



Dear Varndean families

Coronavirus update 12th June

Wider opening

On Wednesday the Local Authority confirmed it had received the reassurance it needed to change its advice to schools and we were given the go ahead to open more widely from Monday 15th June. You can read a letter from the LA [here](#). Our plans are in place for year 10 and these have been shared with families and we are really looking forward to seeing them in school next week.

Currently there are no plans for other year groups to return and indeed debate has started this week about what might happen in September for our students. This seems remarkable and an ever lengthening period of missed school will concern us all. We are very keen to see all students in school as soon as it is safe to do so and wait impatiently for the day that this can happen.

Off site learning

Our approach to home learning has developed and continues to do so. In essence we are developing a strategy that lends itself well to extended closure with the regular work delivered via the google classroom enhanced by an increasing number of live webinars and tutorials, tutor zoom contact and enrichment opportunities.

The result has been better engagement in the last two weeks which is very encouraging. We still have to strike the right balance between well being and learning but given that closure is much longer than we imagined the more work students can manage at home the easier their reintegration into school will be when that day comes. As ever we are very grateful to you for the support you have provided in helping your children make progress with their work while at home - thank you.

The timetables for next week's webinars are here: [Click here to view](#) so please do encourage your child to join as many as are relevant. The recordings are also saved in the timetable document in the link above so they can be watched again/later.

As staff start to make more contact with students in tutor groups using Zoom, we need to make you aware of some safeguarding protocols for students and staff. Please take a look at the



protocols and talk to your child if they have an upcoming group meeting to allay anxiety and to make these sessions successful. [Click here to read](#)

If your child is still struggling to engage without the routine of school please don't forget you can contact individual teachers, form tutors or school base staff to try and overcome these obstacles. The contact that form tutors have made with students has really helped in a number of cases.

Term dates 2020/21

The Local Authority is consulting on term dates for the academic year 2020/21. The proposed dates can be seen [here](#) and views are invited from parents. If you wish to take part please email governor.support@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wise pay to parent pay

As of Monday our cashless system will transfer fully to ParentPay. Thank you to those families who have contacted to clarify refunds/transfers and we believe these are all resolved but if you think this is not the case then please do contact the school by emailing lynnhill@varndean.co.uk 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. School meal balances are 'held' on the local till system so please do not worry if you do not initially see a balance on your ParentPay account. A personalised email will be sent to all parents confirming the school meal balance transferred and available for each child.

Year 11

Staff have now completed the submission of all grades for Year 11 students to the various exam boards and we now await the confirmation of those results in August. It has been an exacting process and as we looked back at the work and achievements of our year 11 leavers it was clear just how hard they had worked and how much they had learned. We felt very proud of them and have our fingers crossed that their efforts translate into the excellent grades they deserve.

Collection of Year 11 hoodies will take place in the next week or so and Ms Knights and the team are working on how to celebrate our leavers. More details on this to follow shortly.



This period of extended closure is increasing the demands on students, families and school staff. As these pressures increase our partnership becomes ever more important and I continue to be grateful for your ongoing support. Please do get in touch with the relevant staff so that we can work together to resolve any difficulties.

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

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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)