

Dear Varndean families

Coronavirus update 4th December

This week we have been reviewing our policy on full time mask wearing in school and we have concluded that we should continue this policy until the end of term (18th December).

This has been a difficult decision to make, weighing up the risks of a Christmas for staff and families that is disrupted by self isolation or a positive case against the local case data which is improving. On balance we concluded that a belt and braces approach would be the most sensible way forward and extending the policy for two more weeks is better than having a holiday period further disrupted by the virus.

We know from your messages to us that this decision will be popular with many families but recognise that it will frustrate others. Please can I remind families that we will continue to be supportive in our exemptions policy and that staff will allow students to remove a mask briefly in the classroom to aid their comfort or communication. Staff have used their common sense here with flexibility and care.

If you wish to discuss exemption for your child then please contact the school base using the contact details below.

Our intention is that this extension will not endure into the new year.

We are blessed with great students and staff who are getting on with the business of learning. Lessons are calm and purposeful. We continue to adjust to the changing weather whilst keeping to our bubbles with less access to our usual spaces and we thank everyone for their patience and kindness with one another.

The canteen staff are also doing their best to keep our spirits up with their daily visits to different parts of the World to celebrate festive food. The menus are a pleasure to read and a delight to eat. <https://www.varndean.co.uk/page/?title=Weekly+Menus&pid=413&action=saved>

As ever, our pastoral staff are keenly present and focussed on the needs of your children and I recognise and appreciate their great care and expertise.

Finally....



As ever I am grateful to you for the effort that you make to help us to ensure that the school is a safe place for everyone to work and learn.

Term ends on the 18th December and school will finish at lunchtime on this day as is traditional. More details on the arrangements for the last day will be circulated at the end of next week. In the meantime please may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful and healthy break when it comes.

Please don't forget you can find all of our previous correspondence on our website [here](#).

Kind regards

William Deighan
Headteacher

Offsite Learning Documents

For **Year 7** click [here](#)

For **Year 8** click [here](#)

For **Year 9** click [here](#)

For **Year 10** click [here](#)

For **Year 11** click [here](#)

Safeguarding and school base contacts

Lennox

Shelley Baker - shelleybaker@varndean.co.uk

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Angelou

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Russell

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Turing

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Ellis

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Caroline Ball - carolineball@varndean.co.uk

Donna Mills - 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

Vicky Anstiss (Designated Safeguarding Lead) - vickyanstiss@varndean.co.uk

Kerry Tester - (Safeguarding Officer) - 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)