



# NORTON COLLEGE

## Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/LS

17 June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Misuse of Social Media and Use of Mobile Phones**

We have recently been made aware of a small number of instances where students have used social media platforms to share images of staff or students without consent. These are often accompanied by inappropriate, unkind comments. Not only is this defamatory, it is also illegal.

Our mobile phone policy at Norton College states that 'mobile phones have become an essential part of everyday life for most young people and many adults. Mobile phones are a vital form of communication.' We recognise that mobile phones are an important means of allowing you to contact your children, particularly if they travel on school transport. However, one of the sanctions for the misuse of mobile phones is a ban for an individual. Similarly, the policy states that 'failure by a substantial number of students to adhere to this policy will result in a complete ban of mobile phones in college.'

We are working with social media providers to identify those students responsible for these posts and to have them removed. We have also addressed the issue with all students during assemblies this week. Any students identified as responsible for such social media posts will be sanctioned in the strongest possible terms. Please support us by reinforcing this with your children.

### **He Knows She Knows**

On Thursday we welcomed the X Factor pop duo He 'Knows She Knows' into school. Alongside performing a variety of songs, they delivered some invaluable messages about Mental Health and Wellbeing. The students were respectful and listened intently to the performers shared personal experience and advice in dealing with loss, social media, self-confidence, and body image. It was great to see the students enjoying themselves and engaging with the pop duo during the performance.



### **Update for Parents of Students in Year 11**

In recent letters to you I have outlined key messages in relation to attendance, study leave and examinations for Year 11 students. At the beginning of next week, all parents of Year 11 students will receive a further letter to outline arrangements for the end of term. This will include plans for results day, end of Year 11 assembly, Year 11 prom and the collection of examination certificates.

### **Train Strikes WC 20<sup>th</sup> June - Information for Parents of Students in Year 11**

We have been made aware of a small number of train strikes affecting travel to and from Malton train station. This will affect a small number of students in Year 11 who rely on trains to access and leave the site for examinations. If your child is affected, and you are concerned about their travel to or from the school site, please make alternative arrangements for dropping your child off or collecting them following an examination. This may include the use of public transport, including local bus services. If this is not possible, children should use their normal school bus to access school for 08:45 and leave school at 15:25. If a student needs to use a school bus to get to and from school then they **must** stay on-site for the whole school day regardless of when examinations start or finish.

**Please note that the college will not be able to provide any additional transport as normal school services continue to run throughout this time. Students must arrive on-time for all examinations and the examination board is able to refuse entry to students who arrive to exams beyond the published start time.**

### **Alternative Curriculum Day**

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will take part in our alternative curriculum day. This event is an important part of our wider curriculum and extra-curricular offer giving students an opportunity to learn through curriculum-linked activities and events offered outside of the normal classroom environment. Our staff are currently organising and planning their respective events and activities which I have outlined for you below.

- Multi-faith trip to Leeds (organised by Mr Raettig for students in Year 7 and GCSE RE students)
- Cyber security, stock market and employability challenges (organised by the Maths faculty for students in Year 8)
- Careers and pathways (½ day) and wellbeing (½ day) (organised by Miss Pettitt and Mrs Medley for students in Year 9)
- Sporting events or a science-based trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park (organised by the sport and science faculties for students in Year 10)
- UCAS and careers planning (organised by Mrs McDonald for students in Year 12)

### **Fundraising for the School Farm**

Our school farm team is fundraising to support the growth of our on-site farm. Money is being raised to support the design and creation of an enrichment paddock for our goats as well as the sourcing and installation of a chicken shed for one of our paddocks. Please consider supporting these ambitious projects if you are able to. You can read more and/or donate [here](#).

## Farm Update

You will know from my previous letters that we now have chickens and goats on the school site. Our farm club is very well attended and we have approximately 100 students per week visiting this facility.

We have further expanded the farm offer by introducing two turkeys and in the coming weeks we will look to grow this number by incubating and rearing our own poults. As always, thank you to so many local businesses for offering their time and support. Without such support this simply would not be possible.

Given the nature of the farm, it remains as important as ever to ensure that we hold up-to-date medical information for your child including details of any allergies. Our staff will work hard to make sure that the farm is safe for all visitors but, inevitably, there remains a small chance of exposure to common triggers including dust, dander, feather and egg.



Our risk assessments are based on the medical information we hold for students and it is imperative that this information is correct. If you are concerned about your child's allergies and would like to discuss these in relation to the farm then please contact us.

Have a good weekend,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Johnson".

Mr T Johnson

Headteacher