



April 3rd 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,

Update – Easter holidays

We are now at the end of our second week of school closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, and have reached the Easter holidays.

Our staff will be on holiday for the next fortnight, although we are supporting our key workers by keeping college open for their children over the break. Due to the holiday, staff will not be posting work each day for students, but we shall be signposting you to activities that staff have pulled together or that we have found on the web.

You can find some ideas on the college website, in the Learn from Home section, here:

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

I am sure you will have been in your doorways at 8pm on the last two Thursdays to show your appreciation for NHS workers, and you may have been putting rainbow drawings in your windows, too. There has been some discussion online about sending drawings to the new Nightingale Hospital in London. You are probably aware that drawings shouldn't be sent in the post, but can be shared online using #RainbowsForNightingale. This is something children might like to do over the Easter holidays.

Examination grades in 2020

Students in Y11 and Y13 will want to know how grades are to be awarded in 2020. Today, Ofqual, the arm of the government responsible for qualifications, has announced how grades will be awarded for GCSEs and A levels. Schools will submit their predictions, based on the evidence they have, including PPE results in November and January, and classwork over the year, together with a rank order, and these will be used alongside prior attainment data, coursework, and a national standardisation process to arrive at the grades. The latest information we have is here:

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

The link contains specific information for parents, and a letter to students, so please read what Ofqual have released and get in touch with any questions.



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For students following courses with internal coursework or non-exam assessments, such as BTECs, students must continue to gather as much evidence as possible about these internally assessed units whilst we await further guidance from Ofqual. Teachers are guiding students through this on the Microsoft Teams sites, but, from a small number of students, we are not getting the information and evidence we need. Students should supply us with what evidence they have so we can justify our predictions to the examination boards. If you have a child in Y11 or Y13 following a course with internally assessed units, please ask them if they are supplying the evidence their teachers are asking for. We expect an update from Ofqual and the exam boards next week.

There is a pack coming out to Y11 students in the post.

Sixth form applications

Applications for the sixth form are coming in from our Y11 students, and we shall be setting the sixth form curriculum based on the applications we have over the next week. Students will all be receiving a letter over the next few days about sixth form applications, and if your child has not yet applied, the application form can be found here:

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/form/?pid=29&form=59>

Insight

You may be aware from your children that staff are awarding recognition points as usual through Insight. If you have not yet signed up and are unable to access Insight, please contact us via admin@nortoncollege.net.

National Voucher Scheme for Free School Meals

We now have access to the details we need to administer the scheme to provide vouchers during the period of time that the college is closed. Each child is entitled to £3.00 per day in term time and we intend to register you for the supermarkets you indicated when we sent out the vouchers by post which were for the last two weeks of the spring term. The vouchers themselves will be e-mailed to you on a weekly basis and you should receive the first one, for £15, on Monday 20th April 2020 and then each Monday until the closure is lifted. We will be undertaking this work over the Easter holidays and if you need to make changes to your desired voucher please e-mail us on admin@nortoncollege.net

School Meals - Credit Balances

We will refund any credit balances for Year 11 and Year 13 students over the Easter holidays. Balances for other year groups will remain on the system for when the College re-opens.

Trips & Visits

There are various trips and visits that were/are being planned, here are the latest details.



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- Amsterdam is postponed however we are still speaking to the tour operator about a new date so refunds will not be processed at this time.
- Bewerley Park staff have said that this trip may be able to go ahead as planned in the last week of the summer term. We will however review this in line with central government instruction relating to the current and likely future situation. Again refunds will not be processed at this time.
- Sicily is in September 2020 so for the time being we are assuming this will go ahead as planned.
- Battlefields is in November 2020 so we are also assuming this will also this will go ahead as planned.
- The Ski Trip is in 2021 therefore we anticipate no issues with this.

The picture may change and we will communicate updates and decisions as and when we are in a position to do so.

Other events

- Powering Transformation Workshop - refunds where applicable are currently being processed.
- Work Experience – this could happen later in the year therefore we will not process refunds at this time.

Transport

Parents who have paid in full or who were ahead with payments can request a refund via admin@nortoncollege.net.

If we do not hear from parents who have paid in advance we will carry forward the proportion of what is due back to you, into 2020/21 and reduce the amount payable for that period. For year 11 students not staying on with us into Sixth Form, we can process a refund once we hear from you as per above.

Please note that after the Easter break we will be starting the process of allocating seats on the services for the 2020/21 academic year. Everyone will need to re-apply but only applications from parents with 2019/20 balances paid up to the 13th March 2020 will be processed. We will be maintaining the parental contribution level at £300 per seat for 2020/21.

Safeguarding

During the holidays, Mrs Barber will be on duty as the designated safeguarding lead, and if you have concerns about your children you can find contact details and emergency numbers here:



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

I have emailed all students again today, and asked them, if they have not already made contact with their mentor by email, to email the member of the senior leadership team for their year group to let us know they are safe and well, or to share any concerns or worries. For your reference, these are:

- Y7 - Mrs Waines;
- Y8 - Mrs Young;
- Y9 - Mrs McDonald;
- Y10 - Dr Carson;
- Y11 - Mr Evans;
- Y12/13 - Mrs McDonald.

Please encourage your child to email one of us if they have not already emailed their mentor to let us know they are safe and well.

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.

I shall write to you again early next term.

Keep safe.

Yours faithfully,

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher



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