



Dear Varndean families

Coronavirus update 5th June

I hope you and your families had a restful and healthy half term break and managed to enjoy some of the tremendous sunshine

Off site learning

In our live assemblies at the start of the week we set out that this week was the start of a new term and there should be a new start and a new focus and I am pleased to say we have seen this in action already this week. We have had over 1000 students join our live webinars and have had considerable positive feedback from them about how valuable these have been in increasing interactivity, creating direct contact with teachers and helping students access the work for the week in those subjects.

The timetable for next week's webinars is here: [Click here to view](#) so please do encourage your child to join as many as are relevant. To reassure you (and your child) students can't hear or see each other during the webinar (nor can we see them) so they need not feel any anxiety about joining. Please also note that all webinars are recorded and posted in the google classroom so the webinar can be watched if it was missed live or rewatched if important content needs to be revisited. The recordings are also saved in the timetable document in the link above.

Webinars do not suit all subjects so please do not expect opportunities right across the curriculum but more subjects will join the offer as staff are trained in the technology. It is also important to note that webinars supplement rather than replace the work set via the google classroom.

Form tutors have been contacting tutees in recent weeks and I know that this contact by phone or zoom call has been well received. As requested by many families we have trialled tutor group zoom conferences and more tutors will introduce these as June progresses. These contacts have been useful in helping students overcome difficulties with off site learning and making plans for further successful engagement. But as previously stated if your child is struggling with their work do please encourage them to contact (or do so on their behalf) the teacher, tutor or relevant school base.



Schools opening more widely

Plans to open more widely for year 10 are being finalised and we are now waiting for confirmation from the Local Authority that it is safe for schools locally to proceed. The LA position is outlined in this [letter](#) which they have asked me to share with you.

Schooling for the children of key workers and vulnerable children

We continue to offer full time provision for eligible students in these categories and the students who attend are supported with the off site learning tasks set. We believe that we are meeting the needs of all those who are eligible but if your child is eligible and your circumstances have changed then please contact abigailholder@varndean.co.uk to discuss your situation.

Transition Year 6 into Year 7

Many of you will know families that will be joining the Varndean community in September when their children join year 7. Mr Roberts and the transition team have been working hard to make sure these families get all the information they need despite school closure. There is a dedicated page on the website ([Transition 2020](#)) that contains useful help sheets, letters to families and videos and please do encourage those families to look for this information if they haven't already done so.

Artists open house

May is the time of year that we traditionally celebrate the incredible talent of our Art students at Varndean School. This year will be no exception. Despite these unprecedented and uncertain times we still have so much to celebrate. Students have worked incredibly hard to produce the stunning artwork on show this year and we are proud to showcase the work virtually as we go on-line for our Varndean School Artist Open House.

Students have produced a fabulous collection of paintings and ceramics over the last two years and, whilst we are sad not to be able to open our doors to you, we are delighted to be able to share their work with you virtually. You can view the artwork on our website [here](#).

Wise pay to parent pay

As previously mentioned the school is switching from WisePay to ParentPay later this month. We believe this will give you and us a better service and expect the transition to be smooth. We believe that all refunds for the enrichment and LED trips have now been made but if that is not the case for you then please do contact the school by emailing lynnhill@varndean.co.uk to confirm the details of the concern you have. All other balances for school meals will be



transferred automatically to ParentPay. Login details for ParentPay will be sent out by email shortly and will include full details of how to use the system should you not already be familiar with ParentPay.

Vaccinations

Unsurprisingly the HPV vaccinations for year 8 and year 9 girls scheduled for later this month have been cancelled and will be arranged for the next academic year. If this raises any questions for you then please contact carolineheath@varndean.co.uk to discuss further.

Year 11

We are pleased to confirm that the Year 11 Leavers hoodies have been delivered. Ms Knights will email year 11 students next week with the protocols for distributing these safely.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement and I look forward to working with you to make this next 6 weeks as productive and purposeful as possible.

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

Angelou

Sam Whiteman - samwhiteman@varndean.co.uk

Fiona Hall - fionahall@varndean.co.uk

Lorina Ventura - lorinaventura@varndean.co.uk

Russell

Abi Holder - abigailholder@varndean.co.uk

Charlotte Drake - charlottedrake@varndean.co.uk

Turing

Georgina Maltby - georginamaltby@varndean.co.uk



Donna Mills - donnamills@varndean.co.uk

Rachel Christy - rachelchristy@varndean.co.uk

Ellis

Sandra Knights - sandraknights@varndean.co.uk

Caroline Ball - carolineball@varndean.co.uk

Donna Mills - donnamills@varndean.co.uk

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)