



NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/JJ

18 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are well.

Unfortunately, we have been affected by high levels of staff absence this week. Our number one priority under these circumstances is to keep face-to-face education going for all students. I am pleased to say that we have managed to do so, primarily due to the willingness of a number of staff voluntarily covering duties and lessons for absent colleagues. However, this remains a fragile balance and we may need to move to remote education on a partial basis if staff absence goes beyond a certain threshold. If this were to be the case, we would look to give you as much notice as possible.

Inevitably, this has led to a significant number of lessons being covered over the past week. Progress Leaders have recently led assemblies about student conduct and I would ask you to reinforce with your children the key message about the importance of extending the same levels of respect towards teachers covering lessons as they would towards their normal class teachers. The pandemic has led to significant gaps in students' learning and every lesson plays a crucial role in filling those gaps.

Assessments and Examinations for Students in Years 11 and 13

There are now only 29 school days until the first public examinations take place. All of the Year 11 and Year 13 mock examinations have now taken place. I would like to reinforce the message last week in congratulating students for approaching these examinations with a clear sense of maturity, resilience and independence. Students in Year 13 have received the results of their mock examinations today and students in Year 11 will receive theirs on 1st April.

School Production

Rehearsals are in full swing for our annual school production 'School of Rock'. The show will take place Tuesday 26th - 28th April at 7pm each evening. We have a cast and crew of over 80 students that are involved in the production. Tickets are available to purchase via the link below:

https://www.positickets.co.uk/eventdetails.php?EventID=3570#.YjQ_kerP2Uk

Student Leadership Team Community Group Fundraising

Thank you for your support with our Comic Relief fundraising efforts this week, altogether we have raised £742 from selling red noses, our cake stall and today's non-uniform day. We are continuing our fundraising efforts this term with a collection for Ukraine and students have been emailed a list of possible contributions. If you can donate any of the items from the list, the deadline is Monday.

Additionally this year, for our Easter donation campaign, we are looking for your help in providing Easter Eggs and other Easter treats to be put towards a donation for Ryedale Food Bank. This is so we can all do our bit in helping more families enjoy the celebrations of the Easter period. Donations can be brought to the Sixth Form reception by Wednesday 6th April! Thank you again for your continued support with our fundraising efforts, it is much appreciated.

Year 8 and Year 11 Progress Breakfasts

Celebration breakfasts have taken place this week for 10 students in each of Years 8 and 11 who have achieved outstanding progress over the course of the past term. We would like to congratulate these students upon their respective achievements as well as all other students who have received excellent grades on their reports.



Recognition Points Certificates

Congratulations to the 9 students who achieved an amazing 16 or more Recognition Points last week. Each student was presented with a certificate to recognise this tremendous achievement by Mrs Edwards earlier this week.



Support for The Ukraine

During Enrichment time this week, Mrs Atkinson-Spragg and the Sixth Form Student Leadership team arranged a collection of essential items for the people affected by the war in the Ukraine. Working with a local charity we have been informed that they are no longer collecting clothing, but have asked for dried foods, toiletries, baby food/milk and first aid kits and batteries and children's card games/colouring books etc.

We have been overwhelmed with generosity from students and staff who have donated so far. If you would like to donate, students should take items to the Sixth Form reception by Monday.

5-A- Side Football Tournament

A 5-a-side football tournament will be held during the last two weeks of term which is led by students studying BTEC Sport in the Sixth Form. Linked to this project, there will be a cake stall in the Main Hall on Tuesday 29th March. All products will be sold for 50p. Additionally, there will be a bag of mixed sweet being sold for £1 in the entrance of the Sports Hall. All proceeds from both the 5-a-side tournament and the cake sale will go towards the Teenage Cancer Trust. Students will need to bring cash if they are to purchase any of these items on Tuesday.

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. Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Johnson
Headteacher