



May 8th, 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 8th, 2020

Happy VE day – I do hope you have managed to join in the celebrations on the 75th anniversary of this important day and that you have enjoyed the sunshine on the Bank Holiday.

Students will have received an email link to Mr Evans's assembly on VE day. If you would like to see it yourself, you'll have to ask your children to show you, as it will only work for those with a Norton College account! If students haven't watched the presentation, please encourage them to do so.

Thank you to all of you who responded to the online survey this week. The senior leadership team met yesterday to look at all your comments and suggestions, and it was lovely to read so many positive, supportive and appreciative comments from you about how we are trying to support your children with their learning – thank you! Of course, we know we are not perfect, and there were helpful suggestions from you, too, about how we can improve things. We shall be discussing your feedback with our staff, and will be in touch with some of you individually to try and offer help and support, or to discuss the issues you have raised in more detail. Although the survey is now closed, please do email us if you have any other thoughts or suggestions.

Overall, you feel that the amount of work we are setting and that your children are completing is about right, and your children seem able to access the work on Teams and are submitting work and receiving feedback from their teachers. We do understand that working from home is not necessarily easy for you or for your children, so please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Students completed their own survey, and again their feedback was overwhelmingly positive. If your children would like to say thank you, May 20th is national thank a teacher day, and children can share thank you messages to teachers through this link:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/>

College remains open today, and I would like to remind parents of key workers and of vulnerable children that you are able to send children to school, if you need to, and by prior arrangement with us. The message from the government remains the same: that if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they must be. However, we also recognise that circumstances change over time. The latest update from the government is here:



Ready, Respectful, Safe



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

If you do feel you need to send your children to school, please contact us so that we can discuss your circumstances.

There has been much speculation in the media recently about when schools might re-open, and also about what that re-opening might look like. Much of this speculation is unhelpful, and I am sure that many of you may be anxious about the prospect of sending your children to school in the current circumstances. The senior team is planning for re-opening, as best we can with very little information, in order to ensure that when we do re-open, school will be as safe for students and staff as we can possibly make it. I wanted to reassure parents and carers that we are considering such things as transport, and how we ensure social distancing on buses, maintaining social distancing on arrival and departure, providing frequent access to handwashing, minimising student movement around the site, staggering lunchtimes and break times in order to minimise social contact, revised expectations regarding behaviour in college, and so on. There is a lot for us to think about and to plan, and we take the safety and well-being of students and staff very seriously. Once we have the information we need, we shall be able to plan in detail and we shall, of course, keep you updated with any further information we have, and once our planning is complete.

In the meantime, please feel free to share any thoughts or suggestions of your own, or to ask any questions, through the college email address, or through a new 'Ask us a question' page on the college website:

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/form/?pid=74&form=81>

Some of you have contacted college again regarding cancelled or postponed trips and visits. Refunds for the Powering Workshop and the Battlefields Tour have been processed this week. The Bewerley Park trip has now been cancelled and we will process refunds once we have received the monies from the venue. We continue to speak to the tour companies in respect of the Amsterdam and Mount Etna trips. We anticipate that the Amsterdam trip will be rescheduled into the 2020/21 academic year but cannot yet give further details about a new date. For the Mount Etna trip we are still exploring what options exist and hope to be in a position to have made a decision later this month.

For those of you entitled to the national vouchers for free school meals, we said last week that we could not report any improvement in the system provided by Edenred. The situation remains unsatisfactory; however, we are aware that the vouchers for this week have been released overnight and are available for download by parents now. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the system and if necessary consider alternatives of our own to ensure a speedier delivery of the vouchers you are entitled to. Once again thank you for your patience.



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Stay safe,

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher



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