

NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/JJA

7 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support in making the return to school as safe and as smooth as possible over the course of this week. I would like to thank students for their compliance in wearing face coverings in lessons and all enclosed spaces at school.

As I said in my letter last week, we recognise that there are several drawbacks to these 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. We are in the process of updating our risk assessment in response to the recent changes to government guidance and this will again be available via the college website, as it has been since the start of the pandemic.

At present, Covid-19 case numbers across the school community are relatively low. However, this could change rapidly and 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. If this were to be the case, we would look to give you as much notice as possible.

Self-Isolation Period

There has been a change to the government's guidance on self-isolation following a positive Covid-19 test result. 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.

Where a student tests positive for Covid-19 on a lateral flow device but s/he is asymptomatic, s/he is no longer advised to book a PCR test. However, s/he should continue to follow the government's self-isolation guidance.

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. 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.

Year 9 Options Information

The Year 9 options process is now under way. From Monday 17th January, subject teachers will deliver talks to students to provide key information about the Key Stage 4 courses that we offer. You can find more information about each of these courses in the GCSE Options Booklet which has been distributed directly to students. A copy of this booklet is available [here](#).

On Monday 17th January, we will run our options information evening virtually through Microsoft Teams, from 6pm until 7pm. A link to this event will be texted to you prior to the event taking place. More information about this event and the options process will be provided to you in a separate follow-up letter from Mr Stones, Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum and Assessment).

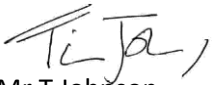
Expectations

As we start a new term, please can I ask that you ensure your child is fully equipped for lessons and is wearing the correct uniform. We are insisting that blazers are worn at all times, underneath a coat if necessary. If your child does not have their blazer and you are not able to purchase a new one, please contact the Pastoral team. We ask the students to wear their uniform with pride, ensuring that their shirt is tucked in, tie present, no facial piercings and with studs in ears only. Our aim is to prepare our students for adulthood.

To keep students safe during break/lunchtimes, we ask that students only reside in the canteen or on the school yard, so that we can provide adequate supervision. If students are found to be in areas designated as out of bounds, there will be sanctions put in place.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support. Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Mr T Johnson
Headteacher