

11th June 2020

Dear parents / carers,

As we prepare for the wider opening of schools on 15th June, I'd like to take the opportunity to update and remind you of a number of key matters relating to your child's education.

Secondary schools have been asked to introduce some face-to-face contact to supplement Y10 and Y12 students' remote learning. This will run alongside the current provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable students. Students in all other year groups will continue to do all their learning remotely. We are corresponding separately with these year groups to keep them informed of our provision from 15th June.

Remote learning

In our recent parent survey sent to all parents, the majority (64.1%) of parents told us that the amount of work being set for their children was 'just right', 21.4% of parents told us that it was 'too much' and 14.5% of parents told us that it was 'too little'.

The work currently being set online is very closely matched to the planned curriculum for the summer term. However, the education we are providing online can never be a perfect replacement for face-to-face teaching and, because of this, there are some topics which have been moved back to the autumn term. Therefore, in some cases, subject teachers are using this time to review and consolidate prior learning. Research on remote learning has shown that this is often the most effective use of this time. We are allowing our subject teachers to use their own professional judgement on whether or not to teach new material or to revisit prior learning.

Our expectation of teachers is that they assess at least one piece of work per week (in most subjects) or per fortnight (in the case of subjects with less curriculum time). Teachers are using these assessments to track the progress that their students are making. Again, the way in which we are assessing students can never be a perfect replacement for what we would normally be doing in class.

Supporting remote learning

Can I remind you that we have published a useful guide on our website about effective home learning. It can be accessed here:

https://www.northallertonschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Study-at-Home-booklet_Arete.pdf

Live lessons

Over the last 6 weeks we have been trialling live audio lessons with some Y12 classes using the Webex platform. This trial is now being extended to some Y10 classes too. Live audio lessons involve the teacher using a virtual whiteboard and presentation to teach a lesson. In these lessons the teacher talks to the class and students can respond to questions, or they can ask questions for further clarification.

We are deliberately taking a careful approach to the use of this technology. Safeguarding is our top priority and we are using Webex because this gives our teachers the greatest amount of control, for example being able to turn off students' video feed. Currently, twelve of our staff have been trained in the use of this technology and they have been delivering live audio lessons to some Y12 and Y10 classes.

The feedback from students involved in the trials has been very good so far and we recognise that many parents would welcome this approach in other classes and year groups. The trial will expand over the coming weeks but



we must be mindful that many staff do not possess the relevant equipment at home and those that do are just getting to grips with the technology themselves.

The use of live teaching is hugely varied in schools at the moment. It is true that some schools are using live streaming for most of their lessons - but these schools are in the minority. A large proportion of schools are not yet using live lessons at all.

Progress reports

On 6th July students and parents are due to receive their next progress report through the SIMs student and parent app. We are currently looking at the best way of providing accurate progress information in the current circumstances so that parents will receive useful academic information in line with our existing plans.

Bridging work for Year 11

There are Google Classrooms in various subjects for year 11 students planning to study A levels. The tasks are designed to enable students to bridge the learning gap between where they are now and the start of A level. If you are having any difficulties or want further help and support, do not hesitate to contact Mrs Redpath, Head of Sixth Form at redpath.k@northallertonschool.org.uk

Keeping young children safe

The resources below provide guidance for parents and carers to help keep your children safe online. They will, amongst other things: support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues; set up home filtering in a child-friendly way; and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices.

- [Thinkuknow](#) by National Crime Agency - CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) provides resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online
- [Childnet](#) has developed [guidance for parents and carers](#) to begin a conversation about online safety
- [Parent Info](#) is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA - CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations
- NSPCC has [guidance for parents and carers](#) to help keep children safe online. It has a good resource regarding the different apps and risks each has. This can be found here: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provides tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also [report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Through CEOP you can report online sexual abuse or content. www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Support for mental health and wellbeing

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| Samaritans | Any time free from any phone 116 123 |
| Young Minds | Parent Helpline 0808 8025544 free for mobiles and landlines – Monday to Friday for concerns relating to child/ young person’s mental health up to the age of 25 |
| Kooth | www.kooth.com . Free safe and anonymous support for 11-19 year olds online. Please see the video link for more information |
| ChildLine | Contact number 0800 11 11 / www.childline.org.uk |
| CAMHS | Children’s Adolescent Mental Health Service - single point of access for advice and support 0300 0134778 |
| Compass Buzz | https://www.compass-uk.org/services/north-yorkshire-compass-buzz/ Telephone 01609 777662 – the answerphone message gives further details on alternative mobile phone numbers you can ring. Email: SchoolMentalHealthProject@compass-uk.org |
| Mind | A charity specialising in Mental Health. Its website has links to support, information and advice – www.mind.org.uk |
| Official government advice | https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-to-support-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak |

Uniform

You can purchase all compulsory items from SCHOOLSHOP www.school-shop.co.uk A full itemised list of school uniform requirements is available on our school website. **There will be no changes to the school skirt. Our school uniform remains the same for the coming academic year 2020/21.** The current cut off date for Schoolshop to guarantee delivery of online and telephone orders for the start of the academic year is 7th August, but this may change so please check their website for up to date information.

Preparations for the 2020/21 school timetable

Clearly there is some uncertainty around the current crisis and what this means for schools in September. The government’s ambition is that all year groups are back by September and as a school we have been continuing with our plans to make sure that next year’s timetable is ready, as we would normally do at this point in the year. Our current Y8 students have chosen their ‘mini-options’ from a selection of creative subjects such as art, drama and music. The mini-options will allow students to study these subjects in greater depth in Y9. This week, we have been able to confirm our Y9 students’ GCSE Option choices for September. Also, we are really pleased to be able to offer an extensive choice of A levels and other Level 3 courses for our outgoing Y11 students returning to us in

Y12. Whatever the situation is in September we are obviously hopeful that things will be starting to get back to normal and we are continuing with our usual preparations so that we will be ready.

Base Groups/Tutor Groups in September

Where possible, we try to keep the same teachers with base groups/tutor groups but inevitably (due to staff leaving and arriving and timetabling issues) each year there are a few changes. The only changes for the students going into years 8 to 11 are:

| This year | From September |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7GSi (Mr Simpson) | 8DWe (Mr Welsh) |
| 7DLI (Mrs Llewellyn) | 8CWi (Miss Williams) |
| 8LDe (Miss Dear) | 9EMa (Mr Maughan) |
| 9NSt (Mr Stimson) | 10Gle (Mr lent) |
| 9CBn (Mr Brown) | 10POI (Mr Olencewicz) |
| 9GCa (Mrs Cadwallader) | 10MWi (Mrs Winn) |
| 10JBB (Mrs Barker) | 11NAt (Mr Atton) |
| 10SSc (Mrs Schofield) | 11SOs (Miss Osborne) |
| 10ACh (Mrs Chapman) | 11TBu (Mr Bunn) |

This year, the 6th Form have had vertical tutor groups containing students from years 12 and 13. From September we are expanding from 5 to 6 tutor groups with three year 12 groups and three year 13 groups. The year 12 tutors will be Mr Wright, Mr Brown and Mrs Barclay. The year 13 tutors will be Mr Stacey-Chapman, Mrs Cook and Mrs Herbert. If you have any questions about Base groups / Tutor groups then please contact Miss Cox, Assistant Headteacher cox.a@northallertonschool.org.uk

Transition

Some of you have children in the current Year 6 who are coming up to join us in September. This week Miss Cox and our new year 7s' Head of Year, Miss McCarten, are visiting the children at their primary schools. Also this week, the children will receive an information pack and our 'Moving Up' online booklet. We update the website regularly with frequently asked questions about transition. We have also posted films of the new year 7 base coaches. We are working closely with the primary schools to make sure that transition is as smooth as possible.

Contacting school

We are here if you need us. Please contact us by email enquiries@northallertonschool.org.uk or by telephone during the hours of 9am to 3pm. If you or your family have been personally affected by Covid-19, we would also ask that you contact us so that we are aware and can provide support if needed.

Thank you for your ongoing support during this unprecedented time.

With best wishes



Mrs V Rahn

Head of School