

UPDATE



AUTUMN 2018



ENRICHMENT OFF TO A FLYING START

Varndean's enrichment activities have got off to a flying start. Students have already attended the weekly Law Society to discuss the pros and cons of the death penalty, the College's netball team have competed in their first league match of the season, students have read poetry on the theme of 'change', and the Politics Society has welcomed its first speaker of the year, local Labour MP Peter Kyle.



**VARNDLEAN COLLEGE IS DELIGHTED WITH THE
SUCCESS OF ITS STUDENTS WHO HAVE ONCE AGAIN
MAINTAINED AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF IB, A LEVEL
AND VOCATIONAL EXAM RESULTS.**

ANOTHER YEAR OF EXAM SUCCESS FOR VARNDLEAN COLLEGE

From a total of 1312 A Level exams taken, the overall pass rate was 98.02%, with 49% achieving A*-B and 75% achieving A*-C grades. 19 A level subjects achieved a 100% pass rate

Visual Arts courses (Art, Graphic Design, 3D Design, Textiles and Photography) were once again particularly impressive. Out of the 250 entries, all subjects achieved a 100% pass rate with 94% of students achieving A*- C grades and 30.4% achieving the prestigious A* grade.

The College also offers a comprehensive programme of A Level equivalent vocational courses, which many students take alongside traditional A Levels, and once again these results were equally impressive with 16 courses achieving a 100% pass rate.

Principal, Phil Harland, said; "We are extremely proud of the excellent results achieved by our students this year, particularly in light of the recent changes to A Levels which has made them even more challenging than before. Students and staff have worked extremely hard over the last two years and thoroughly deserve this success."

The A Level exam success followed on from Varndean's second best ever International Baccalaureate results earlier in July, when 42 IB Diploma students averaged 36.12 points, the equivalent to three A grades at A Level, with 13 students (30.95%) gaining 40 points or above. Seventy-five per cent of those applying to UCAS acquired places at Russell Group universities, including three at Oxford and Cambridge and six studying Medicine. One student,

Samuel Segal (ex Chailey School), gained an incredible maximum score of 45 points, putting him in the top 0.5% of students worldwide, and is now studying Medicine at Sheffield University. Portia Smith (ex Brighton College) gained 43 points and is studying Medicine at Cambridge, Gemma Robson (ex Patcham High) gained 44 points and is studying History at Oxford, and Bruno Buckley (ex-Hove Park) gained 39 points and is studying History at Cambridge.

With 43 points was another of our medics Ruth Goffi (ex Lewes Priory School) who is now studying Medicine at Brighton and Sussex Medical School and Samantha Burgess (ex Dorothy Stringer) who is studying Liberal Arts at Leeds.

With 42 points was Calvin Liu (ex Seaford Head) studying Medicine at Queen Mary



College, London, Ines Mathieu Garcia de Movellan (ex Millais School), Politics and International Studies at Warwick University

and Zoe Alexander (ex Dorothy Stringer), Art Foundation at Brighton Met. Isabelle Standen, with 40 points, is studying Politics, Philosophy and Law at King's College London with a £20,000 scholarship and Magdalena Lech (ex Bedes) with 36 points, studying Medicine at Southampton.

Last year's IB Co-ordinator, Emily Board, couldn't praise the students highly enough. "The International Baccalaureate is certainly a challenge but it produces confident and articulate young people who know a lot about the world around them and can really think for themselves. It's been a great pleasure working with them all and we wish them all the success in their future careers. They are a real credit to the College."





PATHWAYS 2SUCCESS CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE

Three of our Modern Language students, Elsa Polo Laube, Tatyana Goodwin and Joanna Goad, all went to the Pathways2Success Conference at Cambridge University back in July. They stayed overnight at the stunning women only Murray Edwards College and attended talks on Success and Opportunities, met current and former students, as well as participating in workshops on how to apply to Cambridge. The event was a great opportunity to meet aspiring young women from across the country and a real eye opener to student life at Cambridge University.



Our Early Years and Child Care students recently underwent a six hour paediatric first aid course, provided by 'Daisy First Aid'. Students learnt how to respond to emergency situations such as, choking, burns and scalds, bleeding, seizures, and unresponsive breathing.



INTERNATIONAL WELCOME

September saw us welcome 81 international students to Varndean College. The students were given an induction day in early September and were also shown the various tourist sites in Brighton. Here they can be seen enjoying the likes of The Royal Pavilion and Brighton's seafront attractions.



VARNDEAN STUDENTS REAP IN THE AWARDS



Back in June, Varndean student, Kate Granlund was awarded joint second place in Cambridge University's annual Woolf Essay Prize. Kate, who previously went to Dorothy Stringer School, and is now in her second year studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma was invited to attend the prestigious university's prize-giving ceremony where guests were given a tour of Newnham College, followed by a presentation ceremony when Kate collected her certificate along with £200 prize money.

The Woolf Essay Prize is an annual competition offered by Cambridge University with questions inspired by Virginia Woolf's 'A Room of One's Own'. This year's question was 'I find myself saying briefly and prosaically that it is much more important to be oneself than anyone else. Do not dream of influencing other people.' To what extent was this possible for female writers pre-1928? Ninety years on, is the situation any different? Kate's winning essay explored the extent to which it was possible for female writers to be and write as themselves, both pre-1928 and today. She also explored the relationship between gender and self in literature as well as the place that influential writing has held in female literature between 1928



and 2018. Kate hopes to go on to study at Cambridge University in the future.

Another current second year IB student, Monica Richards, also achieved success back in the summer by becoming runner up in the Politics and Economics category of New College of Humanities' essay writing competition in which only 27 students were shortlisted out of 1,800 entries. Monica's essay was titled "Is war a prerequisite for peace?"

A Level student Tatyana Goodwin, also won third place in the History category of New College of Humanities essay competition and more recently also won joint second prize in Trinity College, Cambridge's R.A.Butler Prize for essays in Politics and International Studies. Tatyana's latest prize was £200 but this is divided equally between the entrant and his/her college, so Varndean received a book token to the value of £100 for use in its library. Tatyana, who is in her second year studying four A Levels in English Literature, Modern History, Philosophy and Maths, as well as the Extended Project Qualification, is hoping to study at Oxford University in the future.



JUDE BIRCH 'INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR'

Congratulations go once again to Varndean College student, Jude Birch, who has scooped up yet another award; this time one of The Argus's Youth in Action awards, 'Innovator of the Year', sponsored by the i360. Presented by the i360's Head of Sales and Marketing, Jude's mother collected the award on his behalf as Jude was taking up another of his prizes at the time, a trip to Google's HQ in California! Jude had previously beat off more than 3,500 people in Google's annual coding competition back in February by creating an educational game using Pocket Code. Jude studies Computer Science, Maths, Further Maths and Physics A Levels and hopes to follow a career in computer programming in the future.

**YOUTH IN
ACTION AWARDS**
The Argus



CHEMISTRY NEWS

CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY COMPETITION AWARDS

Varndean students once again competed in Cambridge University's C3L6 Competition in the summer and yet again won some impressive medals. Twenty-five Varndean students were granted awards; 3 gold, 9 silver and 13 copper.

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

A strong team also took part in the RSC's annual Chemistry Olympiad this year and finished with 18 medals; 13 bronze and 3 silver.

CHEMSOC TALKS:

The ChemSoc has started the series of talks by eminent speakers. We started with Jasmine Lightfoot (ex student) who is investigating novel ways to tackle the current plastic problem by making biodegradable polymers from sugar sources like cellulose (of which there is masses!).

This has been followed by Joe Downey from Kings Hospital London where he is currently researching more efficient ways of using PET scans to detect prostate cancers. These talks give a fascinating insight into the current cutting edge research going on in chemistry and illuminating to see how young the researchers are!



DOCTORS IN THE MAKING

In July, some of our potential medics listened to a talk by Dr Anita Sugavanam Consultant Anaesthetist at the BSUH entitled 'Please Do Not Give Me a Blood Transfusion Unless I am Bleeding to Death! They are pictured with Dr Sugavanam and Chemistry tutor, John Luton.

The MedVetDent Society continues on with a series of speakers set for this term, see below:

FORTHCOMING MEDVETDENT AND CHEMISTRY TALKS

Students can also look forward to many forthcoming talks over the coming weeks:

- Yann Newby "Life as a medic, what to put in a personal statement and work experience".
- Anjum Memon "Public Health and Epidemiology"
- Dr Sally Doust "Holistic medicine and whole-person care"
- Cyril Crua "Engineering"
- Mustafa Mohammed "A Life in Chemical Engineering"
- Hal Sosabowski (date and venue to be confirmed)
"Drugs: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"



VARNDEAN COLLEGE FINISH THIRD IN 'CYCLE SEPTEMBER'

Members of staff at Varndean College took part in the 'Cycle September' competition again this year. Run by Love to Ride, Brighton & Hove, participants gain points by cycling and registering their trips. Companies and organisations enter as teams, cycle to gain points and move up the league to win prizes.

Out of 150 organisations which signed up, Varndean finished in 3rd place within Brighton & Hove and 6th nationally.

Visual Arts technician Richard Gaskell finished 5th in the Top Commuter League with 249 miles cycled over 20 days and Cathy Jackson was our top 'new rider' with 92 miles logged over 9 trips. Pictured here are just some of the members of staff who took part. A huge well done to all of them.

VARNDEAN COLLEGE FILM STUDENTS ATTEND A TALK BY WORLD RENOWNED FILM CRITIC DAVID THOMSON

World renowned film critic David Thomson, made a rare UK personal appearance at the Depot Cinema, Lewes, back in March, sharing his insights in conversation with Depot Young Programmers. Three of these programmers were Varndean students: Edie Dams, Carlos Almonacid and Phoebe Ralph, who were participants in the programme.

Described by John Banville as 'the greatest living writer on the movies', Thomson has written about film for publications such as The Guardian,

The Independent, The New York Times and Sight & Sound.

He is the author of more than 30 books on film, including *The Moment of Psycho: How Alfred Hitchcock Taught America to Love Murder* and *The Whole Equation: A History of Hollywood*.

In this rare opportunity, David (now resident in San Francisco) explored with the students the unique experience of watching film using examples from knowledge of Hollywood cinema and answering questions in a Q&A.

STUDENTS GET PADDLING

Last month, our Public Service Level 3 students participated in a raft-building session at Buzz Active in Cuckmere Haven, which formed part of their unit on Leadership and Teamwork. They managed to build successful crafts and then had races on the river with them before working together to paddle a Giant SUP on the river.





VISUAL ARTS SUMMER EXHIBITION 2018

Varndean's Visual Arts department supports the work of more than two hundred A Level Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Textiles and 3D Design students from Brighton, Hove, Sussex and further afield. At its summer Visual Arts Exhibition, Head of Visual Arts, Rob Macdonald said "Our end of year summer exhibition is a celebration of ingenuity, personal expression and a lot of hard work! I'm very proud of the superb creative work of our talented Year 2 students who will go on to be the stars of the future in the UK's creative industries. In a climate where creative subjects are under threat in schools, we are more convinced than ever of their importance for careers." Here are just a few examples of the work seen.

Maya Rutland (ex-Dorothy Stringer School) studied Art and Textiles and was the winner of the Kellie Miller Art Award.
Gallery owner Kellie Miller said 'The creativity of the young people around us today is truly inspiring.'

The economic future of the UK depends on creativity, and Varndean College exemplifies the high standards of achievement which our young people are capable of.' Generously supported by Cass Art, also in Market Street, commended students received a gift of art materials worth £50. Maya received an additional award for materials - very useful as she continues her studies in art at Brighton Met College.



Ellis Warren (ex Lewes Priory school), studied Photography A Level. Ellis said "My time at Varndean has allowed me to develop my ideas in ways I never would have otherwise." His photography teacher Gail Eastwood said "His projects are rich and personal and the strength

ELLIS WARREN

of his photography portfolio has secured him a place on the Art Foundation course at Brighton Met."

Otis Walsh (ex Dorothy Stringer school) studied A Level Photography and won the Anne Howard Memorial Golden Shutter Award 2018

He created a project about The Royal Sussex County Hospital. Otis said 'I wanted to capture the way that the NHS has managed to maintain the order of the hospital even despite the construction process.' Otis' teacher Gail Eastwood said 'His work has been selected because of the interesting story telling and narrative - and the idea of looking at the inside and outside of the building, reflecting its use.' Otis is continuing his Photography studies at Brighton Met.

Matilda Holtom (ex- Dorothy Stringer School) studied A Level Graphic Design. Matilda said "I have really enjoyed the course and it has enabled me to experiment and develop ideas in my own way." Matilda's teacher Dave Stephens said 'Matilda spent a lot of time researching the ships including a visit to the Mary Rose before

eventually producing a set of stamps to commemorate these great ships." Matilda is now in London studying Graphic Design at Central St. Martins.

William Everett (ex Dorothy Stringer School), studied A level 3D Design. William said "The 3D course has definitely been the main highlight of my time at Varndean College as the teachers are wonderful and the projects we're given are really fun and challenging." William's 3D teacher Sarah Lampard-Sawyer said "Will's projects have an innate sense of curiosity and a conviction that the design process should be governed by the physical process of making." William is at Loughborough University following a degree in Product Design.

Lotti Bentham (ex-Shoreham College) studied A Level Art and Textiles. Lotti said "I love making work that makes people laugh". Lotti's textiles teacher Jill Hurst said "Lotti has been so much fun to work with and is one of the most prolific students I've taught." Lotti is now following an Art Foundation at Central St. Martins in London.

VISUAL ARTS STUDENT LILY MCCUE

Visual Arts student Lily McCue, who only left Varndean this summer, has already been busy working alongside various designers. Lily helped designer Sarah Arnett paint 'Soraya', one of the many snails featured in Brighton's local Snail trail. She worked on the 'Thank You' to the British Legion to celebrate their 100 year anniversary, has undertaken a fashion Intern at the Sunday Times 'Style' magazine, as well as working with textile designer Sophie Darling at Port Elliot Festival. Lily (who previously went to Blatchington Mill School) achieved A Levels in Art (A*), Textiles (A*) and Film Studies (A) at Varndean and is now following an Art Foundation Degree at Brighton Met.





ZAMBIA!

Back in July, Varndean students & staff made their annual trip to Zambia & took with them the largest amount of charity donations ever! 19 bags weighing over 20kg each (one bag actually burst at Heathrow and they had to have it bubble wrapped).

Whilst there, they also planned for 18 bicycles to be bought for students identified as having the furthest to walk to school (often 2 hours each way!) from a shipment that will arrive in Luansobe in Oct/Nov. Work wise, students were extremely busy building one of four drop toilets at a school in Kvesha (each brick weighed 8kg!), making 16 tables and benches; they also scraped and painted a long wall outside the creche and taught lessons in the local school. A School Sanitation project was introduced to 50 school girls and translated into Bemba with the intention that 3 schools will be involved in the scheme.

Varndean students were a credit to the College in their efforts and engagement with the community and they also cooked some delicious meals. Needless to say, couscous and rice will not be on their menus for a long time! Exhausted, everyone was in bed by 9pm every evening!



VARNDEAN COLLEGE WIN SUSSEX SCHOOLS U19 FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Varndean capped off a great season in the Sussex Schools U19 League back in April, with a win in the 1st XI Final against a strong Bexhill College side. Varndean had been unbeaten in this competition all season

and ran out 2-0 winners on the night with goals from Lucas Tyrell and Callum Kealy. Some great performances and a 'MOM' display from Thomas Cooklin. The College football academy programme, run in partnership

with the Russell Martin Foundation, has gone from strength to strength this year and has the chance of further silverware in the English Colleges regional competition.



VARNDEAN COLLEGE SPORTS LEADERSHIP AWARD STUDENTS GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE ORGANISING 'YEAR 9 SURRENDEN CUP'

Students at Varndean College following the Sports Leadership Award alongside their academic studies once again ran another fantastic tournament for the 'Year 9 Surrenden Cup'. The College's Sports Leadership Award is aimed at developing the students' communication, organisation and leadership skills through sports coaching and as well as coaching pupils from Years 3-6 in their PE lessons at two local primary schools, students are also expected to organise and deliver the Year 9 Surrenden Cup for pupils at six local secondary schools.

This year, the Surrenden Cup saw Year 9's from BACA, Dorothy Stringer, Longhill, PACA, Patcham and Varndean schools compete in a day's football tournament, with Patcham High School taking home the winning trophy for the second time in three years. Lloyd Hooper, Programme Leader for Sports at Varndean College said: "This is a great course for any student wishing to develop his/her teamwork and leadership skills. Students learn how to plan and lead activity sessions and sporting events, which can help lead them into employment in the industry."



VARNDEAN MEDICAL STUDENT WINS SEVEN YEAR BURSARY FROM THE ARMY



Varndean Science student Anya-Niamh Tidey has her eyes set on a medical career in The Army when she graduates, but her passion, skills and achievements have already been recognised by The Army who have awarded her a remarkable seven year bursary.

Anya-Niamh, who previously studied at Holy Trinity CofE School, currently studies A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as the Extended Project

Qualification, and hopes to study medicine at one of the UK's top universities for six years before going on to be a doctor with the Armed Forces. She recently applied for the bursary through The Army's website and had to undergo an in-depth interview, full medical, as well as various short stay activity days wherein both her physical and mental skills were tested to the limit. Anya-Niamh had to prove herself by completing various assault courses, a sleep test, as well as computing tests and essay writing.

She has now been granted an incredible bursary of £3,000 in her final year of study at Varndean College, £2,000 in each of her first three years at university, followed by £10,000 for her final three years of university education.

The Army currently employs around 600,000 people from all over the UK and there is a desperate, pressing need for scientists, engineers, accountants, mathematicians, doctors, nurses, legal experts, and much else besides

VARNDEAN STUDENT WINS SUSSEX POLICE 'INDIVIDUAL CADET OF THE YEAR' AWARD

Varndean College student, Harry Dawes, has recently been awarded Sussex Police's 'Individual Cadet of the Year' award. Harry, who was a former student at the Burgess Hill Academy (formerly Oakmeads Community College) is currently studying for the BTEC Diploma in Public Services (equivalent to 2 A Levels), alongside a BTEC Sub Diploma in Applied Biology, and hopes to follow a career either with Sussex Police or as an airline pilot in the future.

Varndean College currently has nine students who are Police cadets throughout different units in Sussex. We congratulate Harry on this splendid achievement.



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BUSINESS STUDENTS OUT AND ABOUT

Even though it was supposed to be Spring, Year 2 BTEC Business Diploma students braved the torrential rain back in May to visit Ravens Bakery and its surrounding area as part of their assignment research work. Students sampled a range of products from the bakery and their competition, looked at the main target market of the area and considered possible marketing campaigns to raise the profile of the business. Despite the dreadful weather, the students were brilliant and made some insightful observations - the food tasting went down well too! The research formed part of their presentations for their final assignment of their Unit 9 work.

Then in October, Business BTEC Level 2 students visited the newly established Cereal Café in

Brighton. Being only the fifth one like it to open in the UK, the Cereal Café is run by one of Varndean's ex-students and is like a cereal 'pick'n'mix', in a uniquely styled 'Doodle Café' where drawing on anything is permitted! Visitors have the opportunity of choosing from a menu of various combinations of cereals, mixing up to six cereals in a bowl, then added with a choice of over 50 different toppings!

Needless to say, the students had a fun time and learnt about the pros and cons of starting up your own business.

**Varndean
College Brighton & Hove**

Autumn 2018