



Dear Varndean families of Year 10 students

Coronavirus update 21st May

Schools opening more widely

Unfortunately I have been unable to move forward plans for how we might open for year 10 after half term. The guidance promised to secondary schools by the DfE has not yet been published and without it is impossible to begin consultations with staff about opening more widely or to create the risks assessments necessary to reassure all of us that we can open safely for staff students and the community.

In reality this means that we will not be opening to year 10 in the week beginning the 1st of June. This is frustrating for everyone but especially for your children who I know are keen to get back to school and to see their friends and teachers.

I really hope the information is published soon so that our planning can develop and I can update you as soon as I can after our return from half term.

Please can I reiterate my message from last week that safety for students and staff will be paramount in determining what we can do and therefore any return to school is likely to be both measured and phased as well as being focused on supporting students with their remote learning.

I was pleased to see so many year 10 students engaging with the virtual careers week events in the last few days and I hope your children found these webinars useful. There are a number of other webinars planned for them in the first week back after half term and please encourage them to log on to these as they are proving to be a good way to enhance the off site learning experience. All details can be found in yesterday's newsletter ([here](#)).

While waiting for further news about reopening do please encourage your child to make contact with their class teachers, form tutor or school base staff to help resolve any obstacles they might be facing when engaging with the off site learning offer.

Please don't forget you can find all of our previous correspondence on our website [here](#).

Kind regards

Gareth Hughes



Acting Headteacher

Safeguarding and school base contacts

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Our safeguarding team will be contactable **during school hours** if you would like advice on an issue or wish to report a concern.

safeguarding@varndean.co.uk

Vicky Anstiss (Designated Safeguarding Lead) - 07984 221254

Kerry Tester - (Safeguarding Officer) - 07572 707214

To access safeguarding advice (outside school hours) please contact Front Door for Families

Phone: 01273 290400 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays

Out-of-hours: 01273 335905 (Emergency Duty Service)