



5th June, 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: 5th June

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

College re-opening – Years 10 and 12, from 15th June

I have written separately to parents and carers of year 10 and year 12 students regarding the re-opening of college from 15th June. Thank you to all those of you who have replied to the surveys which will allow us to plan for the number of students we expect in college. Thank you to parents of Y10, especially, who are being asked to respond a second time. The first survey allowed us to do some initial planning, whereas we are now asking you to give us a definite yes or no answer as to whether your child will be taking up the offer of face to face time with their teachers in core subjects. Please don't assume that having responded to the first survey you can ignore the second one! It is this final survey that we shall use to put students into bubbles and to finalise timetables and other plans.

I asked for a response by the end of Friday (today!); I shall leave the survey open over the weekend in case you have not yet had time to respond.

The information for parents of Y10 and Y12 students can be found here:

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/reopenyear10>

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/reopenyear12>

Please do check back to these pages as the information there will change as guidance from the DfE is updated. You will already find new information on these pages about transport. Please note that if students will travel to college on NYCC transport, this needs to be booked by Monday 8th June. Please read the letters on the pages above for details about how to do this.

Critical workers' children and vulnerable children

College remains open as usual for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Please contact us to arrange a place if you need us to care for your children in college. We are open during the usual college hours, and children are able to come in for full or half days according to need. Please email admin@nortoncollege.net to book a place and we shall be in touch to discuss your needs.

Once we re-open to children in years 10 and 12 from 15th June, critical worker and vulnerable students will also need to follow the protocols we have written for other students (with some



minor modifications – we shall be updating these over the next week), and will need to book transport through NYCC if necessary. The protocols and transport letter are the same on both the year 10 and 12 pages linked above, so please check these.

Remote learning

The government is clear that remote learning will remain the predominant mode of education for all students, and that this should be of high quality. We are planning the re-opening so that staff are still able to provide this high quality remote learning for all students – including those taking advantage of the opportunity for some face to face support – through Microsoft Teams.

As we look forward to wider re-opening in September, it is important that students engage with the work we are setting as far as is possible, so that when they return to school they are in the best possible position to resume studies after the summer break. Staff have been assessing the progress students are making online; it is clear that some students are doing everything we ask of them, and are making great progress. The college is contacting students to praise those doing especially well. We recognise that other students are finding it difficult to work from home, and that family circumstances do not always make learning from home easy, and we shall also be in touch with individual students and their parents where we think that students are struggling to do the work. We shall be inviting you to share concerns so that we can help to support students most effectively.

Primary transition

Some parents and carers of our students may also have children in year 6 coming to college in September. Normally at this time of year, year 6 children would be visiting us, and we would be visiting the primary schools to introduce ourselves. Government guidance is that year 6 students should not visit secondary schools this term, so we are working to find alternative ways of making contact. There is a new webpage on the college site which will be updated with information about the transition process. You can find it here:

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/year6transition>

UCAS applications

Students in year 12 now have all the information they need in order to apply for a place at university. If students are having any difficulties, they should get in touch with Mrs McDonald. There is guidance available on the Microsoft Teams careers site. Universities are offering virtual tours and visits, so students should check the university websites

Safeguarding and well-being

You will be aware that during the current crisis, some children and young people may be struggling to manage their emotional and mental health and well-being at this time. We are very mindful of the challenges that our students are facing, and there are resources in the safeguarding area of our website to support parents/carers and students. From today, we have added a new email address where students can access support if they are worried about anything: wellbeing@nortoncollege.net. Just as when students speak to us in school, we won't offer them confidentiality if we feel they are at risk of harm, but we hope that we can signpost them to guidance and self-help. Emails sent to this address will only be read during normal school hours.



Please also encourage your child to use the resources in the PSHE folder to ensure they are staying safe on-line and to use the links in the safeguarding area of our website to report any concerns or to access any help.

Finally, there are a few updates for you from our business manager, Mr MacPhee:

Refunds

The Finance department is still working through refunds in relation to school meals and transport balances; please bear with us whilst we do this and continue to make requests via the admin@nortoncollege.net e-mail address.

Mount Etna Trip

Our insurance company is now liaising with the tour operator and will advise us on the options that exist. Once we know what these are, we will provide an update.

National Voucher Scheme

The portal now seems to be operating to an acceptable standard. If you are experiencing any difficulties in obtaining help from Edenred when you need it, please let us know so we can continue to monitor the quality of the service overall.

Stay safe,

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher