



Friday 19 June 2020

An eventful week

On Wednesday, Ealing Council's Planning Committee met to discuss the proposed redevelopment of land in Dabbs Hill which is owned by Northolt High School. The sale of this land will generate the majority of the funding we need to provide a brand new school building for our students. I'm delighted to be able to report that the project was approved by Ealing Council. We need to wait for legal agreements to be completed for a while longer but should soon be able to begin the process of designing and building our brand new school, which is very exciting indeed. I would like to thank our New Build Project Manager, Tony McKee, for all his work so far on getting us to this stage. In addition, we have been really fortunate to have the consistent support of our three local councillors, Deidre Costigan, Miriam Rice and Chris Summers. They definitely deserve a public thank you as well!



It has also been wonderful this week to welcome Year 10 students back to school for 1 : 1 sessions with teachers to support their learning. 85% of students attended their sessions. For some students this represented the first time they had left their homes since the end of March. We are really grateful to families for your support in sending students into school, as we realise that for some of you this will have been a difficult decision to make. I hope that students have reported back to you about the measures we have put in place to ensure the safety of staff and students on our site. We were really pleased with how well Year 10 respected these new routines and with their honest feedback to us about how learning at home has been for them. We are using the information students gave us to plan how to provide further support for students next term.

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Featured Fabulous Friday Winners

Again our students have demonstrated real pride in their work and have produced some excellent responses to the tasks that have been set for them. It takes real courage for them to continue to work independently at home without the immediate support of your teachers and fellow students – we are proud of their effort and achievements. Please click on the links below to see some of the stand-out examples from this week:

[Art – Ashni \(7CHO\)](#)

[Catering – Ryan \(7SRE\)](#)

[English – Khushi \(10TAT\)](#)

[French – Cyrus \(7CHO\)](#)

[German – Clea \(10SHO\)](#)

[Maths – Eleni \(7SRE\)](#)

[Art – Tajmeet \(7HVP\)](#)

[Catering – Gheorghe \(7YEA\)](#)

[French – Yvan \(8HLA\)](#)

[Art – Wiktorina \(7YEA\)](#)

An eventful week *continued from front page*

Next steps for in school provision

For **Year 10** students, the next step is that we are going to provide some on site curriculum sessions in different subject areas. Letters have been posted home today to students invited in for English and Maths sessions next week. These will be followed with invitations for other subjects. **Year 12** students have their 1 : 1 sessions with teachers next week and should already have received appointment details for these. The Government has also allowed us to invite students from **Years 7, 8 and 9** into school for 1 : 1 meetings with teachers. The restriction is that we can only have 43 students in school on any one day, so it will not be possible for us to invite everyone in. Invitations to some students in these year groups have been posted home today. If you are particularly keen for your child to attend, please get in touch and we will do our best to support you

Ms Budd - Headteacher

Viewpoints from Year 10

We asked some of our Year 10 students to share their experiences of the extended school closure and what it felt like to be back in school after such a long time away. These are four of their responses:

Quarantine has been something that none of us could have ever imagined and there have been many highs and lows. Staying at home has given me a chance to be more independent with my learning, however, it is also something that has been incredibly frustrating! There comes a point when there is nothing more you would like to do than meet your friends, go to the cinema or go shopping, but this hasn't been possible for many of us. At first, learning using Google Classroom seemed difficult, but over time it has become easier as I have managed to develop a routine for myself. Quarantine has also been a great opportunity for me to focus more on my hobbies such as art and has also meant being able to spend more time with my family. Being back at school this week felt quite surreal and I have definitely missed aspects of school; like being able to see friends every day, but I'm sure we can get through this and I can't wait for when we will all finally see each other again!

Khushi (10TAT)

Not being in school for the past three months has been an unimaginably strange experience, with both positive and negative aspects. On the positive side, since my parents have been working from home and my brothers have returned from university, the school closure has allowed us to spend whole weekdays together bonding as a family, something which was previously only realistically possible on weekends and during school holidays. In more recent weeks, I have also been able to devote ample time to basketball training.

On the other hand, I have really missed being able to meet with my school friends and teachers. In this regard, being back in school on Monday morning was a welcome opportunity to talk to my teachers, affording me a glimpse of normality in what are otherwise curiously uncertain times. I am also immensely grateful to my teachers who have been setting us work to do on Google Classroom, so that we can maximise our learning from home, and equally for their frequent phone calls about school work which have kept me on my toes!

Bashaar (10TAT)

The extended school closure has been a new experience for us. It has allowed me and my family to spend more time together because before the quarantine situation we were all so busy with school and work. It can be quite boring sometimes with nothing to do but we've actually established a routine that we try to stick to. At first, learning remotely was a bit challenging and I found myself getting distracted easily but after a while I got used to it and now it's not so bad. I actually used to play the keyboard but I stopped around a year ago but I took the opportunity with all my free time to go back to playing it a bit. It was actually nice to be back in school this week and to see some of my friends and teachers. I've quite missed getting up every morning to go school and actually having a consistent routine with something to do every day, but let's be honest, it is also nice to have so much free time to do whatever I want. Hopefully things will go back to normal fairly soon so that by September so we can go back to a more normal life.

Maryam (10MBE)

Seizing opportunity Instilling ambition Realising potential

Viewpoints from Year 10 *continued from previous page*

From the very beginning of the lockdown process, the trending question has been - "When will things get back to normal?" Especially with my parents having to still work in these unpleasant conditions. I of course, like the multitude of children across the world, have my own burdens. Looking at life though, I couldn't be more content; I have a family who work tooth and nail for me, I have a bed that I snore in and I have a staff of teachers, diligent in their desire to facilitate my learning (in my opinion, there's little more they could do). This unprecedented period has not only taught me domestic skills such as drawing, but has also reinforced my life skills such as resilience, focus and self-discipline. This week, during my visit for our phase 1 of training and guidance, I felt a sense of belonging and all those school memories from previous years were everywhere! I'm definitely longing to get back to school and resume playing on the glamorous 4G AstroTurf. Before I end, I want to briefly go back the beginning - Don't stress thinking about **what will be** or **when will it be?** That's the future and it doesn't exist. Think about **what is**.*

**My maths teacher exclaimed, "what!" when I told him I have a daily routine.*

Jerry (10MBE)

Staff Feature

At the beginning of lockdown I was struggling. Like many of you I'm sure, I couldn't easily find a routine that worked and it took a lot of resilience to keep on top of planning lessons and adjusting to the new way of working.



On top of this, I was also welcoming my new puppy - Huckleberry - who was intent on interrupting every meeting I had, sleeping on my laptop and chewing my work papers every chance he got.

We have both now settled into a comfortable routine, and while I miss seeing everyone at Northolt High School, working from home is now definitely my new normal and I am glad we are able to keep going with virtual learning, making sure everyone is safe while still learning.

Excitingly, I am working now on welcoming all the new Year 7 students who have the difficult task of joining secondary school during this uncertain time! I can't wait for everyone to meet the new Year 7s at some point next academic year and help them settle into our wonderful Northolt High School community.

All the best to everyone,

Ms Marsh – Key Stage 3 Leader

help@northolthigh.org.uk

If you or your child are encountering any problems and would like some help in supporting their learning, please email help@northolthigh.org.uk. This can be to address any kind of issue you may be having either with the nature of the work or more technical issues like a lack of internet access, login problems or password problems.

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