

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Year 10 Parents,

I hope that this email finds you and your families safe and well.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly been completing the online questionnaire about the possibility of their child returning to school. It has been invaluable, informing our plans and preparations.

I wrote to you earlier this week to let you know that we are actively responding to the government's announcement about the possibility of providing an in school programme for Years 10 and 12 after half term. As is to be expected, the situation is a constantly evolving one and things have moved on apace.

Secondary schools were expecting government guidance on Tuesday this week as to exactly what such an in school programme might look like. That guidance has not yet been forthcoming, and we believe that this lack of guidance may indicate a shift at government level about the timing of their plans for these year groups. We therefore feel it's important to be fully informed before we confirm the details of any plans.

However, we have continued to develop our plans on the basis that students will obviously eventually be returning to school, and so those plans will hold good regardless of when the implementation date might be. This will include a detailed and comprehensive risk assessment which we will share with you in advance of any return. We recognise that it is important that you are as fully informed as possible, so that you can make a balanced, informed judgement about whether or not you will allow your child to return to school whenever that might be.

Whatever happens, remote learning will continue for all classes over the next half term. Moving into the next half term, you will expect to see a more interactive approach to setting tasks remotely, one that will involve a more personalised touch from your teachers. Whilst we are aware that it is not necessarily realistic or appropriate to deliver a day exactly like the experience a child would expect in school, teachers will guide their students more interactively through the tasks they set. We will be making greater use of online software that allows for the use of audio and video.

Communications

Staff have been working tirelessly to call home and check in with students in their form groups - this is likely to have been from a withheld number. We've had some difficulties calling homes from outside school - some service providers/phones allow for calls from withheld numbers, and others don't. Please remember that your child can communicate with their form tutor via their google classroom or through their school gmail account. Subject teachers can be contacted in a similar way too. Please remember to ensure that you inform us of any changes to your contact details.

Please keep up to date with all communications sent - copies are always posted on the website on the letters and communications page under the Parents Tab.

Collecting and Returning Hard Copies of Work

Where families have requested work as hard copy, this should be collected from the school office, if it is safe to do so. Please be advised that reception opening hours are from 9am - 1:30pm and that parents must make arrangements for pick up prior to collection with the school post@thenorwoodschool.org to ensure that copies are ready.

We are sure that you would like to join us in thanking our amazing premises team, headed up by a new member of staff Mr Donohoe, who have been working tirelessly at incredibly short notice to prepare the site for our eventual safe return. Thank you again for all your continuing support, encouragement and kind messages. We do really miss the children and are all looking forward to a time when we can all be back together.

Wishing you and your families a safe and pleasant half term break,
Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Webster
Head Teacher