



26th 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: 26th June

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

Wider re-opening of schools

We have now had all those students in years 10 and 12 who have chosen to return to school with us, and next week we begin a new cycle for both year groups. It has been a real pleasure to see them back in school, and staff have enjoyed being back in the classroom. Students in year 10 have worked hard on their English, maths and science, and have enjoyed talking to each other again at break times, albeit in their bubbles, and year 12 students have had the chance to meet with their subject teachers and to prepare for end of year assessments.

We also have an increasing number of students of critical workers and of vulnerable students in school. If you or your child falls into one of these categories and they would benefit from being in college, please contact admin@nortoncollege.net.

We expect to hear more from the government next week about what school might look like in September, but we do expect to see all our students back for the new school year and are planning accordingly. We shall let you have more information as it becomes available to us.

Learning at home

As ever, I want to thank parents for their support in helping children to complete the assignments set through Microsoft Teams. It is very difficult for us as a staff to monitor the work of students on a day by day basis and we appreciate the fact that it is parents and carers who now have the responsibility for ensuring that students are keeping to a good, consistent routine with their studies. It is important that children manage to complete as much of the work as possible so they are ready to come back and continue their learning in September.

If students are experiencing any difficulties with Microsoft Teams, please get in touch with college and we shall try to help.

Commitment to learning

Staff are currently submitting commitment to learning grades for students in years 7 to 10 based on the work they have completed since college closed. This is the second time we have carried out this task. We decided not to send the grades home after the first data collection as students were still getting used to learning from home and using Microsoft Teams, and parents, too, were supporting their children in ways that were new to them. We felt it was unfair to send home



grades that might, in some cases, be demotivating if students and parents were genuinely struggling with learning from home and were trying their best but not managing to complete tasks. We have been in contact with students who have performed particularly well and have contacted home where students seemed to be struggling.

Following the current data collection, we shall send grades home for all students. We have written the grade descriptors to be as objective as possible; we cannot know your home circumstances and there may be good reasons, in some cases, as to why students may not have completed work. I have attached the grade descriptors to this letter so that you can discuss with your child in advance of grades being sent home how much work they are doing and what obstacles they may be facing. Together you can decide what grade you would award, and you can have a conversation about progress. Grades will not then be a surprise. We shall send home both the grades students have received in each subject so that you can also see if their commitment to their learning has changed over time. Grades will be with you at the start of the last week of term. As tasks are available to students on Microsoft Teams, they then have the opportunity to catch up over the summer holiday, if necessary, so they are ready to return to college in September.

In the meantime, I hope you have enjoyed the recent sunshine and that you have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher



Commitment to learning from home

| Grade | Description of the grade |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Your child is working hard, and they have completed all the tasks that have been set to a high standard. |
| 2 | Your child is working hard, and they have completed most of the tasks that have been set to a good standard. |
| 3 | Your child has completed some of the tasks that have been set to a good standard. |
| 4 | Your child has completed some of the tasks that have been set but not to a good standard. |
| 5 | Your child has completed none of the tasks that have been set , but has been in contact with the classroom teacher and it is evident they have at least looked at the work. |
| 6 | Your child has completed none of the tasks that have been set and has not been in contact with the classroom teacher. |

Grades for individual subjects for May and July will be sent home during the last week of term.