



May 22nd, 2020

Tel: 01653 693296

email: admin@nortoncollege.net

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 22nd

As always, I hope my weekly letter finds you safe and well.

Possible re-opening for Years 10 and 12

If you have children in years 10 or 12, you will no doubt be wondering when and how students will be able to return to college. In last week's letter, I said I would be contacting parents and carers of students in these year groups during the week. At that time I was expecting guidance from the government and from the Department for Education (DfE) on secondary school re-opening, but that guidance has not yet appeared. I have not therefore written to you separately, and I apologise for that.

We want students back in school. We know that learning from home is not the same as being in a classroom with a good teacher. We are working hard to make sure that learning from home is a positive experience for students and that they make good progress, and that will continue. The DfE has released advice for parents on helping secondary school children continue their education, and you might find this helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

In the meantime, we are planning for the eventual re-opening of college so that we are ready for any forthcoming announcements from the government and the DfE. There is a great deal to think about and to prepare in order to ensure that it is safe for students and staff to return, and we shall not open to larger numbers of students until we are sure that we have followed all the guidance from local and central government and that college is as safe as we can make it. The government has said that it will announce on May 28th whether or not its five tests have been met, and we may then receive more guidance about the re-opening of secondary schools. Until that time, I cannot plan in as much detail as I would like to, and we know that the planning we are doing is very provisional.

I am also in regular contact with the other Ryedale head teachers, and with the local authority, and we are sharing our thinking and our planning.

In order to help with our planning, I shall ask the parents of students in year 10 and year 12 to complete for us a short questionnaire. Please look out for a text message next week.



In the meantime, you may find it helpful to read the government's guidance for parents and carers on re-opening schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Half term activities for students

As we approach half term, you might be interested to know that the Oak National Academy is setting up the Oak Activity Club, with activities for children to take part in over the half term holiday. The link to the Oak National Academy is here:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Safeguarding and well-being

With emotional well-being and mental health in mind, you might find these two recommended sites are worth exploring during the half term. The Mental Health Foundation offers a selection of materials, including some great social media graphics that students can share to raise awareness of mental health issues:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

"Random Acts of Kindness" focusses on positive action and a varied experience, from virtual tours of the world's greatest museums, to energetic challenges focusing on this year's Mental Health Awareness Week topic of 'Kindness'. If there is ever a time to promote and encourage kindness, I'm sure you will agree, this is it!

<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

You may have seen an item in the press regarding the death of a teenager in Scarborough in a drugs related incident. Whilst there's no suggestion that any of our students are involved in the tragedy, the police have requested that we alert parents and our students to the risks, as outlined here:

<https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/18466265.police-drugs-warning-14-year-old-girl-dies-scarborough/>

The safeguarding of our students remains a priority, even when they are not in the building, so if you require any help or support, please see our website for the numbers to call:

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

National Voucher Scheme

For those of you accessing the National Voucher Scheme, the system itself and access to the website has improved greatly. Please continue to check your e-mail for vouchers. We have pre-booked vouchers for next week. Please note that there is some uncertainty as to whether the Government intends to issue vouchers for the half term period. Please download and use them if they arrive.

Stay safe,



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

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher