



March 20th, 2020

Phone: 01653 693296

email: admin@nortoncollege.net

www.nortoncollege.net

www.nortoncollege.net/coronavirusupdate

Dear Parent/Carer,

School Closure: Further information and guidance

I am writing to update you with the latest information we have, and with guidance for the coming weeks. Please note that the situation is likely to change very quickly, so please keep checking emails, texts and the website for more information.

Thank you for your support at this time, and for the many kind messages we have received.

Key workers

You will be aware that the government has issued guidance today about continuing childcare for key workers. The full guidance can be found [here](#):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We have asked parents to indicate through our website if you think you are in one of the key worker categories. Before you indicate that you would like to access childcare provision in college, we would like you to consider very carefully the advice from the government:

“The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

“That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

“The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.”

The government asks us to follow some key principles, the first of which is:

“If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.”



We ask that if you can keep you children safely at home, you do so, and so reduce the risk to those students for whom it is essential that they come into school, as well as for the staff who will look after them.

If your situation changes, and you need childcare support because you are in a key worker category, please contact us either by email, at admin@nortoncollege.net, or by phone on 01653 693296.

More details about the school closure can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Learning from home

Students who are working from home can find materials and resources here:

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/learnfromhome>

Teachers will keep uploading new materials and activities for students, and they will need to submit some of these for marking. We recommend that students keep to their normal school timetable as far as possible in order to maintain some sense of normality.

If students have questions about their work, they should email their teachers directly.

If your child does not have access to [Learn From Home](#), please contact college for advice and support.

Pastoral care and safeguarding

Mentors will be in touch with their mentor groups on a weekly basis and will ask students to complete work from the PSHE area of [Learn From Home](#). Students and parents should feel they can contact mentors with any questions or concerns they may have.

If parents have any safeguarding concerns about students, they should contact either Mrs Barber on 07944329191 or Mrs Gilbank on 07949129497. If these staff are unavailable, please ring 01609 780780.

If you feel that your child is at significant risk of harm, please seek advice from the emergency services.

Links are available on the college website to self-help and further information and guidance

Examination Information



The government has published some information on how examination grades will be awarded this year. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

Mrs Young, assistant head teacher, and Mrs Douglas, examinations secretary, have the situation under review and will contact parents and students as necessary once we have more information.

Transport

All NYCC and Private Transport is running as usual next week. This is subject to change depending on demand but a service will be provided for those students who need to come in to college in the future.

Payment for Private Transport

Those using the Private Transport will continue to pay the monthly installments if appropriate. For those who will not be using the service, we ask you to bring your payments up to date to the 13th March 2020. For the month of March 2020 please pay £15 which represents half of the monthly installment. We will release further information about future arrangements and start to process refunds to anyone who is ahead of the payment schedule once we have clarity from central government about returning to college.

College Catering

During the closure period a catering service will be available for those students who are in College, payable through the normal cashless system.

Free School Meals Entitlement

The government is planning a voucher scheme for free school meal students, but until the scheme becomes operational the college can supply a packed lunch style meal upon request. We will be open for collection of lunches between 12 noon and 12.30 pm each day; however this can only apply to students and parents/carers who are not displaying any Coronavirus symptoms, nor have any family members displaying the symptoms. This will be operational from Tuesday 24th March and those wishing to access the service will need to order by 10.00 am on Monday 23rd March and then order by 10.00 am each day. When ordering meals please confirm any specific dietary requirements. Please order by ringing college reception.

ParentPay

College staff will be working next week to communicate our plans and to ensure meal refunds can be handled promptly where this is necessary.



More information and updates

You can find out more about the current situation by visiting our website:

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/coronavirusupdate>

We shall endeavour to keep this up to date as more information becomes available.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students and parents well over the coming weeks and months. Do look after yourselves and each other, and keep in touch with us about the progress and welfare of your children.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. R. Carson".

Dr S. R. Carson,
Head teacher,
Norton College