



Dear Varndean families

Coronavirus update 3rd July

Academic progress review meetings 6th and 7th July

We are really looking forward to seeing our year 7, 8 and 9 students in school on Monday or Tuesday to meet with their form tutor for the academic progress review meetings.

When we had similar meetings with year 10 two weeks ago they were an excellent opportunity for students to reconnect with school, make plans about their progress with off site learning (all children will receive a personal learning checklist) and talk through any anxieties about coming back to school. We are hoping for similar outcomes in the meetings next week and in addition they will provide an occasion to celebrate the successes from across the year.

For a variety of reasons not all tutors can be available in school for these meetings and so a few will still have to take place via zoom. Where this is the case we are looking to find alternative times for students to visit the school before the summer.

If you have not yet had your child's appointment date / time and venue then please contact alexbeyfus@varndean.co.uk

Off site learning

Next Monday sees us depart from our normal approach to off site learning with the introduction of our enrichment programme. If you haven't seen the programme for the weeks then these can be viewed here. [Off site enrichment for Y7](#) [Off site enrichment for Y8](#)
[Off site enrichment for Y9](#) [Off site enrichment for Y10](#)

Please note that these activities will replace the tasks normally set via the google classroom and webinar. The sessions are not optional and students are expected to participate so please make sure your child is aware of the timetable for the week. Children who want to do more can continue with other learning activities as listed in the offsite enrichment document above.

September opening

The DfE has now released its guidance on September reopening and you will no doubt have seen the news coverage in the last few days. The headlines are that schools will be fully open to all year groups in September, attendance becomes compulsory and the protective measures can ensure everyone is safe..



There are huge steps to take from our current opening pattern (where about 5% of the population are learning on site on any one day) and we are exploring how to make the adjustments necessary to make this a reality. I will share details with you as they develop.

Whatever September looks like please be reassured that our main focus for the start of the new academic year will be recovery. Reestablishing routines, re-building school based social relationships and restoring good learning habits will be important features of helping students get back on track and the partnership between school and home will remain critical to our success.

Pastoral support

We are committed to supporting students to make sure we can appropriately support all students who have been affected by the impact of the pandemic on family members or those that have been close to them. If you are in this situation but haven't yet shared this information then please do so if you feel able to - contacting school base as appropriate.

Senior students

Over the last month or so we have been finalising our senior student teams for next year. We have both subject and school base senior students and the quality of applicants this year has been exceptionally high. This week we finished the process by interviewing applicants for the student headteacher position and appointing the senior student leadership team. The quality of all the students was extraordinary and it was a really difficult decision to make the final choices. Congratulations go to Anna Zhang who is next year's student headteacher and to Aimee Farrell, Lauren Sayers, Kristin Fraser and Sam Lumley who are the head students for their respective schools and make up the leadership team.

I am approaching this weekend with mixed feelings. Excitement at the lifting of restrictions conflicts with the fear of local lockdowns like that seen in Leicester. It seems that increasingly we are left to assess and manage the risks for ourselves and in this context I would ask that you please remind your children of their responsibilities to maintain social distance and use other protective measures when out and about in the community.

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)