



**Varndean**  
College Brighton & Hove

# UPDATE

**AUTUMN 2020**

**VARNDEAN'S  
NEW £2.9M  
STEM CENTRE  
IS OPEN!**



**WELCOME TO  
VARNDEAN'S  
NEW PRINCIPAL**



**WELL DONE  
TO ALL OUR  
STUDENTS!  
RESULTS DAY  
REPORT**

# VARNDEAN COLLEGE APPOINTS ITS FIRST FEMALE PRINCIPAL

Following the recent retirement of its longstanding Principal, Dr Phil Harland, Varndean College has appointed a new Principal and CEO, Donna-Marie Janson, who took over the role in September.

Phil Harland, who came to Varndean in 2006 having previously been Vice Principal at Luton College, has been the key player behind the College's ever-continuing success, as well as many new developments on site. During his 14-year reign, not only did Phil ensure the students who study at Varndean are happy students, who flourish, are successful, and leave with fond memories of their time here, but also that the entire College worked harmoniously together as a community. He can look back on a string of achievements; from the major development in 2013 of a second floor 'loft extension' housing additional teaching rooms and an extensive Library and Careers Centre; a new fitness suite and changing facilities in 2012, to the recent £2.9m two-storey STEM Centre. He also instigated the introduction of the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma in 2008, making Varndean College the only state-funded provider in the area.

Phil said, "It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Principal of Varndean College. We 'Varndeanians' have a long tradition of providing a



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first-class education to the youth of our City and in being a community in which all flourish. I was appointed as the seventh Headteacher/Principal of this wonderful institution and I can honestly say that it has been everything I had hoped for; wonderful staff, wonderful students and a truly unique environment and location. I look forward to my retirement with mixed emotions. I will miss the challenges a leadership role provides, I will miss the joy of watching young people exceed their own expectations and I will miss the sense of community and the feeling that we are collectively engaged in work that matters - it matters because what we do changes lives.

I will leave Varndean College in the knowledge that its place is secure

and that the new Principal, Donna-Marie, will ensure that the value Varndean College adds to our 16-19 year olds, our adult students and international students will continue into the future. It has been my privilege to work with Donna-Marie for two years; she has shown great focus on the quality of the student experience, our inclusive agenda, our desire to address inequality and the success of students and the institution. Donna-Marie will be well supported by our Governors who give of their time selflessly. I wish Donna-Marie, Varndean College its staff and students well for the future."

Donna-Marie, who is Varndean's first ever female Principal in its history since being founded back in 1884, had previously held the post of Vice Principal at the College for two years. She has over 20 years' experience as a teacher and leader in both sixth form colleges and secondary schools in Sussex and Hampshire. In fact, she will be the first ever female Principal of a sixth form college in Brighton and Hove.

Of her new position she said, "I am absolutely thrilled to have become the next Principal of Varndean College and to build on the excellent successes the College has already had. I will give my best to ensure that we remain the very special place we are, both as a learning environment and as a workplace. Varndean is truly unique; we have an outstanding academic track record, as well as a real community ethos where students thrive and where we put student happiness at the heart of everything we do. Although it has been a most strange and challenging time to take on the role of Principal due to the Covid pandemic, it is nevertheless a very exciting time with the opening of our new STEM centre, as well as with our growing student body and outstanding results."

# VARNDEAN OPENS ITS BRAND NEW £2.9M STEM CENTRE

September saw the long-awaited opening of the College's brand new two storey STEM Centre. With its official opening cancelled back in April due to the Covid pandemic and the College closed to all but vulnerable students throughout the Spring and Summer, this was a very sad and frustrating time in which to have the launch of a new facility, one which our Science and Maths Department had been looking forward to for quite some time.

But at last, our students and staff are able to enjoy this new £2.9m new building, which houses four huge Science labs, six large teaching rooms, generously sized prep rooms, as well as a fabulous central foyer and atrium. The Centre also provides accessible facilities for those students with disabilities, under floor heating, as well as additional office and toilet facilities.

Varndean College is now at the forefront of offering the finest opportunity to those students wishing to pursue careers in the field of science, technology, engineering

and maths. The College offers a comprehensive range of A Level STEM subjects, including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science and Maths, as well as vocational courses in Applied Human Biology, Applied Science and Engineering.

At Varndean, through our challenging and engaging teaching, we hope to inspire and motivate the next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians.

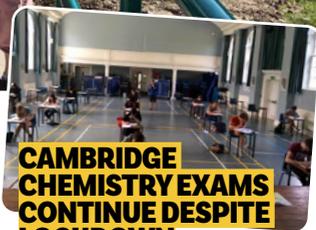


S / T / E / M  
AT VARNDEAN



## COMPETITION TIME...

A strong team of A Level Chemistry students were once again entered into the Royal Society of Chemistry's annual Chemistry Olympiad earlier this year, with 15 students winning Silver awards and 10 students with Bronze. The competition consists of two rounds of extremely demanding exams, in which only 25-30 students throughout the UK being shortlisted to the second round. Well done to everyone.



## CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY EXAMS CONTINUE DESPITE LOCKDOWN

In June this year, Vardean students competed in Cambridge University's annual C3L6 Chemistry Challenge. These were the first exams to be held in the College since lockdown took place in March and represented a significant achievement on behalf of the College and the students to allow it to take place.

The C3L6 competition is open to any UK student in Year 12 studying either A Levels or the International Baccalaureate and takes the form of a 90 minute written paper. Students who do well in the competition are sent certificates of achievement (either a copper, silver or gold award), and those who perform best win an invitation to a residential camp at the University of Cambridge. Once again, our students won an impressive array of copper, silver and gold awards, with 30 students being granted awards; 5 gold, 10 silver and 15 copper. Congratulations to everyone, particularly under the extenuating circumstances 2020 has presented.

## CHEMISTRY NEWS

### CHEMISTRY TUTOR, JOHN LUTON, WINS IOM3 EDUCATION AWARD

Congratulations go to Vardean College's longstanding Chemistry tutor, John Luton, who has been awarded The IOM3's (Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining) Sir Colin Humphreys Education Award.

John has been a member of the Schools Affiliate Scheme since 2002 and has taken an active role in the organisation's activities, attending a number of SAS conferences for teachers, arranging visits by guest speakers to Vardean College, as well as attending a Polymer Study Tour. He has represented the Sixth Form College sector and Chemistry on their Education Committee since 2013 and has made many valuable contributions in that time.

John, who has taught A Level Chemistry at Vardean since 1993, has also been the lead organiser of the annual Chemistry Conference at Brighton University for the past 20 years; offers students invaluable support each year with their BMAT exams for entry into medicine;



arranges visits and talks with Brighton & Sussex Medical School; coaches students for competitions such as the RSC Chemistry Olympiad, Analytical Competition and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and runs the College's own weekly ChemSoc Society.

John has seen many changes and developments take place at Vardean throughout the years, but with the opening of College's new £2.9m STEM Centre this year, the future of Science teaching at Vardean is an exciting journey for the future. Congratulations John.

## CHILDCARE STUDENTS GET FIRST AID TRAINED

First year students from the Level 3 Childcare and Development course are now fully trained in first aid, having completed a twelve hour blended learning certificate with Daisy First Aid. Each student spent one day working online and a

further six hours in the classroom. Even with Covid restrictions, the students had fun and gained loads of useful knowledge and experience which will be invaluable when they finally get into placements.



## WHAT A 'UNIQUE' YEAR

Despite a pandemic, lockdown and CAGs, students studying Level 3 Children's Care, Learning and Development (CCLD) not only achieved incredible results, but also had the highest number of university places offered. Eleven out of the fourteen students secured places to study 'Primary Teaching' at Brighton, Sussex, Chichester and Manchester universities; Education & Psychology at Sussex, Social Sciences at Brighton and 'Childhood & Youth'

at Roehampton, Chichester and Brighton. What is even more amazing is that those who decided to defer for a year, secured jobs in primary schools as Teaching Assistants, even before the academic year finished. We also heard that one ex-student has been accepted for her PHD in Criminology, whilst another has completed her NQT as a Norland Nanny!

The NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in CCLD opens doors to the workplace and university degrees for a wide variety of opportunities, more than you might imagine!



## ADULT LEARNERS

Varndean College isn't just about providing education and skills to 16-19 year olds, read about one of our adult learner success stories:

**My name is Letitia ...**

I started my Teaching Assistant journey back in 2018 when I joined the Level 1 'Working with Children' course at Varndean College. Joining this course was really fun, so I decided to move onto the Level 2 'Supporting Teaching & Learning (STL) in Schools' course where I met some lovely supportive women who supported me throughout the year, encouraging me then to join the Level 3 STL course! At times, both Level 2 and Level 3 were difficult, with Level 2 I found putting pen to paper challenging and with Level 3 it was the ICT. However, I overcame these challenges with persistence and glad I stuck at it.

After finishing the course, I went for an interview with the Downs View organisation and landed a job as a TA at the Downs View Link College supporting students with learning difficulties. I started in September 2019 and it most certainly hasn't been an easy year with the virus. Three weeks ago however, I got accepted to work for the college as a Lead Teaching Assistant (LTA)!

The Varndean College training taught me so much and I now use the skills learnt in my current job role. Whether it was what I learnt in the lessons or in my placement, the courses were a massive support to me. I am so thankful to my tutors and assessors and very excited about my new role; it has been a big goal for me.

For further information on our childcare and teaching assistant courses, go to [www.varndean.ac.uk/courses#adult](http://www.varndean.ac.uk/courses#adult)

# SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

In what has been an extraordinary and challenging year in educational history, Varndean celebrated the achievements of its students back in the summer, who yet again achieved an outstanding record of A Level and Vocational course results.

Despite having to face the sudden and unexpected closure of the College in March due to Covid-19, as well as the Government's cancellation of all A Level exams, students rose to the exceptional challenge and continued to engage with their new 'virtual classroom' studies. This proved a very unsettling and worrying time for them all and we are immensely proud of how they all responded to the situation. Their final results were based on attainment over the past two years and we are so proud of what each and every student achieved.

- The overall pass rate at A level was 99.3%, with 63% achieving A\*-B and 86% A\*-C
- 21 vocational courses had a 100% pass rate, including our Level 3 CACHE Childcare & Education course which achieved exceptional results.

- Visual Arts courses (Art, Graphic Design, 3D Design, Textiles and Photography) once again continued to be outstanding, with 93% of students achieving A\*-C grades and 25% achieving the prestigious A\* grade.
- Our English, Humanities and Science courses also all achieved 100% pass rates, with high numbers of students with A\*-B grades. Those students taking the Extended Project Qualification in their second year also all achieved 100% pass rate, with 83% achieving A\*-B grades.

As well as offering traditional A Levels, Varndean College also offers a comprehensive programme of Level 3 vocational qualifications, which many students take either as standalone courses or in combination with A Levels. These results are impressive with many students moving on to higher education courses or direct into apprenticeships/employment. New Varndean College Principal, Donna-Marie, said; "We were incredibly proud of our students this year, particularly under the

extreme and unusual circumstances they found themselves to be in due to the global pandemic. They worked tirelessly over their last 18 months, only to have their time at Varndean abruptly cut short and having to face very extraordinary and worrying times. Our students were quite frankly amazing and have been an inspiration. I would like to thank my entire staff for their hard work and dedication over these past seven months and for continuing to give all our students the drive and determination needed."



**CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE TO ALL OUR STUDENTS WHO LEFT THE COLLEGE THIS YEAR AND THE VERY BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR FUTURE PROGRESSION ROUTES.**



## IB RESULTS

Back in July, our IB students received outstanding results yet again, with students securing places at prestigious universities including Bristol, Cambridge, York, Leeds, UCL, Warwick and Imperial College, London to read subjects ranging from Fine Art to Philosophy, and Midwifery to Marine Biology. Amongst those celebrating were:

- **Fijinfoluwa Oladipo**, who is now reading Medicine at Imperial College London after achieving a stunning 43 points, placing him in the top 2% of students globally!
- With 42 points were talented spoken word artist **Eben Roddis**, who has chosen to take a gap year but has a place secured at Leeds to read Maths and Philosophy in 2021, **Ines Aranguena Aniceto**, now reading Politics and International Relations at Warwick, **Nancy Farris**, at Leeds studying Classics and History, **Zac Murgatroyd**, reading history at Sheffield and **Grace Hogben** reading Liberal Arts and Sciences at Birmingham.
- **Francesca Fairhead**, who scored 41 points, is now reading English at the University of Cambridge, whilst **Aaron Goff**, also with 41 points, is taking a gap during before pursuing a Biomedical Sciences application at Oxford University and **Ella Murray** with 41 points will apply to read History and Economics in 2021.



FRANCESCA FAIRHEAD - OFF TO STUDY ENGLISH AT CAMBRIDGE

- **Anna Dornbusch, Kate Cornwall-Scoones** and **Elsie Houghton**, all with 40 points, will take gap years before going to university in 2021. Keen athlete Anna - 400m gold medallist at the Sussex Schools Championship - plans to study Sports Science, Kate already has a place secured to study History & Politics at Leeds and Elsie a place to study Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience at Nottingham. Meanwhile, **Scarlet Smith-Edmonds**, also scoring 40, is now studying midwifery at Nottingham.

50% of the 42 students achieved 36 or more Diploma points, regarded by universities as equivalent to AAA at A Level, with 16 gaining an impressive 38 points or more - equivalent to A\*A\*A\*A.

Vardean College is the only local state-run provider of the IB Diploma, which it has offered since 2008. The IB Diploma is one of the world's most highly-regarded and academically rigorous educational programmes, requiring students to succeed in six subjects at advanced level - including English Literature, mathematics, a science, a foreign language and a humanities subject, as well as completing an extended essay on a subject of their choice and undertaking community work.

Lee Finlay-Gray, IB Coordinator, commented: "This was an extraordinarily challenging year for our IB students and we were so impressed with the patience, flexibility and dedication they showed throughout their time at Vardean, particularly during their last six months. They thoroughly deserve their success and we are immensely proud of them all. This year's cohort of IB students not only achieved stunning academic qualifications, but met the exceptional challenges posed by a global pandemic with grace and resilience. This year, more than ever, we've seen the strength of our IB learning community, where our students support each other through a very demanding programme of study."



# BIOLOGY STUDENTS WIN CREST AWARDS



**Varndean College is celebrating the success of four of its recently qualified A Level Biology students; Sona Raju, Keni Patel, Ella Newmarch and Sophie Baker who have all been awarded CREST Awards by the British Science Association.**

CREST is a national scheme to help inspire young people to become independent and reflective learners, in which an award is given in recognition of them meeting the assessment criteria for an individualised science project they have led and carried out. In the 16+ age category, the project must take a minimum of 70 hours, contribute to a STEM field of study, whilst working with an external mentor from their chosen field of study.

We are delighted to learn that Sona, Keni and Ella were all awarded Gold Awards.

Projects conducted by both Keni and Sona involved investigations into gene/chromosome stability by examining the role of a specific protein that has been previously altered by mutations and by using yeast cells as a model. Having stable genes and chromosomes is critical to whether our DNA is replicated correctly and where errors can lead to cancerous change; an area of great interest and a current research focus in the scientific and medical community. Their projects were conducted under the mentorship of Dr Jon Baxter who oversees the Baxter Lab with the Genome Damage and Stability Centre at the University of Sussex.

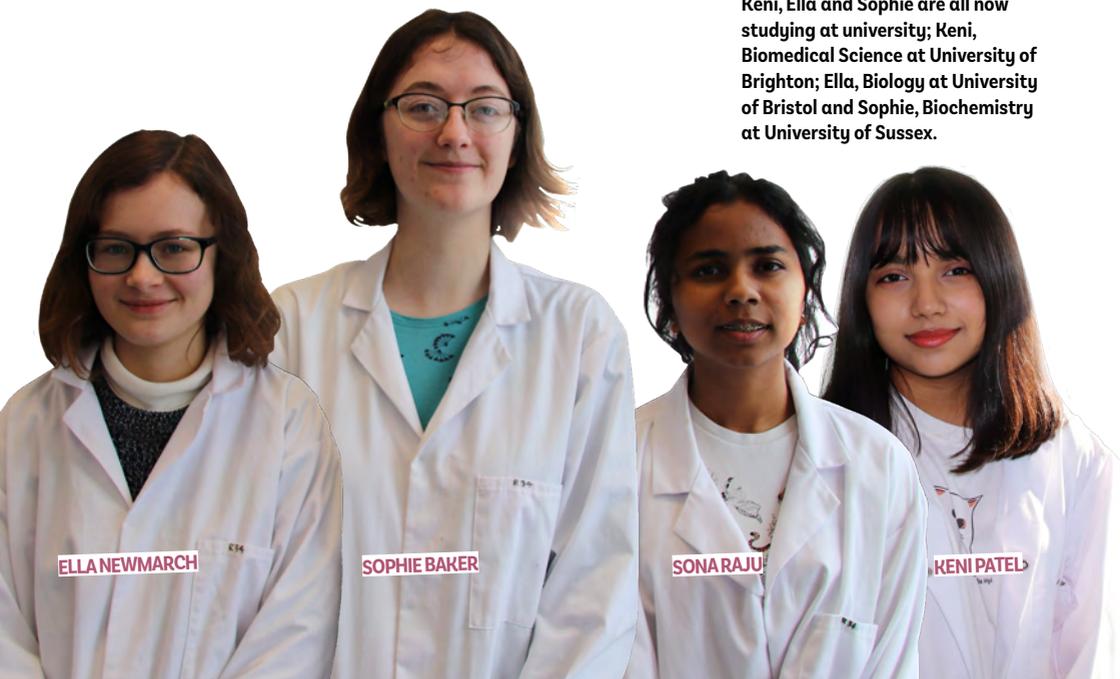
Ella Newmarch was also awarded Gold for her investigation into the effect of age on the foraging behaviour in herring gulls in an urban environment. Ella was mentored by

Prof Paul Graham, also based at the University of Sussex.

Sophie Baker was awarded a Silver Award for her project, which involved creating an infectious pseudotype of the rabies Pasteur virus using its glycoprotein with a view to testing existing vaccines or synthesising new ones, so they are vital in vaccine research and development. Sophie was mentored by Dr Edward Wright, Senior Lecturer in Microbiology at University of Sussex.

Yaso Shan, Biology Tutor at Varndean College who organised and administrated the Awards commented: "This is a particularly noteworthy achievement as students were able to experience scientific research and investigations under the guidance and expertise of university professors which represents a fantastic opportunity for A Level students. It is remarkable that our students have been able to undertake, complete and succeed on a project of this scale in such unprecedented circumstances in addition to securing A Level success and university places."

**Keni, Ella and Sophie are all now studying at university; Keni, Biomedical Science at University of Brighton; Ella, Biology at University of Bristol and Sophie, Biochemistry at University of Sussex.**



ELLA NEWMARCH

SOPHIE BAKER

SONA RAJU

KENI PATEL

## NADEEN RESEARCHES HIV-1 AND SARS-COV-2 AND WINS GOLD AWARD

Huge congratulations go to Year 2 student Nadeen Alay, who over the summer completed and passed a Nuffield Researchers Project in collaboration with Janssen-Cilag Pharmaceuticals, who were looking into targeting HIV-1 and SARS-COV-2 receptors and exploring alternative treatments such as CAR-T therapy.

Upon completion and receiving her certificate, Nadeen's regional coordinator then advised her to submit her project for a CREST Award, which she has just recently found out won her a CREST Gold Award.

In addition, throughout lockdown,

Nadeen also undertook a 15 week online undergraduate level course with Harvard University in 'Principles of Biochemistry' and recently learned that she successfully passed this insightful but very difficult course.

Nadeen said: "I feel that when I initially joined Varndean College, I lacked a lot of confidence after not receiving the GCSE results I had hoped for, but during my time here I have been really supported and challenged by all of my teachers. I feel that I have been able to improve my analytical skills, as well as being able to develop my understanding of key biochemical mechanisms, and I now want to say



thank you for helping me to believe in myself again."

Nadeen, who came to Varndean from Blatchington Mill School, is currently studying A Level Chemistry, A Level Psychology and BTEC Applied Human Biology.

## IB STUDENT WINS 2ND PRIZE IN UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD'S POETRY COMPETITION

In April, IB Diploma student, Fiyinfoluwa Oladipo, won second place in the University of Oxford's Christopher Tower Poetry Competition.

Now in its 20th year, the Christopher Tower Poetry Competition is open to students aged between 16-18 years and was set up at the bequest of the late Christopher Tower to stimulate an enjoyment and critical appreciation of poetry, particularly among young people in education, and to challenge people to write their own poetry.

The theme of this year's competition was 'Trees' which led Fiy to write his successful entry 'Sonnet to Palm Sunday' which won him personal prizes, plus a £150 cash prize for Varndean College which will be used



**"I FELT CONFIDENT THAT THE POET KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE DOING."**  
COMPETITION JUDGE,  
REBECCA WATTS

to purchase new poetry collections for the College library.

Competition judge, Rebecca Watts, commented on Fiy's poem, "This poem has a cracking opening and I loved its authoritative, conversational tone. As well as offering an interesting take on the

theme, it showed an impressive command of language, rhythm and form - gently pushing at the sonnet's confines, as though there is more to say. Part of its sophistication, in fact, is in what the poem leaves unsaid; I felt confident that the poet knew exactly what they were doing."

Fiy, who came to the UK from Nigeria in 2018 to study the prestigious two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma, completed his studies here this summer with a staggering 43 points and is now studying Medicine at Imperial College, London

Varndean College IB Literature tutor, Ellie Cook, said: "We were absolutely delighted that Fiy was awarded this prize. He has been writing poetry since childhood, but his engagement with the World Literature module of the IB Diploma led him to experiment with the manipulation of traditional forms of poetry weaving through elements of his Nigerian heritage and producing work that is both fresh in its perspective and haunted with its own literary history. We are so very proud of his achievement."



SARAH CHAPMAN

JONAH GARRETT-BANNISTER

# SUCCESS IN THE FILM STUDIES DEPARTMENT



MAX SILVER

During the summer, success was achieved by several of our A Level Film Studies students. Max Silver and Jonah Garrett-Bannister, who both left Vardean this year, were both finalists in the national Media Magazine Production Competition in July. Max was a finalist for 'Best Production' and his stop motion animation 'Level Foundations' went on to win his category, whilst Jonah was one of just four finalists in the 'Cinematography' category. Huge congratulations to them both!

Meanwhile, current second year student, Chloe Howard, was chosen to make a music video for

Grammy Award nominee J.S. Ondara's 'Tales of Isolation' project. Chloe produced a video for the track 'From Six Feet Away' which was released in August. Chloe currently studies A Levels in Film Studies, Psychology and Drama & Theatre and hopes to student film at university in the future. Congratulations Chloe. You can watch her video on YouTube [https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_nSyC1ILKM](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=d_nSyC1ILKM)

CHLOE HOWARD



GUS MCKEEVER

HONEY LATTER

## VARDEAN PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS EXHIBIT THEIR WORK TO THE PUBLIC

Three A Level Photography students, Gus McKeever, Honey Latter and Sarah Chapman, have all had their work exhibited in the Photo Fringe's OPEN20 Young Photographers Exhibition. Photo Fringe is an open platform allowing photographers to share their work and all three students were selected to appear in the Worthing exhibition at The Pavilion Theatre, as well as online.

# LAW

## EVERYTHING VIRTUAL ... INCLUDING LAW MOCK TRIAL

With the country in lockdown and schools and colleges closed, not only did all our lessons become virtual and take place online during the summer term, but so did our Law Department's Mock Trial.

Baroness Joyce Gould (retired Labour peer) and Shirley Venning, Chair of the Brighton Magistracy, presided over the annual mock trial competition. In an unprecedented year, Varndean Law students were undeterred by the virtual nature of the trial and adapted with great style. Four teams put forward reasoned arguments to persuade the judges that their viewpoints were the most persuasive and, after a very tense morning, the second defence team (Kane, Holly, Lara, Eleanor, Aidan, Tilly, Jess, Baraa, Will and Josephine) took the prize: The judges also awarded Kane Capper-Sandon 'barrister of the day' and Will Irvine 'star witness'. Baroness Gould commented how immensely impressed she was by the professionalism of all involved. She also took questions from students on her life in politics and gave some sage advice: "Always be better prepared than the other side."

## LAW STUDENTS REACH FINAL OF THE NATIONAL LEGAL APPRENTICE COMPETITION

From 700 teams to 4, Varndean College Law students Eleanor Kwiatkowska and Josephine Dunsmore, qualified for The National Legal Apprentice final back in September. After three gruelling rounds of researching complex law, drafting court submissions, client letters and producing an original legal sales pitch, the girls scored in the top four of this prestigious annual competition, hosted by London law firm Kingsley Napley LLP in partnership with The Times.

Stephen Parkin, Senior Partner, said of their presentation it showed 'expertise, confidence and an understanding of the client.' Jo Hambleton, Assistant Head of School for Law at Varndean College, commented "it was through their own tenacity and hard work that the pair made it into the final."

The competition was established last year to increase social mobility and access careers in Law. The first prize being a fully paid apprenticeship with the law firm, following a further interview. Runners up secured an internship; both prizes highly sought after.



ELEANOR

JOSEPHINE



Brighton's three colleges, BHASVIC, GBMET and Varndean College have jointly pledged their commitment to the recently released FE Climate Roadmap with all three aiming to be 'leading' institutions by 2023.

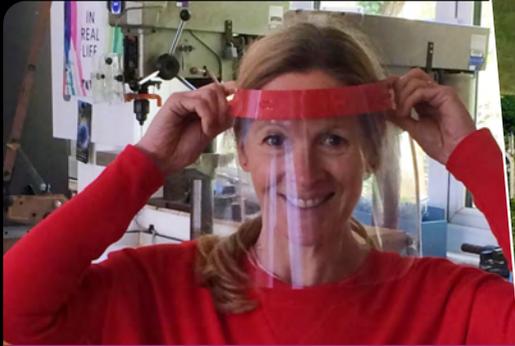
The Principals of all three colleges commented that "Climate change is without doubt the single biggest issue that our students consistently raise and care passionately about. There is now a moral imperative for every organisation to take steps to quickly and drastically address their own sustainability. As leaders of institutions that account for over 90% of places for educating 16-19 year olds in the city, we need to show our students that we are acting now, acting quickly and acting together".

Whilst the three colleges have all been making their own inroads into becoming more sustainable institutions, this is the first time they are able to adopt a national roadmap and is the first example of a group of colleges that have signed-up collaboratively.

The colleges have also promoted this roadmap through the work of the Brighton and Hove Youth Climate Assembly.

Brighton Pavilion MP Caroline Lucas said "This is a brilliant move by our three colleges, joining forces and responding to the voices of young people to take action on the climate emergency, with meaningful targets to achieve. Brighton and Hove are showing the way in responding to the crisis and it's fantastic to see BHASVIC, Varndean and GBMET be part of this."

In order to remain accountable, anyone interested will be able to follow their progress via each individual college's website.



## 3D DESIGN DEPARTMENT MAKE PPE FOR CARE WORKERS

A Varndean College 3D Design student sprang into action back in April to design and assemble visors for care workers as protection against Covid-19. First year student, Aidan Maraj, had heard about the shortage of supplies and got in touch with his tutor, Sarah Lampard-Sawyer, to see if Varndean could help. He really wanted to use his skills to help out with the current demand and Sarah was only too pleased to be able to contribute to producing this urgently needed essential protection.

Wendy, Aidan's mother explained, "While the hospitals had a good supply, care homes, GPs and other local community care services had very little. Aidan wanted to do something to help during the pandemic and thought this was his best way of helping."

Aidan did his research and found an approved 3D printer design of a visor that had been used by other NHS Trusts and with the help of the company who designed it, modified the visor for a laser cut version. After adding a few more tweaks, Aidan then came up with added dimension to the visor, hoping that this design may be more useful to the wearer.

Sarah rose to the challenge by sourcing the acetate and, using

Varndean College's 3D laser cutter, went into production making the visors to Aidan's new spec. Aidan assembled the kits at home with the help of his mother and they then distributed them to St Peter's and St James's Hospices and the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath.

## VARNDEAN WINS FIRST PLACE IN CYCLE CHALLENGE

For the second year running, Varndean College has achieved first place in the Brighton & Hove Cycle September Challenge. We won again with a staggering 5,446 points, a massive increase on last year's winning total of 3,262. Between them, staff cycled a total of 2,546 miles during September, with one member clocking up a grand total of 630 miles and another with a total number of 56 trips! Well done and congratulations to everyone. Previously, the College had come 3rd place in 2018 and 2nd in 2017.



## VARNDEAN FINDS ITS OWN UNIQUE WAY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE NHS

Instead of clapping for the NHS back during lockdown, Varndean College adopted an alternative way to pay tribute to the work of the NHS.

With its campus closed to the majority of its students, the College found a great use for its redundant football pitch. Local grounds maintenance company, SLS, contacted the College's Site Manager offering to paint a tribute onto the grassed fields at the front of the college building and Varndean's senior management team thought what a fantastic idea and gesture this would be. Varndean seemed the ideal location in which to paint such a tribute, with its vast grassy hilltop location.

Varndean College Principal, Donna-Marie, said "although we could not stand as a whole college community on a Thursday night to show our appreciation for the NHS, we thought this would be a superb alternative way to show they were in our thoughts."

