



NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

2 January 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have had a healthy and relaxing holiday.

As you will be aware, the government has updated the guidance for schools. It is now advised that face coverings should be worn in all secondary classrooms as well as communal areas and corridors. This is a temporary reintroduction and will be reviewed on 26th January 2022.

This measure has been taken to reduce the transmission of the Omicron variant and to minimise further disruption to education and GCSE/A-Level examinations this summer.

We are, of course, aware of the drawbacks to face coverings being worn in classrooms but it is absolutely essential that everything possible is done to ensure that children remain in school for face-to-face education. As it stands, we expect to be able to operate at full capacity in January. However, if staff absence goes beyond a certain threshold, we may need to move to remote education, either on a partial or a whole school basis. We will do everything that we can to avoid this but it is important that you are aware that this is a possibility.

We would be grateful if you could ensure that your child arrives to school each day with a face covering. Although we have a small number of disposable face coverings available, there is a limited supply of these at present.

This guidance does not apply to children who are exempt from wearing face coverings and have a medical exemption note. We ask these students to wear their exemption lanyards so that staff are aware.

Another key change to the guidance is the self-isolation period for students who have tested positive for Covid-19. Students may now conduct an LFD test on day 6 and day 7 of the self-isolation period and, if both tests are negative, they may return to school on the 8th day if they are symptom-free.

Staggered Return to School in January

As you are aware, we are operating a staggered return to school this week and I have copied the details of this below:

Tuesday 4 January	Year 10 and Year 11 students in college from 08:45 Year 12 and Year 13 students in college - later arrival at 11:30
Wednesday 5 January	Year 7, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students in college from 08:45

Thursday 6 January	Year 7, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students in college from 08:45
Friday 7 January	All students in college from 08:45

Mrs McDonald has been in contact with Year 12 and Year 13 students who are on school transportation to explain how this will operate on Tuesday 4 January.

Covid-19 Testing

The on-site Covid-19 testing centre will be in the library and will operate in a very similar way to the testing centre which we established in September. Each student will take one lateral flow test following the timetable outlined below:

Tuesday 4 January	Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13
Wednesday 5 January	Year 7
Thursday 6 January	Year 9
Friday 7 January	Year 8

Timetabling Changes

On each day of the first week, all students will go directly to their Period 1 lesson upon arrival at school. This will be an extended taught lesson, during which students will be registered. This will allow us to process the first lateral flow test for all students scheduled on each of those days before students move to their normal timetabled Period 2 lessons.

Date	Timetabling Changes
Tuesday 4 January	Period 1 = 08:45-10:30 (Year 10 and Year 11 only) Period 2 = 10:30-11:10 (Year 10 and Year 11 only) Period 3 onwards = Lessons as normal (Year 12 and Year 13 students tested during Period 3)
Wednesday 5 January	Period 1 = 08:45-10:10 (All students) Year 7 students tested during Period 1
Thursday 6 January	Period 1 = 08:45-10:10 (All students) Year 9 students tested during Period 1
Friday 7 January	Period 1 = 08:45-10:10 (All students) Year 8 students tested during Period 1

Remote Education

From Period 3 on Tuesday 4 January onwards, lessons scheduled for year groups not in school will be live streamed via Microsoft Teams.

Where remote education is taking place:

- There will be no mentor period and lessons will begin at 09:10.
- We will allow 5 minutes at the start of lessons 2-5 in order that students and staff are able to take a comfort break. Lessons will start promptly at that point.
- Staff will keep a register of students attending through monitoring the attendees list.
- The vast majority of lessons will be live streamed. However, there will usually be a block of time within the lesson where students are asked to work independently on an activity. Often this will be completed away from the screen. The teacher will monitor the chat function while this activity is completed and will support students as necessary. The teacher will then draw together and review students' learning in a teacher-led section at the end of the lesson.
- There may be occasions where work is set on Teams by the teacher and the lesson is not live streamed.

If your child is in Key Stage 3 and needs a device to access remote education for the phased return in January, please contact Mr Layton at sl@nortoncollege.net. Students will be issued with a device which they will then need to return on their first day back in January.

Any queries about accessing Microsoft Teams should be directed to Mr Layton or Mr Austin in the first instance on sl@nortoncollege.net or na@nortoncollege.net. There is also a user guide available on the website [here](#).

Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing

Please continue to follow the twice weekly testing regime in order that we minimise the risks of transmission within school. If the lateral flow test is positive, your child will need to self-isolate following the government guidance [here](#).

Please note that if the test result is positive, you should report the result to school using the email address covidpositive@nortoncollege.net. Any necessary contact tracing will be conducted by NHS Test and Trace. Please ensure that you report the results of any PCR test taken by your child using the same email address, whether the result is positive or negative.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Johnson

Headteacher