

Dear Parents and Carers

Progression Planning

We are absolutely delighted that your young person has chosen Varndean College to enable them to make their next steps in life. We pride ourselves in the knowledge that every student achieves their career goals with us. Our personal development was considered outstanding by Ofsted (2024).

To help you understand the next two years at college we have put together a series of events for you and also activities for students so they can explore who they are, build up essential skills for their future and plan successfully for their next steps.

Upcoming events for parents

Thursday 10 October

Year 1 Parent/Carer Progression Event hosted by and at University of Sussex. Find out about the different progression routes beyond Varndean College and how you can best support your young person when they are navigating their options.

Monday 11 November

University Widening Participation Launch hosted by and at University of Sussex.

An event for Parents/Carers and their young people to hear from representatives of both University of Sussex and University of Brighton on the specific activities and events they run for students who Varndean College identify as being eligible for Widening Participation support. It's all FREE and there is no obligation to apply to either of these universities if a student chooses to sign up. Students who participate in university-led WP events and activities have a much clearer idea if university is the route they then want to take. Your young person will be emailed if they are part of this programme.

Resources to help progression

We use a platform called Unifrog to help students research progression routes and log their employability skills. Students will be creating their own Unifrog accounts during tutorials in October. Parents/Carers will also be able to use the platform using a specific password. We will send your password in a separate email once your young person has registered.

Progression Events for Students in College





Varndean Internship Programme

The Varndean Internship Programme (VIP) is a bespoke programme with local, national and international employers delivering sessions such as assessment

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

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centre activities, how to effectively use social media, how to make yourself stand out from the crowd in an interview and other top employment tips. Your young person will receive a booking form to sign up during the first year.

Employability Skills and work experience

We run a tracking programme for Employability Skills - with recognised Digital Badges and certificates that students can show to employers to demonstrate their skills. These are logged through Unifrog. All students take part in work experience.

Career Spotlights and Vocational Hubs

All subjects engage with external employers and other stakeholders and speakers and workshops are available throughout the year for students to understand their world of work in specific areas. Vocational hubs are employers bringing their work to the classroom and students 'doing' the work, through staged activities.

Visits from Universities

There are regular visits from universities across the country delivering a myriad of workshops and 1:1 sessions.

Individual progression advice

All students can book individual careers advice appointments from *MyVarndean*. They can book as many as they need in their two years here.

HE Mentor

For those students applying to University, all students in Year 2 will receive their own HE Mentor to guide them through the process.

Oxbridge/Aspire programme

Students with a high GCSE profile are invited to join the Aspire programme that helps students apply to Oxbridge or Russell Group Universities. Students who achieve excellent results in Year 1 exams are also invited to join.

As you can see there is a rich career and progression timetable for your young person. We look forward to working with them on exploring their next steps.

Best wishes

Jo Hambleton
Assistant Principal

Progression Calendar

Date	Event/Activity
30 September	Deadline for Widening Participation survey - all Year 1 students to complete
10 October	Year 1 Parent/Carer Progression Event, hosted by and taking place at University of Sussex
Oct/Dec/ Feb/March	Varndean Internship Programme - students individually invited to one event
24 October	University and Apprenticeship Fair - AMEX Stadium
11 November	University Widening Participation Launch, hosted by and taking place at University of Sussex
14 November	Hello Futures Fair - Brighton Centre
12 March	Apprenticeship Fair - Varndean College
25 March	University Information Evening for Parents/Carers - Varndean College
4 April	UCAS Discovery Fair - Brighton Centre
24 June	University Information Day for all Year 1 students at University of Sussex
26 June	Personal Statement Writing Day - Varndean College
30 June	Work experience and Employability Skills week