

Dear Varndean families

### **Coronavirus update 18th December**

Following the DfE announcement yesterday about a staggered return to school in January I am writing to outline Varndean's plans for the new year.

#### ***Year 11 students:***

Year 11 are expected to be in school as normal following a full timetable. PPE examinations are scheduled for 11th January and this week will be an excellent opportunity for us to make sure the students have what they need for these important assessments.

#### ***Students in years 7 - 10:***

Students in these year groups will complete their school work from home for the week beginning the 4th of January. The information we have from the DfE at the moment suggests that students in these year groups will return to school on Monday 11th January.

Learning will start with two webinar assemblies (either 9.30 - 9.45 or 9.45 - 10am as listed on their timetable) on Monday morning to explain expectations to the students. In essence, work will be set via the google classroom and the tasks supported by live webinars and other resources as appropriate. Teachers will support students with their work in the google classroom and feedback on work submitted. The detailed off site learning plan for the week is [here](#) and webinar links will be added to this live document on the 4th of January.

#### ***Children of key workers and vulnerable children***

As we did during lockdown 1 we will continue to support these two groups of children in school where parents need us to do so or the child's needs require it. As before, students will be supported in school to complete the work they would otherwise be doing at home and if children are able to work at home they are encouraged to do so.

The DfE announcement hasn't given us very much time to plan for this provision and so we intend to have this up and running on Tuesday 5th January. Our starting point will be the students that we supported previously in addition to those eligible from our new year 7 cohort. We will write to you on the 4th to confirm the need and outline the arrangements.

If this schedule creates problems for you and your family then please contact Vicky Anstiss ([vickyanstiss@varndean.co.uk](mailto:vickyanstiss@varndean.co.uk)) today explaining the situation you face on the 4th and we will endeavour to find a solution.

***Free school meals***

Families of students eligible for free school meals will receive support for the week 4-8th Jan. We will write on the 4th with more details of how we approach this when guidance from the DfE is published.

***Mass testing in schools***

You may have seen in the news the reports that mass testing for COVID will be available in schools from the start of January. The DfE has made this intention clear but as yet there is very little detail on how this will happen and I am sure you can imagine the logistical challenges involved. With this in mind we are watching carefully for updated guidance and more clarity. We will write again in January when the picture becomes clearer.

***COVID positive cases over the holidays***

Please can I remind you of the details in yesterday's letter about what to do if your child develops symptoms and tests positive over the holiday. The contact address is [covid@varndean.co.uk](mailto:covid@varndean.co.uk) and the details of when to contact us are explained in the update which can be read [here](#).

***Access to an ICT device***

If your child will have difficulties completing off site learning due to a lack of access to a device. Please contact your child's school base on the 4th January and we will see if we can help.

***Well being over the holidays***

It has been a stressful year and Christmas can sometimes bring its own difficulties. With this in mind I would like to pass on contact details for sources of support for students/families over the holidays. Please see the links here for more information.

[Schools Wellbeing Service Consultation Line - Christmas.pdf](#)

[School nurse message to students](#)

***End of year assembly***

Students have been emailed at 1.30pm today the end of year assembly to watch to celebrate with staff the end of such a successful term.

***Winter Music Concert***

Staff and students in the music department have been working hard to bring you our annual Winter Music Concert virtually. You are able to watch performances from our talented



students [here](#). We have also put together a video for the Brighton & Hove Music & Arts Jingle Ball, our choir will be playing on the Contemporary stage at 15:22 tomorrow, Saturday 19th December, please find the link [here](#) and watch along with us.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your family a peaceful and restful holiday.

Warm regards

William Deighan  
Headteacher

**Other than the Covid email above (open until 23rd Dec), school emails will not be checked regularly to give staff the opportunity to rest before the new term.**

**Safeguarding and school base contacts for term time -**

**Lennox**

Shelley Baker - [shelleybaker@varndean.co.uk](mailto:shelleybaker@varndean.co.uk)

Emma Sutton - [emmasutton@varndean.co.uk](mailto:emmasutton@varndean.co.uk)

**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)

Maria Rose - [mariarose@varndean.co.uk](mailto:mariarose@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) - [vickyanstiss@varndean.co.uk](mailto:vickyanstiss@varndean.co.uk)

Kerry Tester - (Safeguarding Officer) - [kerrytester@varndean.co.uk](mailto:kerrytester@varndean.co.uk)

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)