



March 27th 2020

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Learn from Home: <https://www.nortoncollege.net/learnfromhome>

Safeguarding: <https://www.nortoncollege.net/safeguarding>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Closure: Coronavirus

At the end of our first week of school closure, I thought I would write to update you on what has been happening.

Teachers have been working hard to support students' learning online. If you haven't seen our online resources yet, please visit:

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

This week, nearly 90% of our students have accessed Microsoft Teams in order to complete work for their teachers – and that includes our Y11 and Y13 students, some of whom have already finished their courses. Some students have been unable to access work because they have not had computers at home, but today the college made laptops available to those students without, and these were either collected from college or delivered home by our caretaking staff. If you did not contact us about internet access and you need help, please get in touch with the main college reception on 01653693296, or by email via admin@nortoncollege.net.

I hope your children are able to do their school work. Staff are trying hard to manage workloads for students, but it is difficult to coordinate across the college. We do not want students to feel anxious or overwhelmed by the work, or concerned if they miss deadlines. Our recommendation would be that children spend no more time on school work than they would ordinarily spend in lessons. It may be useful to ask children to keep to their usual school timetable, although we recognise that different households will be organising their lives according to their own special circumstances.

In any event, if parents or students have any concerns or questions, they should contact subject teachers or mentors straight away by email. In fact, we would encourage all students to make contact and to let us know they are well and are coping. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to our safeguarding leads, Julie Barber and Sue Gilbank. See the link below for contact details for Mrs Barber and Mrs Gilbank, and for other emergency contact details.

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



Ready, Respectful, Safe



We have had a skeleton team of staff on site to care for the children of keyworkers, who will be able to tell you how terrible my footballing skills are as I've organised the daily lunchtime football tournament (our daily exercise!). Working out an alternative to tackling, given the rules on social distancing, has been a challenge. The children on site have worked hard every day, and have been a delight.

Food boxes and supermarket vouchers have been distributed to all parents of students who are entitled to Free School Meals for the period of 23rd March to 3rd April. If you have not yet received these and have not already spoken to a member of staff about this please make contact via main reception as soon as you can. We do not have certainty about how long we are being asked to administer this service; once we do, we shall confirm the arrangements.

We have had some queries with respect to payments made through ParentPay. We are working with ParentPay on how to make refunds for trips, transport and meals. There is a huge demand from schools for their support in this area so please be patient whilst we work through this.

You may have seen that the government hopes to keep schools open over the Easter holidays, for the children of key workers only, and we are currently making plans for this and will be in contact in due course. If at all possible, though, children should be at home unless there are genuinely no alternative arrangements you can make. Every child who is in school increases the risk for every other student and their families, and for the staff looking after them, and their families, so please keep them at home if you can.

Finally, I have been asked on behalf of the police and the local councils to remind you of the rules with respect to social distancing. There are reported instances of groups of children across North Yorkshire out playing together. Please remember that children should only be out taking exercise with members of their own family, and then only once per day. This is, of course, important in order to limit the spread of the disease, to protect us all, and to make sure that the NHS is able to save lives. The rules of social distancing apply to children just as much as they do to us.

Do please stay in touch about the progress and well-being of your children and our students, and contact us immediately with any concerns or questions.

Yours faithfully,

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher



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