



NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/JJA

11 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will have seen on the news this week, it appears likely that there will be a further relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions over the coming weeks. However, as things stand, we remain subject to the existing government rules around isolation. You can access this information [here](#). It is now possible to end self-isolation after 5 full days if you have 2 negative LFD tests taken on consecutive days. The first LFD test should not be taken before the fifth day after symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms). The self-isolation period remains 10 full days for those without negative results from 2 LFD tests taken a day apart. Please note that until this guidance is changed, we are unable to accept a student into school within the first 5 days after s/he has tested positive.

Norton College Sixth Form Options

We are now in the process of completing our one-to-one meetings with all Year 11 students and we have extended the deadline for Year 11 students to submit their options for Norton College Sixth Form until Friday 18th February. The link to this options form is [here](#).

Year 9 Options Information

In an earlier letter this half term, I outlined the timeline for our Year 9 options process. This is now well underway. We have finished delivering the programme of subject talks and on 31st January and 1st February students were asked to confirm which subjects they would like to study next year. We have used this information to determine the final option blocks and a link to this information and the final options form has been texted to the parents and carers of all students in Year 9.

As in previous years, we always try to maximise the choices available to students and ensure that as many students as possible are able to study their preferred combination of subjects. However, please remember that all the courses we offer are subject to student demand and in a very small number of cases we may not be able to meet the preferences of all students.

The deadline to submit final options is **Thursday 17th February**. One-to-one meetings with a member of the Senior Leadership Team will then take place between 28th February and 11th March and we will contact you from 14th March to confirm your child's options.

Safer Internet Day

As you may know, it was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday. From discussions linked to this, we have recently been made aware that certain youngsters are regularly 'making friends' and 'gaming' with people on the internet that they do not know. Students have been spoken to about the dangers of adding strangers to communicate with through gaming platforms or on social media on the internet and the risks this may pose to their safety.

We feel that it is vitally important that this message is reiterated at home and we would ask you to check your child's social media and gaming platforms' privacy settings. Sadly, not everyone has youngsters' best interests at heart when they engage in communication on the internet. We ask that you support us in discussing the importance of this message with your child at home.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 18th February

On Friday 18th February we will be running a non-uniform day to raise money for our school Duke of Edinburgh provision and Ryedale Special Families. Donations can be made through Parentpay. Thank you for your continued support with our Student Leadership Team **Community** Group fundraising efforts.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

We have been notified by the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) that they will be visiting the college on Tuesday 1st March to offer first and second Covid-19 vaccinations. Please note that there has been a change to the original guidance and that the Covid-19 vaccination is now being offered to all children in Year 7 to Year 13 who are aged 12 to 17 on 28th February 2022 (the day before the visit).

You have already received a link to a letter from SAIS which explains how to give consent for your child to be vaccinated. This letter will also be available via the college website.

As I have explained in my previous letters, Norton College does not hold a view on whether or not children should be vaccinated. No pressure or comment will be made around the decision to take part or not to take part in the vaccination programme. No school staff will be involved in delivering vaccinations.

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.

Year 11 Contrast Event

Last Wednesday evening, the Year 11 Music group led a very successful 'Contrast' event where a small, socially distanced audience were able to enjoy a range of live music played by local bands. Congratulations to everyone involved in the event and to Ms Briggs for co-ordinating it. Hopefully, this marks a return to school productions which can be watched by a live audience more widely.



Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Mr T Johnson
Headteacher