

24 Jun 2022

Curriculum Update: Exam Disruption

Exam disruption caused by the proposed rail strikes on Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd June.

It is looking likely that strike action will go ahead which will impact on a number of students who have exams during that time. It is worth noting that there will also be significant disruption to train timetables on non strike days and that disruption may even continue into the following week. We have been advised that Govia Thameslink will be running Two trains an hour on most routes – from Brighton to London terminals on Southern, and on the major Thameslink and Great Northern routes and that there will be no trains before 7.15am on non-strike days.

Which exams may be affected in the strike days?

A Level Exams:

- Tuesday 21 June - am - German
- Tuesday 21 June - pm - Maths
- Thursday 23 June - am - Chemistry
- Thursday 23 June - pm - Double Maths (Decision)

Year 1 End of Year Assessments - These are taking place from Tuesday 21st June. The timetable for these assessments can be found here: [Link](#).

What do I do if I miss an A Level exam due to rail disruption?

If you have been completely unable to travel to your exam due to the rail strikes despite every attempt to make alternative arrangements, then you will need to make a Special Consideration application. The college would support this application but ultimately the decision-making process lies with the Awarding Organisation for the exam, not with the college. I must stress that the expectation from OFQUAL will be that candidates will make alternative travel arrangements and attend their exams.

What do I do if I miss a year 1 end of year assessment due to the rail disruption?

Please contact your teacher to let them know. We have identified Monday 4th July as a contingency day for students to sit a missed end of year assessment due to either ill health or unavoidable travel disruption. Again, it should be stressed that our expectation is that students will make alternative travel arrangements so they can attend their end of year assessment.

Arriving late for an exam due to rail disruption and travel delays?

If you miss the start of an exam but you arrive within 30 mins of the start then you can go straight to the exam room. If you are later than 30 minutes please contact or come to the Exams Office and they will tell you whether it is possible to take the exam. If the exam has finished before you arrive, it will not be possible to sit the exam.

Options for making alternative travel arrangements

Plan in advance.

Morning exams may be more challenging to get to than afternoon ones. Exams begin at 9am so please bear this in mind for your planning.

Buses

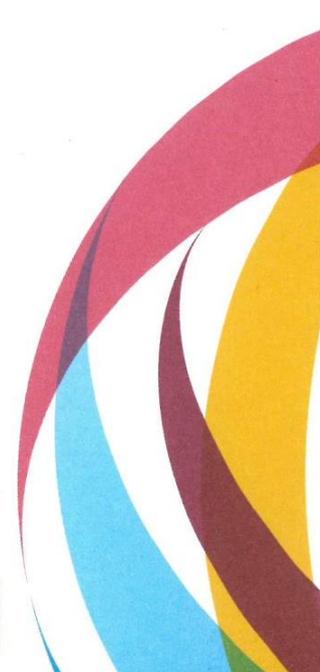
We have been in contact with the local bus services who have updated us that they will be running as normal during the strikes and will try to add ad hoc additional journeys if they get any overloading. Using the bus instead of the train may mean an early start but again our advice is to plan ahead.

Drive or liftshare

Although there is no parking onsite for students, there is plenty of parking in the surrounding streets. Bear in mind nearby parking restrictions and always park considerately.

Cycling & Walking

We have bike storage facilities on site.



Notifying the College

On the day, if you think that you will miss an exam then you should contact Attendance as usual, as well as emailing your subject teacher directly.

Attendance Lines: Text: 07481 342441 or Email: registry@varndean.ac.uk

I know that the timing of these strikes are far from ideal and for many this may add further stress and anxiety. Please stay in contact with us via your personal tutor, we do have support available if you need it. If you have unsurmountable logistical concerns please contact us via: parents@varndean.ac.uk

I wish you all good luck with these final exams.



James Gordon
Deputy Principal

