



3rd July, 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: 3rd July

As always, I hope my weekly letter finds you safe and well. We have welcomed Y10 and Y12 students back into college again this week, and as always, I am grateful for the support of parents and carers for all that they are doing for their children, whether they are sending them into school or ensuring they are following remote lessons on Teams.

In the final week of term, year 10 and 12 students will join our other students in working remotely; there will be no lessons in college. Parents of at least some year groups will have the opportunity to speak to staff about their children's progress through remote live consultations, and we shall be sending out more details about this. We shall be open to the children of critical workers, and to vulnerable children, as usual.

We shall also be using the final week of term to prepare the college for re-opening in September; more of this below.

Recognition assembly

On Friday, 10th July, the college will hold its usual end of term Recognition Assembly. This will be unusual, though, in being held remotely! A link will be sent out to students and the assembly will be available for all to watch on Microsoft Teams. Faculties will also be sending out recognition certificates on this date as part of the rewards students receive for their hard work.

Safeguarding

Mrs Barber, our safeguarding lead, has asked me to pass on to you the following link, which contains information on how in-game chat works, how it might be abused by others, and what parents/carers can do to help keep their children safe whilst using it. If your child is playing online games, please do have a look at this.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/presentations-for-parents/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=176d7bc4c3-TUK_ONLINE_SAFETY_AT_HOME_30_06_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-176d7bc4c3-63982057



School re-opening

As you may be aware, yesterday the government announced its plans for the re-opening of schools in the autumn. Guidance has been issued and we are planning for how we shall implement this. Once we have finalised those plans, we shall be in touch to share the details with you. If you have a look at the guidance – which I have linked below – you will see that we have a lot of work to do to ensure that when children return to school both they and our staff are as safe as possible.

As well as guidance for schools, the government has released guidance for parents and carers. I have reproduced some of the key messages here for your reference, but you are strongly encouraged to consult all the detail of the government’s guidance – this is simply my personal selection!

“It is the government’s plan that all children and young people, in all year groups, will return to school and college full time from the beginning of the autumn term.

“The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools and colleges restricted their opening to most pupils in March, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and we understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools. As a result, the government has asked schools and colleges to plan for all children and young people to return from the start of the new academic year.”

Attendance

“It is vital that children and young people return to school and college - for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School and college attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply.”

Safety measures

“The government is asking schools and colleges to ensure they are:

- *managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school or college, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days by their school or college (based on advice from their local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus;*
- *ensuring everyone at the school or college cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive at school or college, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser;*
- *ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach;*
- *enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often;*
- *minimising contact and maintaining distance, as far as possible - schools and colleges will decide how best to do this, as it will be different for each setting, but in broad terms, it will involve asking children to stay within specified separate groups (or bubbles), and through maintaining distance between individuals. The government’s guidance to schools recognises that younger children may not be able to maintain social distancing so it is likely that for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups, and for older children, it will be on distancing.*



“It will be really important that parents help schools and colleges to implement these approaches by following the advice set out here and wider public health advice and guidance.

“Children and young people must wash their hands immediately on arrival at school or college, dispose of any temporary face coverings they may have been wearing in a covered bin, or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

“Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.”

Transport

“Where your child uses dedicated school or college transport ...your child may be asked to use a regular seating plan on this transport (to reflect where possible the bubbles that are used within school), and measures will be put in place to ensure vehicles are cleaned regularly and boarding is managed.

*“Face coverings are required at all times on **public transport** (for children over the age of 11). Where necessary, they may also be appropriate on dedicated school or college transport too (for example, if children are likely to come into very close contact with others outside their year group or who they do not normally meet). If your child has been wearing a face covering before arriving at school or college, it will be important that they understand how to remove it. The government has asked schools to have a process for ensuring face coverings are removed when pupils and staff who use them arrive at school.”*

Uniform

“We are encouraging all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).”

The full government guidance includes more information on the above areas, as well as guidance on the curriculum, assessment and exams, school inspections, behaviour, school catering, school trips, extra-curricular activities and the process schools will follow in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. You can find the full guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

You may also wish to see the guidance that the government has given to us as schools and which we are now working to implement. This can be found here:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

I do hope you will take the time to read the parental guidance in full, and you may well find it useful to scan the more detailed guidance for schools so you have an idea of the measures that will be put in place to keep students and staff safe.

In the meantime, let's hope the rain stops and we can enjoy some more summer sunshine soon!

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

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher