



May 1st, 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,

Weekly update: May 1st

I hope my weekly letter finds you safe and well.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thank you for supporting your children with their school work – we know this is not easy to do in the family home, and we really appreciate the encouragement you are able to give to your children to keep making progress with their learning, however much you are able to do.

In order to help us to get a clearer picture of what is happening with regard to home working, we have produced a questionnaire for staff, for students, and for parents. The information we collect will help us to improve what we offer to students and how we support you. We are trying to gather as much useful information as we can, so please answer as many of the questions as you are able to. There is space at the end of the questionnaire for you to provide any other feedback or comments you have for us, both good and bad. If you have any suggestions for us, please add those in this section, too.

Thank you in advance for your feedback. You can find the questionnaire here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sYYHcbgzxUeGMnJ4-ATd45ZQ7Tdc3f5Mvrb8uM5bH69UMIBYNEtKU1pJTzJYUFRQMVFOSFExVFIFOC4u>

I should be grateful if you could respond by Wednesday, 6th May.

Trips and Visits

In the current circumstances, the college has decided not to proceed with the Battlefields Tour that would have taken place in November 2020, and we shall start to process refunds to parents next week. Refunds for the Powering Workshop will also be processed next week.

We have an on-going dialogue with the tour companies in respect of the Amsterdam and Mount Etna trips. Once we have clarity about what our options are we will communicate directly with parents who have made payments for these trips. Similarly, we are continuing to speak to Bewerley Park about what options exist; at this time they have not cancelled the trip and I understand they are in the process of considering an alternative date.



Ready, Respectful, Safe



In all three cases we will not be asking for any further staged payments and will temporarily archive the payment links until we know more. We thank you for your patience whilst we work through the various scenarios.

Other Refunds

As per our letter last week, should you wish to seek a refund for cashless catering account balances or private transport contributions paid in advance, please contact us at admim@nortoncollege.net.

National Voucher Scheme for Free School Meals

You will be aware from the national news that there have been issues with the national voucher scheme, and these are affecting how we are administering the process. Sadly I cannot yet report any improvement in the system, so, for the time being, I ask you to remain patient and persevere with the Edenred website. I am aware that this has become a focus of the national news media and we have been asked to comment about the difficulties we have faced by Channel 4 who are running a report on the issue in their evening news programme on Monday evening.

Find a course

I am sure you all have plenty to do, despite the current lockdown situation. However, if you or other family members, or your children, would like to follow an online course, the National Careers Service has set up a new website where you can learn digital and numeracy skills with free online courses. There are a range of levels of courses available, from introductory to advanced, and a range of topics, from everyday maths, and social media for businesses, through to writing computer programs to analyse data, and learning to code in Python. If you are interested, the courses are here:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course>

College re-opening?

There has been much speculation in the media, and many of you may be wondering when schools will re-open, and what that re-opening may look like. The college has no information to share currently. We may know more once the government announces its latest plans on May 7th. Until that time, speculation is not helpful. We shall, of course, keep you updated as soon as we have any further news.

Contact details

To ensure that you receive all the information that we send out, and so that we can contact you when we need to, please let us know of any changes in your telephone numbers or email addresses by contacting admin@nortoncollege.net.

Once again, thank you for all the support you are offering to college in helping your children make progress with their work. Do get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, or simply to say hello!



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Stay safe,

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher



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