



NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/LS

1 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Today, we have run our Alternative Curriculum Day. This has seen students involved in a wide range of enrichment activities, including visits to multi-faith centres, wellbeing sessions, visits from local employers, a trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park and UCAS preparation. There is a huge amount of work that goes in behind the scenes to set up these activities and I would like to thank all of the staff and visitors involved for their input and support in helping the day to run so effectively.

On a less positive note, we have recently been made aware of an increase in the number of incidents in our local community where children and young people are being exposed to potentially harmful substances through the use of electronic cigarettes and/or vapes. This is an issue which is increasingly widespread across the whole of society. Mrs Edwards will be sending home a letter about this to all parents at the beginning of next week and this will be underpinned by key messages which will be shared with all students during assemblies. Please support us by reinforcing these messages at home.

You will see below and from previous weeks that there are a number of areas where we are asking for support from the local community in order to improve resourcing at Norton College and to make students' experiences at the school as good as possible. In an ideal world, all of these areas would be funded centrally from the school budget. However, this is simply not possible due to the school's historic budgetary position and the well-publicised rising cost of living. We really do appreciate the very wide-ranging support that we have received from parents and local businesses recently. If you work for or own a company which is able to support us in this way, we are very willing to publicise this support to the wider community through a number of available methods.

Holidays During Term Time

We know how much educational time has been lost throughout the pandemic and it is now more important than ever to maximise the impact of students' time in school. We have recently received some requests for students to be allowed to go on holiday during term time. This is not something which we can support, and any absence of this kind will not be authorised. This is common to schools across the country and has been the case for many years.

Fundraising for the School Farm

On Monday 27th June we received notification from Yorkshire Agricultural Adventurers (YAA) that we had been awarded a £500 grant to support our farm re-opening. Thank you to the YAA as well as many other businesses and individuals for supporting this very worthwhile project.

As mentioned in previous letters, our school farm team is also fundraising 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](#). We are already halfway towards our target of £750. Thank you to everyone who has already donated to the cause.

Picnic Tables for the School Yard and Field

There are limited seating areas for students on the school yard and field during break and lunchtimes at present. If there are any local companies that would be able to provide/sponsor/part subsidise the cost of outdoor picnic tables, we would really like to hear from you.

Cakeathon Sunday 3rd July at 10:00am

One of our Year 10 students, Ben Kirkham has organised a Cakeathon this Sunday 3rd July at 10am on the school field to raise funds for the Duke of Edinburgh award. The event involves walking or running as many laps of the field as possible and stopping to try cake along the way! The event is free to join but we would gladly accept donations; there will also be hot and cold drinks available on the day. We hope you can come and support The Duke of Edinburgh award that so many of our students are involved in.

Have a good weekend,

Yours faithfully



Mr T Johnson

Headteacher