



# NORTON COLLEGE

## Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: TJ/JJA

14 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your ongoing support as we navigate our way through the latest Covid-19 wave. Students continue to be very compliant in wearing face coverings in all enclosed spaces around the school. The only time that there is an exception to this expectation to wear a face covering is when students are eating in the canteen.

Fortunately, infection rates across the college are low by comparison with other areas at present. However, we know that this can change very quickly. As I have said previously, 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**

As you will be aware from the media, there has been another change to the government's guidance on self-isolation following a positive Covid-19 test result. From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January, students who return two negative LFD tests, one on the 5<sup>th</sup> full day of isolation and another on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> day of isolation will then be able to return to school on that 6<sup>th</sup> day if they are symptom-free. If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

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](mailto: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**

As I outlined last week, the Year 9 options process is underway. From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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](#). In addition, Mr Stones (Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessment) will lead a Year 9 assembly on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January to outline how the options process works and to provide a timeline for key events throughout the remainder of the academic year.

**On Monday 17th January**, we will also run our options information evening. This will be a virtual event using Microsoft Teams running 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 has been provided to you in a separate follow-up letter from Mr Stones.

### **Expectations**

Please can we reinforce the need that all students are fully equipped for lessons and wearing the correct uniform. Blazers should be 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 expect students to wear their uniform with pride, ensuring that their shirt is tucked in, that a tie is worn, that there are no facial piercings and that only studs are worn in ears. Our aim is to prepare our students for adulthood.

To keep students safe during break/lunchtimes, students should only be either 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.

### **Parent Forum Meeting**

The next Parental Forum meeting will take place on Wednesday 2nd February. The focus of this meeting will be to review uniform and reward systems at Norton College. Due to the current COVID restrictions, we will plan to meet remotely via Microsoft Teams.

We would like to increase the number of parents who attend this group so that we can engage with as wide a group of parents as possible. If you would like to join the Parental Forum and to share your views upon the agenda items, please contact [admin@nortoncollege.net](mailto:admin@nortoncollege.net). Mrs Edwards (Deputy Headteacher, Ethos and Engagement) will then share the joining arrangements with you.

### **Attendance**

The importance of good attendance at school has never been higher than it is now, given the amount of face-to-face learning that has been lost because of the pandemic. This is, rightly, a national priority identified by the government.

Clearly, where a student is too unwell to attend, s/he should remain at home. Similarly, where a student tests positive for Covid-19, s/he should self-isolate in accordance with government guidelines. However, it is crucial that students' absence is as limited as possible. For example, where a student has a medical appointment, we would only expect him/her to be absent for a part of the day.

We continue to celebrate good attendance through a range of different systems including half termly inter-form competitions and prize raffle draws for students who achieve 100% attendance.

### **Menu Choice in the Main Canteen and Sixth Form**

We have successfully recruited new staff to our Catering Team with the final member due to join us on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. Whilst the menu choice remains restricted from the catering outlets within the college, we are now able to plan to move towards more choice and healthier options over the coming weeks. We thank you for your continued patience.

### Year 10 Star Bread

To end on a high note, please see below some pictures of Year 10 students with their star breads from a recent food practical competition. Congratulations to the winner, Brandon Webster, and the runner up, Ruby Axcell.



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

Yours faithfully

Mr T Johnson  
Headteacher