



Dear Varndean families

Coronavirus update 27th March

Thank you for your feedback about [Wednesday's newsletter](#) and for sharing your experiences of home learning. It has been really helpful to hear how you are managing, the benefits of a tight routine and the need to manage expectations when children think they have to finish everything at once are clearly very important. Your support for your children's learning has been excellent and we thank you for that. As I said in the last update we are learning too and we intend to survey you next week to collect more feedback on your experiences and then plan what we can do to further support your children.

Our four school bases have been reaching out to students and families this week, checking students are well and supporting them to engage with the work. This effort has been well received and is part of our concerted effort to maintain pastoral support for children during the period of our closure. If you feel that your child would benefit from this intervention then do please email your child's Deputy Head of School.

Perhaps, like me, you are still struggling to come to terms with Coronavirus and the speed with which it has had such a huge impact on our daily lives. If I am feeling this then I am sure the children will have many questions and points of confusion. Please remember that there is this useful document to support you in having conversations with your children.

https://www.varndean.co.uk/_site/data/files/documents/flourishingfamielstalkingtochildrenaboutcovid-190.pdf

Thank you to those families whose children are entitled to free school meals who filled out the survey information we asked for. If you have not yet done so please can you do this as soon as possible. The Government has promised more information next week about a nationwide voucher scheme for free school meals but this detail has been a long time coming.

Next week we are also promised more clarity from the Department for Education about how predicted grades will be used in place of exams this year. This is an anxious time for all parents of children in year 11 (and 13) and this is not made easier by the time it is taking to provide clarity over this issue. As soon as we know more we will update you further. In the meantime please refer your year 11 students to the messages in the last year group assembly and details in the year 11 newsletter shared previously.

I also expect to be able to clarify our arrangements for Easter early next week and will update you once these are finalised.



These continue to be testing times and our ongoing partnership is critical to the school's ability to manage and somehow get through. For ease you can find all of our previous correspondence on our website [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes to you and your family.

Kind regards

Gareth Hughes
Acting Headteacher