



NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/JJ

21 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support in enforcing the wide variety of Covid-19 measures over the course of the past 18 months. As I said in my letter on Wednesday, the government guidance on wearing face coverings has changed and students are no longer expected to wear face coverings in lessons. Up to and including Wednesday 26th January, students, staff and visitors should continue to wear face coverings in all enclosed spaces. From Thursday 27th January onwards, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in Year 7 and above. We expect this to apply to school transportation as well.

Students are, of course, free to choose to wear face coverings in lessons if they wish to do so and many have done so this week. We will continue to operate other risk mitigation approaches across the school. These include widespread availability of hand sanitiser, increased frequency of cleaning and increased ventilation in classrooms. We will also continue to run assemblies remotely until half term, at which point we will review case numbers across the school and determine the most appropriate next steps.

We will continue to review these expectations in line with national and local guidance and we will update you as soon as anything changes.

Y11 Revision Evening - Thursday 27th January 2022, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

The Year 11 revision evening will take place on Thursday 27th January from 6:00pm-7:00pm. This will be a virtual event consisting of a live session with Mr Johnson (Headteacher), Mrs Waines (Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning), Mr Fryirs (Associate Assistant Headteacher/Year 11 Progress Leader), Mr Atkinson (Curriculum Leader – Maths), Miss Clemmett (Curriculum Leader – English) and Mrs Layton (Curriculum Leader – Science). The evening is designed to help you support your child through their revision, as they approach the next round of mock exams and to prepare them for the final Key Stage 4 exams. Mrs Waines has already sent out more detailed information about this event.

In order to access the Year 11 Revision Evening, you will need to click [here](#) at the appropriate time.

Year 9 Options Information

As you know, the Year 9 options process is now well underway. Subject teachers have started to deliver talks to students to provide key information about the Key Stage 4 courses that we offer. These talks will continue to take place through until Friday 28th January. You can find more information about each of these courses in the GCSE Options Booklet which has been distributed directly to students. A copy of this booklet is available [here](#). In addition, a recorded version of our recent options information evening has now been published online and you can locate this [here](#).

Menu Choice in the Main Canteen

We will commence our transition to plated school meals at lunchtimes over the course of the next week. Flavoured pasta and rice with toppings (curry etc.) will no longer be served as a snack in disposable containers but will be plated and presented as a meal. Jacket potatoes with various fillings will be re-introduced as a plated meal and a wider selection of salads will also be available.

A main meal on its own will cost £2.00, and a main meal with a pudding will cost £2.40. The free school meal allowance will move from its current level of £2.35 to £2.40 to match the cost of a main meal with pudding deal. Initially the 'pudding item' will be a choice from fruit, yogurts and homemade tray bakes and cakes.

A full menu review is underway, looking at healthy options and a move to a wider plated service with a traditional pudding. We will provide regular updates, via this letter, as we make progress. We thank you for your continued patience.

Attendance

The importance of good attendance at school has never been higher than it is now, given the amount of face-to-face learning that has been lost because of the pandemic. This is, rightly, a national priority identified by the government.

Clearly, where a student is too unwell to attend, s/he should remain at home. Similarly, where a student tests positive for Covid-19, s/he should self-isolate in accordance with government guidelines. However, it is crucial that students' absence is as limited as possible. For example, where a student has a medical appointment, we would only expect him/her to be absent for a part of the day.

We continue to celebrate good attendance through a range of different systems including half termly inter-form competitions and prize raffle draws for students who achieve 100% attendance.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Johnson
Headteacher