



# NORTON COLLEGE

## Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/JJ

28 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As I have explained previously, we are now following government guidelines and we no longer expect students to wear face coverings in enclosed communal spaces in school. Nevertheless, a number of students have chosen to do so, both around the school and in lessons. We continue to operate other risk mitigation approaches across the school, including widespread availability of hand sanitiser, increased frequency of cleaning and increased ventilation in classrooms. We will 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.

As you are aware, we have had to adapt the structure and timings of the school day in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are currently reviewing the substantive structure, organisation and timing of the school day and we will share our proposals with you in the near future. Similarly, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Blackburn met with a group of students yesterday to discuss possible changes to the school uniform and recognition system. Mrs Edwards will be chairing the remote Parent Consultation Group meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February which will discuss these ideas further. If you would like to contribute towards this discussion, we would welcome more parents. Please contact Mrs Edwards by the end of Monday, 31 January, in order that a link to the virtual meeting can be sent in good time.

On a different note, we have successfully reintroduced plated meals this week and we will continue to expand our catering menu over the next few weeks with a particular focus upon healthy options.

### **Student Safety Whilst Waiting for Home to School Transport Services**

We have investigated an incident which occurred earlier in the week, resulting from immature and unsafe behaviour whilst waiting for a bus to pull up to the kerb at a stop in the community. Although this did not result in an injury to a student, it could have done so. Please remind your children to behave in a safe and mature manner whilst waiting for their bus to arrive. A vehicle approaching a bus stop, however slow it is travelling, will always pose a potential hazard to anyone in the road. Staff will re-enforce this message with the students over the coming days, but your additional support is essential and appreciated.

### **Y11 Revision Evening**

The Year 11 Revision Evening took place last night. This offered a wide range of information about how students should prepare for the summer examinations and how parents can support their children to do so. My thanks go to 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) for their valuable contributions to this event.

If you were unable to attend the event, a link to the recording will be sent to you later today in order that you can do so at a later point.

### **Year 9 Options Information**

The Year 9 options process is now well underway. Over the past two weeks, subject teachers have delivered talks to students to provide key information about the Key Stage 4 courses that we offer. 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 is available [here](#).

**Attendance**

The importance of good attendance at school is now more important than ever. 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