



17th July, 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: 17th July 2020

This is my final weekly update!

September re-opening to all students

I hope you have had the opportunity to read the information I sent out on Wednesday regarding the re-opening in September. You can find it here:

<https://www.nortoncollege.net/september2020>

Please do bear in mind that this information may change as we continue our planning over the summer, and we shall add more information as the holiday goes on. As I said in my earlier letter, I plan to send out further updates at the end of July, in mid-August, and at the end of August to ensure you have all the information you need for the start of term in September.

Thank you to all those parents and carers (and students) who have already been in touch with questions and suggestions. If you have any further concerns, questions, comments or suggestions, please email us at admin@nortoncollege.net. We shall monitor this email over the summer. If you let us have your questions, however trivial you think they might be, by 7th August, we shall put together a FAQs section on the website, as well as replying individually where we can. The chances are that any questions you have will be common to many parents, and your questions will certainly help us with our planning.

Safeguarding

During these surreal times we know that your children will have coped in different ways. Please have a look at our website where there are a number of weblinks to resources that you may find useful and reassuring, as well as those intended to offer information regarding the risks to children and young people and advice on how to keep them safe. If you are concerned that any child or young person is at risk of harm, information is available on the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/> and in the 'Parents and Carers' section of this website. If there is an imminent risk of harm, please call the emergency services in the usual way.

North Yorkshire police have asked us to share this information with you.



“We have had confirmed cases of THC infused ‘Nerds Rope’ in North Yorkshire. These sweets are infused with cannabis oil. The packaging presents to a professional standard which is heat sealed and has the appearance of harmless confectionery.



These Nerds contain THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis), which affects the central nervous and cardiovascular systems. In adults the effects are generally mild and short-lived, but ingestion rather than inhalation is associated with longer lasting effects. As children often have a smaller body mass than adults the effects may be more profound:

- *loss of coordination;*
- *hallucinations;*
- *nausea/vomiting;*
- *lethargy, collapse or loss of consciousness;*
- *cardiovascular effects.”*

Please be on the lookout for this, and please share this information with your children.

Our business manager, Mr MacPhee, has asked me to share with you the information below.

Refunds

The Finance department will continue to release refunds relating to pre-paid school meals and transport balances during the first few weeks of the Summer holidays for requests we have already received. However, if there are any new requests, please make sure these are submitted via the admin@nortoncollege.net e-mail address by the 7th August. Any refunds that have not been requested by this date will be rolled forwards to the individual student school meal balances and transport accounts for the 2020/21 academic year.

National Voucher Scheme - Free School Meals

You will be aware that the Government have re-badged the National Voucher Scheme as the ‘COVID Summer Food Fund’. The scheme will provide vouchers to cover the entire seven-week period to children who are entitled to free school meals. This includes students in Years 11 and 13. The value of the weekly voucher remains at £15 and you will receive your voucher for £105 during the week commencing 20th July.

Charges for the interim private transport services



If your child has accessed the private transport routes from the coastal areas since the 15th March we shall be charging for this service at the rate of £1.50 per day. We have used official attendance data to calculate the amounts due and this will be placed as a one-off charge on your ParentPay account. We should be grateful if you would log on to the system and pay the balance after 21st July and by the 7th August. If you have any concerns or questions about this payment, please email us at admin@nortoncollege.net . We anticipate being able to contact all applicants about the bus routes during week commencing 14th August.

And finally...

...I have reached not only the end of my final weekly update, but also the end of my 30 years as a teacher at Norton College. As you will know, I retire from full time teaching at the end of the academic year. I am officially in post until 31st August and will continue to work on the re-opening plans until then. I shall return on a very part-time basis in September as a classroom teacher to finish teaching my year 13 physics A level students, so it is not quite the final goodbye yet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your support for the college and its staff, and for me personally. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of this wonderful community for so long; I shall miss our students and I am proud of all they have achieved over the many years I have been here, and especially for their resilience over the months of school closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. They are young people you can all be proud of!

I hand over the baton to Mr Tim Johnson who takes over as head teacher full-time from January. Tim will be in college during the autumn term, supported by the interim headteacher, Mr Peter Whelan. Tim, I know, will take the college to the next level; he is a leader with a clear vision of where he wants the college to go and with the best interests of our students at heart.

Have a great summer holiday!

Yours faithfully,

Dr S R Carson
Head teacher