



Dear Year 10 Varndean Families

***Wider reopening for Year 10 - June 2020***

I am writing to update you about our plans for wider opening for Year 10 students later this month in the light of the Government announcement that this should start on the 15th June and the subsequent guidance from the Department for education. The guidance can be read here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

Knowing how much year 10 students have missed school and are worried about their progress towards GCSE examinations next summer we are very keen to support them in school as soon as possible. Our ambition is to develop an approach that:

- Reconnects students with the school after this period of absence
- Responds to students pastoral / wellbeing needs
- Supplements rather than replaces off site learning
- Supports students to be able to get the most from off site learning
- Provides more detailed support where it is needed the most

In meeting these aims we have to be mindful of the guidance and advice from the Government and the DfE and our subsequent risk assessments. We believe that the following 2 phase approach gives us the maximum chance of meeting our objectives.

- Phase 1: Individual meetings between students and their Form Tutor or Deputy Head of School. This will serve to reconnect students with school, identify the successes and challenges of off site learning and plan the next steps and assess well being. This information will be used to plan phase 2.
- Phase 2: Weekly in school support for off site learning to include some specialist teacher intervention and small group tutorials where necessary and achievable given the guidance.

These plans are being finalised now and the risk assessments completed so that when the Local Authority confirms that it is safe for schools locally to open more widely we can do so. The LA's position is outlined in [this letter](#) which they have asked me to share with you.

Once I have the confirmation from the LA to open I will be able to update you further on our plans providing you with the detail you and your child need to be able to return to school safely. My colleagues and I are looking forward to seeing students back in school very soon.

Kind regards

Gareth Hughes  
Acting headteacher