



19th June, 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: 19th June

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

Wider re-opening of schools

This week has been a very significant one for us as some of our Y10 students have returned to college for face to face lessons with their English, maths and science teachers. For some students and parents, I think this has been an anxious time, but once students were on site and had experienced what it was like to be back in the classroom, they were reassured that we had done everything possible to keep everyone – students, parents and teachers – safe. Half of those who said they would like to return to college have been in for four mornings this week, and the other half will be in next week. We have been able to consolidate some of the learning that students have undertaken through Teams, as well as look at new material and exam questions. Students who have stayed at home will also have access to this material through Teams.

Year 12 students returned for their first day in college today, and even I got to teach a face to face lesson with my A level physics students.

Please remember that if your child is returning to college in the week beginning 29th June, you need to book transport if necessary:

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/returninginyear10>

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/page/?title=Year+12+Students+Returning+from+June+15th&pid=87>

It has been lovely to have students back in school. We are sad that it is not possible at the moment to bring more students into the building, but recent announcements from the government make clear that they are thinking about what the return to school in September may look like, and about how students will be supported in catching up missed time. We do not have any details yet, but you will no doubt have heard that the government is investing funds to support schools with helping students to catch up. As we learn more, we shall be better able to formulate our own plans.

Children of critical workers and vulnerable children

We have had an increasing number of students in these categories in college this week, and it is again lovely to see back in school students we haven't seen for some time. Remember that if your child falls into these groups and you would like them to come into school, please email admin@nortoncollege.net and we shall be in touch to make arrangements.



Commitment to learning

During May, the college asked staff to assess students' commitment to learning, and as a result, we contacted students who are working particularly hard, and we have made contact with home for those students who seem to be struggling to complete work so that we can discuss individual circumstances and offer support if necessary. We shall be asking staff to assess students again before the end of term, and again we shall be in touch if students are performing particularly well, or if we think they might need additional support.

If you feel that you would like more information about the progress of children, or if you are worried, please do contact the college using the admin@nortoncollege.net email address. There is also a page on the website that you can use to contact us:

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

Don't forget to add your contact details if you use this page. I have had one message through this page recently that I have been unable to reply to as no contact details were left – if you think it was you, please get in touch!

You can also contact staff directly, of course.

Our business manager has asked me to pass on some information to you.

Refunds

The finance department is continuing to release refunds relating to pre-paid school meals and transport balances. If you have already done so, we are aware of your preferences and you will receive your refunds very soon. In all scenarios please make requests for refunds via the admin@nortoncollege.net e-mail address.

National Voucher Scheme

Further to our message last week about the continuation of the scheme you will have seen in the national news that vouchers will now continue to be made available to those entitled to Free School Meals via the Edenred portal over the summer holidays.

Charges for the interim private transport services - wider re-opening of schools from 15th June

If your child is accessing the private transport routes from the coastal areas, we will be charging for these, retrospectively, at the rate of £1.50 per day as per your usage. We will use our official attendance data to calculate the amount due and this will be placed as a one-off charge on the ParentPay system, please log onto the system and pay the balance after the 17th of July but by the end of July.

Transport arrangements for academic year 2020/21

The cut-off date for returning the coastal transport application forms for next year was today. We do not yet have all the forms that we were anticipating. Without an application form being received you will not be issued with a place on a bus. Please return outstanding applications no later than Friday 26th June, as after this date it will be assumed you do not want a place reserving.



Have a great weekend – let's hope for some sunshine!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr S R Carson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher