



Dear Varndean families

## **Coronavirus update 26th June**

### **Wider opening**

While we await further details from the Government about all students returning to school in September we have been enjoying the return of our year 10 students this week. My colleagues in English, maths and science have relished the opportunity to teach small groups and unpick any misconceptions that have developed during the period of closure. The sight of students in classrooms being taught was a real tonic and we look forward to more of it happening as soon as it is safe to do so.

The return to school has highlighted some of the anxieties students have about getting back to normal. One of these is about the learning missed and a fear of being behind or a fear that their teachers will be cross with them if they haven't managed to do the work. I overheard one colleague put this very succinctly and reassuringly to a student he teaches "I don't want you to worry about that, I have got your back and work with me in September and we will plug those gaps". With this in mind teaching teams are already developing an approach to September which is focused on recovery for all students.

I will share more details with you about September and the steps we are taking to support students with their learning when I know more about what our opening pattern will be.

### **Off site learning**

The main news this week is the publication of the enrichment timetable for the weeks beginning 6th July and 13th July. [Off site enrichment for Y7](#) [Off site enrichment for Y8](#)  
[Off site enrichment for Y9](#) [Off site enrichment for Y10](#)

Our aims here are to recreate (as best we can) some of the opportunities we usually offer at the end of the summer term, increase the range and variety of learning on offer in the last two weeks to aid motivation and to make sure we celebrate the huge number of student achievements from across the year. A key part of the programme will be academic review days - short individual meetings with form tutors - that look back at successes from 2019/20 and start to make plans for the rest of the term, the summer holidays and indeed, September. More details on these reviews will be published next week.

The webinar programme continues to offer live and direct teaching to students in a number of different subject areas and year groups. Please urge your child to join those that are relevant if they haven't already done so. The timetables and joining details can be found here :

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

[Year 10](#)

This week we are also pleased to share with you our first virtual summer music concert. There are wonderful contributions here across a variety of genres and including those who are starting out on their performance careers and those with more experience. My congratulations go to all the participants and my thanks to Mrs Denman and the music team for putting the concert together. You can watch the concert here - I hope you enjoy it.

[Varndean Virtual Concert Summer 2020.mp4](#)

If your child is joining a zoom conference for the first time please can I remind you to take a look at the protocols we have established so you are aware of some basic safeguarding procedures - these can be read here [click here to view](#)

### **Transition webinar**

On Wednesday we hosted the first of 4 webinars for our future year 7 students and their families. This launched our “Be awesome, Go big” transition project part of which includes a book for every student which they have started to collect from school (see Mr Roberts below ready to hand these out to our future students).

The webinar also provided the opportunity to answer a number of key questions about form groups, the school day and of course the canteen to help our new students feel at ease. If you have a child in year 6 or a friend or neighbour does and they are joining Varndean in September please make sure they join next week’s event at 5.30 on Wednesday. The joining link can be found here: [Y6 Webinars](#)





## **Social distancing in public spaces**

The police and the local authority have contacted to share their concerns about the large groups of teenagers they have seen around the city in the last few days. The very warm weather has encouraged many young people outside and the authorities have been concerned about the lack of social distancing and consequent COVID risk as well as the potential for anti-social behaviour when these groups form. The issue is particularly acute for students in year 11 but applies more broadly and the Local Authority has asked me to share a letter which you can read [here](#). If your child is going out to meet friends please remind them of the social distancing rules and expectations and of the need to stay away from large groups.

I hope you and your family have a good weekend.

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](mailto:samwhiteman@varndean.co.uk)

Fiona Hall - [fionahall@varndean.co.uk](mailto:fionahall@varndean.co.uk)

Lorina Ventura - [lorinaventura@varndean.co.uk](mailto:lorinaventura@varndean.co.uk)

### **Russell**

Abi Holder - [abigailholder@varndean.co.uk](mailto:abigailholder@varndean.co.uk)

Charlotte Drake - [charlottedrake@varndean.co.uk](mailto:charlottedrake@varndean.co.uk)

### **Turing**

Georgina Maltby - [georginamaltby@varndean.co.uk](mailto:georginamaltby@varndean.co.uk)

Donna Mills - [donnamills@varndean.co.uk](mailto:donnamills@varndean.co.uk)

Rachel Christy - [rachelchristy@varndean.co.uk](mailto:rachelchristy@varndean.co.uk)



**Ellis**

Sandra Knights - [sandraknights@varndean.co.uk](mailto:sandraknights@varndean.co.uk)

Caroline Ball - [carolineball@varndean.co.uk](mailto:carolineball@varndean.co.uk)

Donna Mills - [donnamills@varndean.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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)