power of open communication and active listening. Students were given practical tips on how to talk about their own emotional well-being, as well as how to listen to and support others. We encourage you to ask your child about what they learned in assembly and keep these positive conversations going at home!

Safeguarding Snapshot

As part of our commitment to supporting the well-being of our students and school community, we are sharing details about World Mental Health Day (10th October) and Mental Health Awareness activities across our school. This year's official theme, set by the World Federation for Mental Health, is "*Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change.*" Please [\[click here\]](#) for further information.

VLT Support Staff Vacancies

Please [\[click here\]](#) for the support staff vacancies across the VLT sites.

Information Received

2nd Ickenham Scouts Quiz Night

Come along to our adults-only Quiz Night and help raise funds for 2nd Ickenham Scouts.

Saturday 17 October, 7.30pm – 10pm, £15 per person

Get your team together:

-  Teams of 2–6 people
-  Bring your own food and drinks
-  Prize for the winning team

 Coming on your own or with a mate? We can match you up with a team on the night.

Spaces are limited, so book up quickly! [\[click here\]](#)

All money raised goes towards supporting 2nd Ickenham Scouts and the new Scout hut.

Key Dates for this year - Year 11:

Autumn Term 2026	
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	Year 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	GCSEs 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 me (khawes@vynersschool.org.uk), Mr Smith (msmith@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