



# NORTON COLLEGE

## Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/JJA

23 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Partial School Closure: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic**

#### **Year 9 Remote Learning Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

#### **Year 8 Remote Learning Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

I explained in my letter to you on Monday that the health, safety and welfare of our students, staff, families and the community are always at the forefront of the decisions we make as a school. Unfortunately, we continue to experience very high levels of staff absence. Since the majority of this is due to COVID-19, the government guidelines mean that we know that staff will not be able to return to work for a number of days, regardless of whether they are symptomatic or testing negative. Staff at the school have been fabulous in going the extra mile through covering widely for absent colleagues. However, we are facing a shortage not only of our own staff but also of cover staff available through supply agencies which has further compounded the problem.

Unfortunately, this means that we remain in a position where we cannot safely accommodate all students in the school and we need to extend the implementation of our COVID-19 contingency plan until the end of the week. As outlined previously, this is a decision which has been made in consultation with Trustees and the local Public Health Team.

As outlined in our COVID-19 contingency plan, we are prioritising students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 for face-to-face education, as these students are following examination courses. As I explained earlier in the week, we chose Year 9 to move to remote education in the first instance, as these children are more familiar with the remote education process than younger students. However, the necessity to extend the period of implementation of the contingency framework means that we are looking to rotate the year group working at home.

- **All Year 9 students will continue with remote learning for one further working day: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Year 9 students will return to Norton College for face-to-face teaching on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.**
- **All Year 8 students will move to remote learning on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.**
- **We hope to be able to welcome all students back to school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. However, please note that we may not be able to do so. If that is the case, Year 8 students will continue with remote education on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. We will notify you of a decision in relation to this on Friday.**

We have created a timetable which will be delivered centrally by teachers from a range of subjects to all students over the course of these two days. Wherever possible, these lessons will be live streamed on Teams. **Further details of this timetable will be sent to parents of Year 8 and Year 9 students later today, alongside instructions on how to join the lessons.**

Any queries about accessing Microsoft Teams should be directed to Mr Layton or Mr Austin in the first instance on [sl@nortoncollege.net](mailto:sl@nortoncollege.net) or [na@nortoncollege.net](mailto:na@nortoncollege.net). There is also a user guide available on the school website [here](#). If

your child does not have access to technology which allows them to access Teams, please use the contact details above and we will look to facilitate this.

If your child is vulnerable, or all adults in the household are key workers, we have a limited capacity to supervise them in school if necessary. If you are in this position, please contact us today via [admin@nortoncollege.net](mailto:admin@nortoncollege.net).

### Free School Meals

We have support available for families of students in receipt of Free School Meals in the form of a packed lunch. Please let us know by contacting the school, either by telephone or by [admin@nortoncollege.net](mailto:admin@nortoncollege.net) if you would like to collect one of these on Thursday or Friday.

We hope very much that staffing levels will have improved by the end of the week and that we can welcome all students back into school on Monday. As outlined above, there is a possibility that this will not be the case, but we will update you on Friday.

As you will appreciate, this is a challenging time for us all and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to get in touch, either by telephone or by emailing [admin@nortoncollege.net](mailto:admin@nortoncollege.net).

Yours faithfully



Mr T Johnson  
Headteacher