



Dear Varndean families

Coronavirus update 9th September

We have now successfully completed a few days of the school being fully open and I thought it would be useful to provide you with some feedback about how the new routines and systems are working.

Pleasingly students have adapted really quickly to the protective measures we have put in place. Face coverings are being worn appropriately, hand hygiene measures are being adhered to and students and staff are getting used to the one way system and the staggered times of the school day. I would like to thank all families for your efforts in reinforcing these messages and making sure your children are well prepared for school, arrive at the appropriate time and play their part in keeping everyone safe. With this in mind please could I ask you to ensure that your child has a face covering ready for use in school, we have a small supply for students who have forgotten but our supplies are finite.

Social distancing and young people is in the news at the moment and we have seen in school that students need lots of reminding about these expectations. Please can you reiterate for your children that they should maintain a social distance (at least one metre when outside) when travelling to and from school and at break and lunchtime should try to socialise side by side rather than face to face. I have included a letter below from the local Director of public health which includes some useful reminders of what is expected.

[DPH Letter to Parents and Carers 030920 - accessible.pdf](#)

Students have been enthusiastic about the return to classroom based learning and we are quickly back in the rhythm of hard work and high standards that characterises the classroom environment at Varndean. Teachers have planned for a recovery curriculum and are sensitive to the range of experiences students had during school closure but should there be any issues we are not aware of please do contact your child's school base in the first instance.

Please can I also remind you that any student with COVID 19 symptoms **MUST** not attend school nor should anyone who has been asked to self isolate by NHS test and trace or is isolating following returning from a foreign country and needing to quarantine. The absence for students in these circumstances will be coded differently and school work will be set via the google classroom.



Bus travel to school

Please can I remind you that students are encouraged to walk, cycle or get a lift to school rather than catch a bus because capacity is still limited, particularly on the 26 and 46 routes which are also being used by members of the public. Please note that the 55 is a student only bus and running more frequently and those that can use this service might find it more convenient to do so.

Brighton and Hove buses have asked me to remind all students using the buses that they need to wear a face covering and follow their social distancing guidelines at all times.

Year 7 students

We are delighted with how well our year 7 students have settled into Varndean life over the first few days. They have been positive and quick to learn how things work and we are optimistic about how much they can achieve. One small teething problem has been access to the Dolphin pod at morning break to buy food as more students than we can serve are trying to use this service. Students are advised to bring a snack and a drink with them to school, buy their food at lunchtime when there is plenty of time to be served and only rely on the pod at breaktime in an emergency.

Please could you also remind your child about road safety. The roads around Varndean are busy at the start and end of the day and so all students need to make sure they cross the road safely at all times.

School uniform

Please can I clarify that whilst we are allowing students to wear PE and dance kit on the days when they have these subjects non-uniform tops will not be accepted as part of this modification. Students who would like to wear an extra top for added warmth on these days should wear a school jumper and or their blazer.

Making the Grade evenings

Our Making the Grade evenings are long established and well supported and families have found them a useful source of information about how we support our students to achieve as much as they can during their school careers. We have scheduled a number of these to take place virtually over the coming weeks to make sure that we maximise our partnership working as we recover from the period of school closure.



For your information the dates and timings of these evenings are as follows.

Year 11 - Thursday 10th September 6.15pm

Year 7 - Wednesday 16th September 6.15pm

Year 8 - Thursday 17th September 6.15pm

Year 9 - Wednesday 23rd September 6.15pm

Year 10 - Wednesday 30th September 6.15pm

Year 11 Options - Wednesday 4th November 6.15pm

More information about the specific agenda and programme will be sent to the relevant families the week before the event.

Varndean Plus

Please note that unfortunately Varndean Plus cannot show the new school day timings. Please refer to this document for the up to date document showing the staggered timings.

[Timetable by Year Group - Sept 2020](#)

Peripatetic music lessons

Please note that these start again on the 14th of September. If your child is involved please note they will need their own instrument as equipment can't be loaned. Students who wish to become involved should talk to Mr Berliner the director of music. Any questions should be addressed to Mr Berliner in the first instance. davidberliner@varndean.co.uk

Medicines in school

Please see the letter from Caroline Heath, our medical officer, about paracetamol and medicines in school.

[Paracetamol Letter](#)

Mr Deighan

I spoke with Mr Deighan last week and am pleased to report that he continues to recover well and is expecting to be back in school later this month.

Finally....

I am pleased we have been able to get the year off to this successful start. Thank you for your support in making this 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

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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) - vickyanstiss@varndean.co.uk

Kerry Tester - (Safeguarding Officer) - kerrytester@varndean.co.uk



VARNDEAN
SCHOOL

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)