



NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/LS

29 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are well.

It is good to be back! It was a busy Easter holiday at Norton College, with the Easter School for Year 11 students really well attended and preparations for the reopening of the school farm now well underway. You will find further details about both of these within the letter below.

School of Rock

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to the fabulous school production this week. Education in successful schools goes well beyond the classroom and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part. It was tremendous to see so many students from different age groups and backgrounds working together so well. I would particularly like to thank the Expressive Arts team for the many hours that went into supporting the production, the vast majority of which were after school and even during holidays and at weekends.



Easter School

Our Easter School took place on 19th, 20th and 21st April and was attended by more than half of our total Year 11 cohort. This would not have been possible without your support and the support of so many of our staff who delivered subject-specific sessions. Congratulations to the students for approaching these sessions with such a clear sense of dedication and enthusiasm. In total, Easter School offered almost 600 hours of learning and we know that this was very well received by those who attended. We are now only 10 school days from the first formal examination taking place and it is essential that students continue to focus on their revision activities with this same level of dedication.

Year 11 Study Schedule

The first GCSE exam takes place on Monday 16th May and additional GCSE examinations then take place throughout the remainder of that week as well as the W/C 23rd May. Throughout this two-week period, prior to the May half-term break, all Year 11 students are required to attend school all day, every day, regardless of which examinations they are required to take or whether there are any examinations on that date.

This means that all Year 11 students must attend school fully until Friday 27th May. Throughout this period of two weeks, we will run an adapted timetable which aligns a selection of taught lessons with the order of examinations. This will enable all students to attend a one-hour lesson directly before the start of the examination for that subject.

We will share timetables with students through assemblies and in mentor time to communicate these adaptations to the timetable for W/C 16th and 23rd May. The college will then close at 15:15 on Friday 27th May for the half-term break and will remain closed until Monday 6th June. No public examinations are scheduled to take place during this time.

We will shortly write to all parents of students in Year 11 to confirm their schedule for the final half-term of the academic year which commences on Monday 6th June.

Consultation on Proposed Changes to the School Day

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the consultation on the length of the school day last month. Following this consultation, we have made the decision that the proposed changes to the length of the school day will not now be taken forward any further.

However, as outlined previously, with effect from 1st September 2022 we will no longer be closing early on alternate Mondays to facilitate staff training. This will put Norton College in line with the majority of schools in delivering 50 one-hour lessons per fortnight.

Our School Farm

You will know from my previous letters that we had plans to renovate and refurbish the farm during the Easter holidays. This work has now been completed and we are delighted that we are now in a position to be able to introduce a poultry flock.

We are being supported by organisations including Forestry England and Castle Farm Vets and we would like to thank these for their support. On Tuesday 3rd May, our first animals will arrive on-site and, for the first time in almost 10-years, the farm facility will return to our extra-curricular brochure.



Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. I hope that you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours faithfully

Mr T Johnson

Headteacher