



VARNDEAN SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS
2022-23



'Varndean is my second home, it has nurtured and developed skills I never knew I had.'
~ Dante, Student Headteacher



'Varndean School is a safe and welcoming community for your child.'
~ Denise, Student Headteacher



Welcome

I am delighted to offer you a warm welcome to Varndean School, where we have served the Brighton community for over 130 years. Varndean School is a place where all people matter. A school where individuality is welcomed, celebrated and shared amongst our whole school community. Our whole community benefits from a wide range of learning experiences, alongside a firm belief that a strong community approach to wellbeing gives students the confidence, conviction and courage to exceed their own expectations. Our broad, exciting and engaging curriculum promotes academic rigour so that all students can stand shoulder to shoulder with their peers both nationally and internationally.

We have the highest aspirations for all of our students, supported by highly trained and motivated professionals in their fields. Our students go on to study at prestigious universities, colleges and excel in the world of study, research and work and we maintain links with students to celebrate their achievements across their whole life.



Varndean is a really happy school and student relationships, with each other and with staff members, are excellent. Our nationally acclaimed smaller school system provides superb pastoral care and each of our five schools, Angelou, Ellis, Lennox, Russell and Turing has its own identity and ensures students are known and cared for. Creativity is deeply embedded into life at Varndean and we have been recognised for our unique approach. We are beautifully situated at the top of a learning campus, with views across Brighton and Hove to the English Channel. These inspire great thinking for a great school and make Varndean a wonderful place to learn and develop. We are proud of the friendly, smaller and supportive environments we have established and we hope your child enjoys their time in our community with us.

Shelley Baker, Headteacher

Five Schools in One



We have a well-established smaller school system providing outstanding pastoral care. All five smaller schools have their own strong identity, are similar in size to a primary school and have their own Head.

Key features include: separate school bases with dedicated staff to make communication easier, share concerns and celebrate success, individual smaller school assemblies and access to the school counsellor as well as other specialist services as required.

‘We’ve really seen the benefit of the move to the small schools pastoral system where [our child] has been given great support.’ Parent

www.varndean.co.uk/pastoral



Learning with us

A close-knit team of highly trained and motivated experts, continuous staff development and our close links with primary and secondary colleagues promote best practice across the school.

Individual Learning Support

This is provided for students on the special educational needs register. Students are carefully monitored and provided for, with learning opportunities personalised to meet their specific needs.

Additional teachers or teaching assistants may work with students on a one-to-one basis, in small groups or within a whole class environment.

A copy of the school's special needs policy and the local offer are available to view on the school website, or on request.

Varndean PLUS

Varndean PLUS offers families live information on timetables, achievements, attendance, behaviour, preparation, reports and more.

www.varndean.co.uk/learning



Curriculum

Year 7

In Year 7, students have a unique opportunity to specialise in one area of study, for one afternoon a week, on top of their normal curriculum.

Our Specialist Schools of Creativity, Discovery, Expression and Leadership await!

Year 8 and beyond

In Year 8, students select options from a wide range of courses to follow through to GCSE, BTEC and VCert qualifications in Years 9-11. A vast range of extra-curricular activities include many subject-based clubs with some leading to an additional GCSE qualification.

In addition to timetabled lessons, there are further opportunities to deepen understanding through Learning Enhancement Days and participation in a wide range of university programmes.

www.varndean.co.uk/learning



Beyond the classroom

Our enrichment opportunities are second to none, which include our arts provision, successful sports teams and Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. All students are encouraged to participate in these activities and their involvement is recognised as part of the end of year graduations.

Enrichment week

We have a dedicated Enrichment week in July in which the majority of life changing residential, national and international trips take place alongside a wide range of courses or activities.

Looking ahead

Our close working relationships with colleges and employers across the city help prepare each student for their next steps. We offer the following opportunities to students:

- Impartial careers advice
- Work experience
- Skills and careers workshops
- Interview coaching
- Open Day visits
- Participation in a wide range of aspirational university programmes.

www.varndean.co.uk/extra



Day to day

The school day runs from 8:45am to 3:05pm with assemblies or tutor time taking place at the start of each day.

How the day is structured

Tutor time / Assembly	8.45–9.05
Period 1a	9:05–9:55
Period 1b	9.55–10.45
Break	10.45–11.05
Period 2a	11.05 –11.55
Period 2b	11.55–12.45
Lunch	12.45–1.25
Period 3a	1.25 –2.15
Period 3b	2.15–3.05
End of school day	3.05
After school activities	from 3.05



Uniform

All students are expected to wear school uniform which is supplied by *Khalsa Schoolwear* and can be ordered online or on selected sale days in school. Ties are colour coded depending on the individual school.

www.varndean.co.uk/uniform

School ties

L to R: Lennox, Angelou, Russell, Turing, Ellis.



Joining Us

Choosing a secondary school is a difficult and complex process.

If you choose us, our dedicated transition team will work with your child's primary school to ensure a smooth start to Year 7.

To allay transition worries, we offer a number of key events such as taster days, meet-the-tutor events for parents and carers as well as welcome evenings.

Year 7s have the building to themselves on the first day of the autumn term to help them settle in. They will remain with their form tutor and smaller school throughout their time at Varndean School.

'What really stands out is the kind and efficient way that [our child's] (and our) transition from a small school to Varndean was managed.' Year 7 parent

Admissions

All applications for Varndean School need to be made via the Brighton and Hove admissions team.

brighton-hove.gov.uk/apply-school-place

01273 293 653

schooladmissions@brighton-hove.gov.uk

www.varndean.co.uk/joining



Annie Lennox

Annie Lennox OBE is not just a celebrated singer-songwriter but also an activist and philanthropist, who is celebrated as a symbol of enduring excellence.

She epitomises the ethos, pride, ambition and determination that Lennox School wants to emulate, with the aim of giving our students the strength and confidence to pursue their own dreams, talents and ambitions. Lennox is a school which values individuality, where we are interested in what makes us all different and not just what makes us the same. Above all we believe in kindness, which includes being kind to yourself and we actively teach our students the skills of resilience, well-being and how to foster a love of learning.

"Have you been kind today? Make kindness your daily modus operandi and change your world." (Annie Lennox)





Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou was a poet, writer, educator and civil rights campaigner. Her words and actions teach us about the importance of determination, compassion and self-improvement. Amongst other awards, Maya Angelou was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, won the Pulitzer Prize and was awarded more than fifty honorary degrees.

Maya Angelou overcame childhood trauma and adversity, she exemplified personal growth and change.

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." (Maya Angelou)

In Angelou school we want all our students to thrive and flourish.



Bertrand Russell

Bertrand Russell was one of Britain's greatest thinkers of the 20th century.

His life has shaped the ethos of Russell School through his free-thinking and challenge to convention; we encourage our students to confront the big issues facing their generation, develop their opinions; the confidence to share them and to speak out where necessary.

Russell School is guided by his idea that a good life is one "inspired by love and guided by knowledge". This helps us remember the importance of learning across the curriculum and his thoughts on peace reiterate our emphasis on kindness, ensuring our students behave exceptionally well and treat each other with understanding and respect. Russell students take this further in their charity work each year and have raised thousands of pounds for those less fortunate than themselves.





Alan Turing

Alan Turing, the English mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst and computer scientist, became famous for his invention of “Bombe”, the machine that deciphered the German Enigma machine during World War II.

Through his life, Alan Turing displayed tremendous courage, resilience and strength of character, which is instilled in Turing School’s ethos. This ethos leads us to guide our students through their journey at school and ensures they are well equipped for future success. Our students are supported by a fantastic pastoral team who are focused on meeting their needs and determined to see them succeed inside and outside the classroom. We aim to provide our students with skills they can apply within everyday life and ultimately, support them in being the very “best they can be.”

“Sometimes it is the people no one can imagine anything of who do the things no one can imagine.” (Alan Turing)



Ethel Ellis

Ethel Ellis was the first female headteacher of Varndean School (1909-1937). As a graduate from Cambridge, she was one of the few women with a university education in Britain and had a modern vision for transforming the education of young women so moved the school to its current location to achieve this.

Our school ethos of participation, resilience and compassion is rooted in Ethel Ellis’s dedication to high quality education for all. Our strong sense of community, passion for the arts and our charity work are inspired by Ms Ellis’s dedication to nourishing education that went beyond the classroom. Ellis students often put their creative talents to good use at our wide range of community events, which have raised thousands for charity. Our fantastic pastoral team takes genuine joy from seeing them succeed and develop into kind and mature young people who are prepared for the next stage of life.



WORLD CLASS STAFF

RESPONSIVE
TEACHING
& INTERVENTION

SO THAT EVERYONE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS.

PROACTIVE
PASTORAL CARE
& INTERVENTION

GROWING WELL BALANCED,
SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE, KIND INDIVIDUALS.

RESEARCH LED
**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

SO THAT STAFF ARE CHAMPIONS IN THEIR FIELD.

PERCEPTIVE
PROFESSIONALS

WHO HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO MEET ALL NEEDS.

ACTIVE
PARTNERSHIPS

WITH TEAMS, FAMILIES,
GOVERNORS, OUTSIDE AGENCIES
& OTHER PROFESSIONALS.

AS A RESULT OF
MY TIME AT VARNDEAN
I WILL BECOME...

SELF ASSURED & UNDAUNTED BY
LIFE'S CHALLENGES, I WILL BE READY
FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

HARDWORKING, AMBITIOUS &
HIGH ACHIEVING, I AM
DETERMINED TO MAKE
THE MOST OF MY
OPPORTUNITIES.



WORLD CLASS PROVISION

5 CARING SCHOOLS

WHO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE SOCIALLY,
EMOTIONALLY AND ACADEMICALLY.

**ALL DIFFERENT
ALL EQUAL**

TO ENSURE WE PROVIDE
GENUINE INCLUSION.

**THE HIGHEST
STANDARDS**

FOR EVERYONE NOT JUST IN LEARNING.

AN EXCITING, DEMANDING &
RELEVANT CURRICULUM

LEADERSHIP OF
RESOURCES

CREATIVE USE OF OUR PEOPLE, SPACES,
RESOURCES & FINANCES TO GET
THE BEST FOR STUDENTS & STAFF.

SELF AWARE
& WELL ROUNDED.
I KNOW HOW TO
FIND CONTENTMENT.

KIND & GENEROUS. I AM
ABLE TO MAKE A PROFOUND
DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

AWARE OF WHAT MATTERS LOCALLY
& GLOBALLY, I CAN BE AN AGENT FOR CHANGE.



VARNDEAN
SCHOOL

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email: school@varndean.co.uk

www.varndean.co.uk



@VarndeanSchool



@varndeanschoolbrighton

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