



Upcoming events

Making the Grade
Year 7 - Thursday
21st January

Year 8 Parents'
Evening -
Wednesday 27th
January

Year 9 reports -
Friday 29th
January/Monday
1st February

INSET day 4 -
Monday 1st
February

Year 8 Options
Evening - Thursday
4th February

Year 7 Specialist
Schools Parent
Workshop - Monday
8th February

Whole School
Production - Little
Shop of Horrors -
Thursday 11th to
Saturday 13th
February

Half term - 15th to
19th February

Head's Space

Dear Varndean Families,

Firstly, a happy New Year to you all.

Kindness, Kindness, Kindness and Character Education

When I look back over the autumn term and the fantastic achievements made by our students, these are the words that are uppermost in my mind. There is a true spirit of goodwill here with all four smaller schools doing their best to raise money for their chosen charities, as well as additional fundraising work going on through the Varndean Amnesty International club in aid of refugees in Calais.

The strong student leadership at Varndean School was also recognised earlier in the term by visiting educational improvement charity, Challenge Partners. They came to review our character education which they accredited as a national **Area of Excellence**. We were thrilled with the result, which rightly recognises the huge variety of activities, ranging from DofE to sports leadership to science club and more, which we have to further develop our students as well-rounded individuals.

Evidencing this, the student leadership team have been enthusiastically raising money for their yearbook with a Year 11 bake off competition, whilst Student Headteacher (and Youth Mayor for the city), Wednesday Croft, has devised a city-wide Senior Student Conference for sharing best practice among peers from all schools. MP Caroline Lucas will be opening the 4th March conference.

The Specialist Schools Programme for Year 7 is a great success so far with scrumptious street food and future film makers galore within Animate IT to name just a couple. All in all a prosperous term!

William Deighan

William Deighan

Achievement Points

Angelou
School

53294
points

Russell
School

43100
points

Turing
School

52660
points

Ellis School

53868
points

The School Bus Project Charity Events

Last term, our Amnesty group at school raised £1293 for the refugees in Calais. They worked with an amazing group of people called The School Bus project, who are using the money to help educate children and anyone who wants to learn. That £1293 is 25% of the total money raised by the School Bus Project so far, which is a huge amount which we raised by having one non-school uniform day and a bake sale. In addition, we raided the school and found unused PE kits and books. These were sent over to the refugees. On the charity event evening we actually saw some of our old books with the refugee children's work in! The money is now going to change someone's life forever. In the future, with the help and support of all the schools from around Brighton and Hove we could really make a difference. The first thing that the refugees ask for is an education. The most important thing to them is having a chance to have a good, safe life with their families and their best chance of doing this is education because knowledge can never be taken from you and it is yours to own. Lola Ray, Year 10



Miranda Kett received the Turing Badge for her outstanding contribution to charity work.



Russell runners did very well in the recent Brighton Schools Cross Country Championships with Rachel Berry and Anna Berry finishing an amazing 4th & 8th overall!

Project Success

We are pleased to have launched Project Success to a select group of students. All about creating and enabling success, this project sees the students paired with a success champion (member of staff) to work towards the student's personal goals.

Addressing fundamental questions such as; what are the student's dreams and aspirations? How can we make your time here more successful? What, specifically, do you feel is stopping you from achieving your goals? The success champions are not mentors, instead they seek to find ways around obstacles that may be hindering the student's progress. This could be organising a quiet time and space in school for a student to work whose household is very noisy.

Together they agree three things to succeed in, and regular meetings help them work towards these. The aims and aspirations for the project? To help create and enable success for our students.

The Ellis Extravaganza raised a massive £665 for their chosen charity the British Heart Foundation!



Year 11 Bake Off

Year 11 students took inspiration from the BBC show 'The Great British Bake Off' to raise money for their yearbook. There were four heats, each taking place after school with the finalists from each going into the final to be crowned Varndean School bake off champion. All of the products made

were sold in the canteen the next day for anyone and everyone to purchase, and went down a treat.

Ellis student Joe Taylor (innovator and an organiser), "It started with a few of us just chatting about how funny it would be if we did a bake off ourselves. I talked to Wednesday Croft about it: she thought it was a great idea too, so we started to actually organise it.

"To get people involved we spoke in assemblies and told our Year 11 friends. We had 63 students participating and about 50 teachers/staff helping out; we got a lot of help from Mr Desborough and Mr Speller. The judges were a mix of teachers and staff from the 4 schools; to make sure no one was biased!

"Some cakes turned out really well and looked amazing, others...not so well! But the main success for me was the fact that everyone had fun and had a laugh with it. We also did raise a lot of money for the year book too.

"In the spring term there will be a special congratulations and thanks assembly. We also have lots of things in the pipeline to raise money for the yearbook and prom."

Jed Hughes (participant): "I decided to take part in the bake off as it was an opportunity to do something different and enjoyable in school. It was really nice to have it as only Year 11s as we're leaving soon. My team brought in a mix of different ingredients, so our cake was made from 3 different recipes! It was... let's say a chocolate cake; I think that's the best way to describe it. It had two tiers and icing in the middle. It had lots of decoration; the decoration definitely was the best part of it. It was gold and glittery."



The Year 11 bake off winners were Chloe, Chloe and Andras. Well done to all participants, there were some great creations!



Online Safety

The ways in which young people use digital technologies to learn and socialise expands rapidly at this stage of their school life. At Varndean, we recognise the benefits and risks this poses to students in both the physical and the digital world. Please see the updated Online Safety page on our website for helpful guides and tips.

<http://www.varndean.co.uk/page/Default.asp?pid=60>

As a parent/carer, you want to be aware of the risks to your children in the digital world. Things like cyberbullying, accessing inappropriate content, sexting and grooming all sound scary for a parent/carer.

But if you understand them, you'll be able to talk to your children about them. Education and information really are the solutions - helping your children to be sensible and respectful in their digital lives.

We are working in partnership with **EE** to run **educational workshops**

on what these risks are and what you can do to protect your children. These 45 minute workshops will run on **Tuesday 9th February at 16:30, 17:30 and 18:30** in the school library. EE will be presenting and will have colleagues on hand for Q&A.

To book a space at any of the workshops please visit

<http://goo.gl/forms/Yx9n66ioca>

The screenshot shows the 'ONLINE SAFETY' page on the Varndean School website. The page has a purple header with the school logo and name. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Families, and Online Safety. The main content area is divided into a sidebar on the left and a main article on the right. The sidebar contains links for Varndean View, Payments, Staff, Catering, Online Safety, FAQ, Parent voice, Varndean Development Trust, Awards, and Parent survey. The main article is titled 'Online safety at Varndean School' and includes a sub-section 'Worried about online safety?' with a list of actions to take if a student is concerned.

Assemblies

We started the term off with a series of assemblies on music featuring some outstanding student performances to promote the music opportunities within school. Angelou School would like to thank students Jonah, Jacy, Hugo and Sasha for their help with these assemblies.

Following these, our schools have had assemblies on Amnesty International and human rights. With all the great fundraising work done by the Varndean Amnesty International group it was fantastic to have a speaker from the charity in the assemblies.

Thanks to 7LW for the amazing turnout at the recent parents' evening!

Alumni News

Congratulations to Madeleine Farrell and Sophie Scott who have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities respectively following their IB course at Varndean College.

Keep in touch!

www.varndean.co.uk

[@VarndeanSchool](https://www.instagram.com/VarndeanSchool)

school@varndean.co.uk

If you are interested in becoming a foster or short break carer for children with disabilities you can find more information through Barnardo's Brighton and Hove Link Plus

Phone: 01273 295179

Email: brightonandhovelinkplus@barnardos.org.uk

Search: www.barnardos.org.uk

National Citizen Service

Year 11 students were treated to an assembly hosted by Albion in the Community who are running the NCS this year. Open to 16 and 17 year olds the scheme offers an array of activities for young people to further develop their community awareness and leadership skills and is also an opportunity to make new friends outside of school. We hope to have many students signing up again this year.

First Generation Making Choices: Year 8

Over the last few weeks an extremely excited group of Year 8 students have been enjoying a flavour of subjects at university level including English and Global Studies.

The programme has seen fantastic participation and helps raise aspirations by providing students with an invaluable insight into future possibilities.

D of E a huge success (once again!)

We are thrilled to have **153** students who have signed up for the Bronze D of E award this year!

Following on from last year's successes in both the Bronze and Silver categories we are hosting an awards ceremony here at school on March 10th. Invitations for this will be sent out as students are signed off for their awards.