



ILS Termly Update - Spring 2022

Dear Varndean Families

It is with much excitement that I would like to welcome you to our first termly ILS update. The rationale for this is to share with you some key information for the coming term so that you are well informed and prepared for key events that might affect your child and know how to source further details should you need it. We are really aware that change - for many of our students - presents difficulty. We also know that preparation and knowledge can minimise these issues.

I hope it proves useful.

Kind regards

Judith Ford
Assistant Headteacher - SENCO
judithford@varndean.co.uk

Staffing

I am pleased to announce that we have created two new roles in the ILS team.



Faye Baker has been appointed as Coordinator for ASC interventions and will take overall responsibility for programmes of support put in place for our students with a diagnosis of ASC who access the Eco hut. fayebaker@varndean.co.uk

Cathy Workman will take the role of Coordinator for Literacy Interventions making sure that the right programmes are in place for students with cognition and learning needs. She also keeps her responsibility for exam access arrangements. catherineworkman@varndean.co.uk

The work of Cathy and Faye will complement that already undertaken by Emma Sadaatzadeh who leads on SEMH provision in The SPACE and considerably strengthens our overall provision.

In addition I am pleased to report that our new teaching assistants who joined in September - Andrea Longueira and Alvaro Puetas Coloma - have been hugely impactful in students' lives and contributed significantly to the department. Tom Hayes - ASC

Specialist - also joined in September and works both in classrooms and the ECO Hut.



Provision

I thought I would update you on one new part of our provision each term. LEXONIK is a widely regarded programme that supports low skilled readers develop their phonics skills and so enables them to catch up on their reading ages. We have been seeing some great success with this programme with substantial reading age gains for the students involved. Mrs Workman and Mr Hawker have both now been trained to deliver this programme so that we can offer it to some of our students where appropriate to their needs.



VARNDEAN
SCHOOL

School
Support
Plan

SSPs

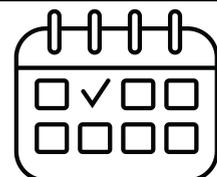
All students in ILS have an SSP (School Support Plan). Similar to an IEP (Individual Education Plan) in Primary School. An SSP is read by all your child's class teachers. Its main aim is to ensure that your child is getting a cohesive approach to meeting their individual needs. These plans are reviewed in the light of:

- The information that families share with us about their child's success at school
- The views of those taking part in an EHCP review
- The views of teachers and other adults involved in working with a particular child.

It might be helpful for you to know this and be able to refer to this piece of jargon when discussing your child with school base, teachers or ILS staff.

Key events

Next half term sees the following two key events:



Year 8 options process begins

Students in Year 8 will begin choosing their options next half term. The **Options Evening** includes the chance to talk to subject staff and is on **24th February** and will be in person this year. An options booklet is produced explaining the process and then students will have an options interview with senior staff before finalising their

preferences for subjects to follow in KS4.

I would like to reassure you that plenty of support will be on hand for ILS students as they navigate this process and many of the interviews will be with me or members of my team. This will include Individual Teaching Assistants who know your child well.

I would also say that we are really experienced at making adaptations to the school-wide expectations for students with particular SEND profiles. This may involve taking fewer subjects or a less regular combination.

Year 11 access arrangements are confirmed

The recent PPEs were an excellent trial run for those entitled to access arrangements and we now know exactly how this will work to support those students to whom this applies. Mrs Workman has collaborated very closely with Mr Howell (our Acting Exams Officer) and these arrangements will now be confirmed with the exam boards ready in plenty of time for the summer real exams. If you have any questions about these arrangements then please address these to Cathy Workman catherineworkman@varndean.co.uk.

What is Triage?

Triage at Varndean forms part of a process. It is a weekly professionals meeting that looks at support and next steps for individual students. The panel uses their collective experience in order to make the correct decisions. There is a weekly meeting which includes:



- Varndean SENCO
- Varndean Deputy SENCO
- Varndean School Counsellor
- BHISS - Educational Psychologist
- CAMHS - School Primary Mental Health Worker
- BHISS Behaviour/SEMH
- BHISS - School Nurse

The referrals are from the School Bases or myself. School base teams will identify students. They gather information by working closely with families and students who may be struggling with some aspects of school life.

This panel of professionals are therefore well placed to review the evidence and determine whether the referral for an assessment process should begin, or referrals for others types of support from which a student may benefit.